

UNIVERSITY SENATE
ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT 2020-21

Committee Name: Learning Assessment & Rowan Core Committee

Number of Meetings Held this Year: 1 meeting of full committee, 3 meetings of subgroups, multiple email-only review sessions

Committee Chair: Nathan Bauer

Committee Members: (list here)

Joel Rudin	Paul Ullmann	Christine Larsen-Britt
Gracemarie Fillenwarth	Darren Provine	Patricia Dashefsky
Amy Accardo	Jennifer Nicholson	Jeff Bonfield (non-voting member)
Jane Hill	Catharine Dickerson	Christine Mazza (non-voting member)
Tony Hostetter	Samantha Kennedy	
Benjamin Daniels	Cheryl Turley	

Purpose of / Charge to Committee:

The Learning Assessment & Rowan Core (LARC) Committee has the following responsibilities:

- Develop and approve changes to Rowan Core policy. (Significant changes will need Senate approval.)
- Coordinate with the Senate Curriculum Committee to ensure that proposals to create new Rowan Core courses include the information needed to begin managing and assessing these courses.
- Revise existing Rowan Core learning outcomes (or add new ones) as needed.
- Communicate regularly with departments regarding Rowan Core policy, the status of Rowan Core courses, and assessment requirements.
- Manage the Rowan Core program in coordination with the Director of Assessment (e.g., maintaining a shared database with information on approved Rowan Core courses).
- Manage existing Rowan Core courses, including review of proposed changes to assessment plans (e.g., changes to assignments or exam questions).
- Periodic review of existing assessment plans for Rowan Core courses, ensuring that they remain relevant and follow best practices in assessment.
- Revoke courses from Rowan Core if departments fail to do the approved student assessment.
- Ongoing review of Rowan University's assessment principles and practices.
- Work with departments on programmatic assessment, including the review of proposals to use Rowan Core learning outcomes to assess program courses.
- Coordinate with the work of the Director of Assessment, including the systematic review and analysis of assessment data.

Summary of Activities this Year:

This was the first year of the LARC Committee, which was formed from the merger of the previous Rowan Core and Learning Outcomes & Assessment Committees. We worked on the following policy items:

- A set of new guidelines for the teaching and assessment of WI and LIT courses (approved by the WI and LIT Task Force [composed largely of LARC Committee members] and the Senate)
- A resolution clarifying the review responsibilities of the LARC and Curriculum Committees (approved by the LARC committee; the Senate subsequently approved a significantly modified version of this plan)
- A resolution bringing new transfer students over to the Rowan Core model, starting in Fall 2021 (approved by the LARC committee and the Senate)

In addition to these policy items, we held multiple sessions (some virtual, some by email) to review proposed assessment plans for Rowan Core courses.

SUGGESTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

One of the major tasks for next year's LARC Committee will be the implementation of the new WI and LIT guidelines. This will require continued close collaboration with the Departments of Writing Arts and English, along with the Director of Assessment.

There have recently been preliminary conversations about how Rowan can better recognize and track experiential learning. The Rowan Core review process and assessment system have been identified as a useful model for this task, and I recommend that the LARC Committee stay closely involved in these discussions.