

University Faculty Senate
Undergraduate Academic Programs and Policies Committee
Ronald Sarner (SUNY-Poly) Chair
Winter 2019 Plenary
Cobleskill

Committee Charge

The Committee shall provide advice and guidance to the Faculty Senate on matters relating to undergraduate programs and policies throughout the University. To these ends, the Committee may review such areas as existing and proposed curricula, standards for academic degrees, undergraduate academic assessment, teaching techniques and evaluation, special undergraduate programs, articulation among units of the State University of New York and the various aspects of international education and development.

Committee Members

Ronald Sarner (SUNY-Poly Utica, Chair), Gloria Bobbie (Plattsburgh), Kevin Caskey (New Paltz), Tina Good (Suffolk County Community College), Norman Goodman (Stony Brook), Wendy Gordon (Plattsburgh), Alexis Graesser (Student Assembly), Martin Kaczocha (Stony Brook), Dan Knox (System Administration), Maria Helena Lima (Geneseo), Mary Frame-McMahon (Stony Brook), Deborah Moeckel (System Administration), Janet Nepkie (Oneonta), Anastasia Pratt (Empire State), Cynthia Tysick (University at Buffalo), Barat Wolfe (Canton), Aimee Woznik (Empire State).

Committee Agenda for the Year

- (1) Attestation – continuing work on securing a means to ensure that campus actions submitted to the University Provost have been vetted through campus governance. A conference call among subcommittee members draw from the Undergraduate and Governance committees has occurred and discussions continue.
- (2) Open Education Resources – examine outcomes other than monetary savings. The subcommittee is examining toolkits produced by UUP and by AAUP. It is also examining contract provisions, materials previously posted on a SUNY website, and model campus agreements. Recent developments include concern at one campus over faculty materials previously secured in Blackboard being moved to cloud storage, and the implications for preserving intellectual property rights. The issue is heating up and the subcommittee sees its scope of work increasing. Deliverables should be available for the spring plenary.
- (3) Equity and Inclusion in Curriculum and Pedagogy – identifying issues that faculty need to be aware of – possible joint work with EID and Student Life committees. no members of this subcommittee were on the most recent conference call but material they are examining has been shared with the full committee.
- (4) Timing of Awards – continuing work to determine if it is feasible to advance the date for consideration for the Chancellor’s Awards to students so that recipients could note them on their graduate school applications. Martin Kaczoha reports that further investigation suggests that moving up the timing of awards is not feasible. This project is completed. **No UFS action is warranted.**

(5) Intelligent Advising – continuing work on ways to train campuses to identify predictors of success for individual students using their own data. Dan Knox and Ron Sarnier have been working on securing an invitation to make presentations to the Institutional Research Directors (at their Summer 2019 meeting) and to the Faculty Council of Community Colleges (at its Spring 2019 meeting). The subcommittee will produce a primer for campuses on how to put intelligent advising into practice; it should be ready for the spring UFS plenary. Anthony Hay reports that Cornell is implementing a similar commercial product and that the committee’s work was the impetus for it.

(6) Calendar issues – chronicling add/drop and withdrawal dates on campuses; consider recommendations that will facilitate student retention. Ron Sarnier has begun the data collection. Work will continue with Dan Knox and Norm Goodman.

(7) Academic Program Policies – Need to Know – develop a handbook for faculty detailing SUNY and SED policy regarding new academic programs and changes to academic programs. Work on this project has not yet begun.

Outcomes for Consideration at the Plenary

None

Outcomes/Queries for Senators to Share with their Campus

If your campus is interested in a videoconference or onsite presentation on how to develop your own predictive models for student course performance, contact Ron Sarnier (ron@sunyit.edu). The only cost to the campus is reimbursement of travel expenses should an onsite presentation be selected; videoconference presentation is completely free.