

UNIVERSITY SENATE
ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT 2020-21

Committee Name: Curriculum

Number of meetings held this year: Fall 2020: seven; Spring 2021: ten.

Committee Chair: Marci Carrasquillo

Committee Members: Ozge Uygur, Phil Lewis, Gina Audio, Dan Strasser, Jiyeon Lee (Fall), Lisa Vernon-Dotson (Fall), James Coaxum (Spring), Alicia Drelick (Spring), Will Riddell, Ravi Ramachandran, Kate Slater, Maria Rosado, Leslie Elkins, Adam Kolek, Nancy Tinkham, Shari Willis, Kevin Keenan, Eli Moore, Carmen McDonald, David Vaccaro, Jennifer Matthews, Joel Rudin.

Purpose of/Charge to Committee: “Reviews proposals for title and credit changes, minors, concentrations, major programs, courses, certifications, reorganization of academic/department offerings, and new or revised University-wide curricular patterns; reviews proposals to create, dissolve, or significantly reconstitute academic departments or colleges; forwards recommendations to the Senate and then to the executive vice president/provost.”

Summary of Activities this Year: As of this writing the SCC received 287 proposals. (This number does not reflect the full AY 2020-2021 proposal total; completed proposal submissions that are still under review by department, dean, and college approvers have not been included.) The committee held seventeen e-hearings to review 68 major proposals (quasi-curricular, new degree/program, and major changes to existing program proposals). The remaining proposals proposals (new courses, changes to existing courses, minor changes to existing degrees/programs) were reviewed by the committee chair.

The chair also represented the committee in discussions related to, for example: expediting the curriculum review process for time-sensitive major proposals, overhauling the WI/LIT designation processes, and implementing a university-wide infrastructure for experiential learning. In addition, the chair assisted stakeholders in IRT and the Provost’s Office with further improving the various OnBase proposal templates and with creating a curriculum proposal dashboard to replace the old curriculum database. The new dashboard went live in Spring 2021 and now is available to members of the university to view and track proposals at any stage in the curriculum review process.

Major proposals received and approved by the SCC:

4+1 (Combined Advanced Dual Degree): 7

BA: 1

MS: 2

Minors: 4

Undergraduate Concentrations: 5

Graduate Concentrations: 6

Certificates of Undergraduate Study (CUGS): 13

Certificates of Graduate Study (COGS): 7

Certificates of Advanced Graduate Study (CAGS): 3

Quasi-Curricular Changes: 7

Major Changes to Existing Degrees/Programs: 13

SUGGESTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations: Currently one college-level curriculum committee reviews proposals for the College of Science and Mathematics, the School of Earth and Environment, and the School of Health Professions. Since SHP is about to separate from CSM, the SCC recommends a new/second college-level committee be created to review SHP curriculum proposals. This restructuring will make the workload more manageable (the number of proposals SHP produces in an average year is roughly on par with the number CSM and SEE produce together) and, in turn, should facilitate more comprehensive reviews of proposals prior to their submission to the Senate.