

UNLV Faculty Senate General Education Committee

**Report to the Faculty Senate Chair on Committee
Activities in the 2018-2019 Academic Year**

April 29, 2019

2019 FSGEC Committee Report to Faculty Senate

The UNLV Faculty Senate General Education Committee (FSGEC) had a productive 2018-2019 academic year. We considered a number of student and course petitions, and completed or otherwise fulfilled every charge given to the committee by the Faculty Senate Chair.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS/ATTENDANCE 2018-2019

During the 2018-2019 academic year, the committee met as was necessary to complete committee business in a timely manner. We officially convened six different FSGEC meetings on Fridays on the following dates and times:

- October 5, 2018 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
- November 9, 2018 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
- March 8, 2019 11:00am-1:00 pm
- March 29, 2019 11:00am-1:00 pm
- April 26, 2019 11:00am-1:00 pm
- May 3, 2019 11:00am-1:00 pm

Three scheduled committee meetings (two in fall 2018 and one in spring 2019) were canceled by the Committee Chair because the committee did not have pressing business to attend to as of the date those meetings were scheduled.

Committee meetings were well attended and we achieved a quorum at every meeting.

Committee membership in 2018-2019 was as follows:

Chair-Jacob Thompson

School of Business-Bill Robinson

College of Education-Shaoan Zhang

College of Engineering-Haroon Stephen

College of Fine Arts-Anthony Barone

Division of Health Sciences-Patricia Gatlin

College of Hotel Administration-Cass Shum

College of Liberal Arts-Diane Villa

College of Sciences-Rohan Dalpatadu

College of Urban Affairs-Karu Hangawatte

Undergraduate Student Representative (ex-officio)-Lisa Stadtmiller

General Education Representative (ex-officio)-Laurel Prichard

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Meeting attendance by elected voting members of the committee in 2018-2019 was as follows:

	10/5/2018	11/9/2018	3/8/2019	3/29/2019	4/26/2019	5/3
Thompson	present	present	present	present	present	present
Robinson	present	absent	present	present	present	present
Zhang	present	present	proxy-TG	present	present	present
Stephen	present	present	present	present	present	present
Barone	present	present	present	present	present	absent
Gatlin	present	present	present	proxy-SZ	present	present
Shum	present	present	present	present	proxy-SZ	present
Villa	present	present	present	present	present	present
Dalpatadu	present	absent	present	present	present	present
Hangawatte	present	absent	absent	proxy-DV	present	absent

COMMITTEE WORK/ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2018-2019

In the normal course of conducting committee business we address all student general education (typically waiver) petitions, and all general education course petitions. Prior to our last committee meeting in 2018-2019 the committee considered and voted on four **student petitions**, approving three of and denying one. In the process of considering those petitions, two were tabled in order to gather more information, both were voted on at the following meeting. Prior to our last committee meeting in 2018-2019 the committee considered and voted on two **course petitions**, and one **program petition**, approving one course petition, and the program petition and denying one course petition.

In addition, the committee maintained its commitment to committee transparency and to committee record preservation, by distributing all committee documents electronically, and by preserving all committee documents—most importantly meeting agendas, meeting minutes, and student and course petitions on a shared electronic drive.

The FSGEC also and completed or in some way fulfilled every one of the seven charges given to the committee by the Faculty Senate Chair (see appendix A).

- 1) Continue to follow and maintain committee bylaws.
 - The FSGEC completely updated its bylaws to make them consistent with other Faculty Senate committee bylaws. We continue to follow our updated bylaws.

- 2) Submit report to Faculty Senate on activities, including on 1st & 2nd year Seminars completed for accreditation review in 2018-19.
 - See assessment report section (#5) below.

- 3) Continue the recertification process for General Education courses.
 - Additional action was taken on the recertification process, which can begin in earnest in late fall 2019 or early spring 2020. This progress depends on completion of FSGEC

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course petition inclusion in the Curriculog database which should roll out in fall 2019 (see #4 below).

- 4) Investigate...Curriculog [for] an online approval process for General Education [course petitions].
 - Following committee discussions and after hearing from Rosemary Le in the Registrar's office, the FSGEC approved a motion to create and test a Beta version of FSGEC course inclusion petitions and recertification petitions in Curriculog. The Registrar's office says that the work on this version can be complete by late July 2019.
 - Pending committee approval of the Beta version of the program, we anticipate moving forward to accept course petitions online through Curriculog beginning in fall 2019.

- 5) Outline a strategy and procedure for the assessment of the academic success of 2nd year Seminars...
 - After investigating UNLV's existing assessment process for First and Second Year Seminar classes, became clear that the office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and the office of the Vice Provost for Academic Programs, already conduct extensive assessment of First Year Seminars, Second Year Seminars, and most other general education courses.
 - In order to avoid duplicative work, and to allow the UNLV assessment experts conduct assessment, I worked out a deal with the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education. Under this deal, the FSGEC will help facilitate the identification of coordinators responsible for FYS, SYS, and other general education courses. The FSGEC also will encourage those coordinators to have an assessment plan, to conduct assessment, and to send their assessment data the correct people in the offices of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and the Vice Provost for Academic Programs. If necessary, the committee can remind these coordinators that their courses' inclusion in the Gen Ed core requires them to participate in assessment.
 - This will occur in lieu of the committee generating its own assessment report, as that assessment is already being done and is being reported upon. Moving forward, the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education can report on their assessment to the Faculty Senate at large or to the Executive Committee.
 - The FSGEC plans to use these assessment reports to inform the committee's decision making. The committee also is in regular and open dialog with the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, so if we perceive the need to augment their current assessment model in some way, we can have that conversation with her and the other assessment experts to determine if it is a feasible change, and if so, how best to achieve that goal.

- 6) Generate a report on all activities including a record of committee meetings and attendance, delivered to the Chair of the Faculty Senate no later than May 15, 2019.
 - That is this report.

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- 7) Conduct an election for chair of the committee for the 2019-20 academic year no later than May 15, 2019.
 - That election was conducted on Friday April 26, 2019. I was unanimously reelected to serve one more term as Chair of the FSGEC.
 - The committee also agreed to find a committee member who will serve as the unofficial FSGEC “Chair elect,” to learn the ropes of chairing the committee over the next year.

This report approved unanimously by the Faculty Senate General Education Committee and submitted to the outgoing and incoming Faculty Senate Chairs on May 3, 2019.

Dr. Jacob Thompson
Chair, Faculty Senate General Education Committee
Director, UNLV Debate Team and Associate Professor in Residence
Department of Communication Studies
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

APPENDIX A



2018-19 Charges to Committees

(August 17, 2018)

From: Faculty Senate Office & Chair

1. GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The charge for this committee detailed in the Faculty Senate Bylaws is:

6.7 ...shall periodically review policy regarding general education, recommending revisions in current policy whenever desirable. It shall also be responsible for:

6.7.1 Ruling on exceptions to the general education requirements and if necessary, granting modifications in the core requirements sufficient to restore previously existing graduation requirements in programs, departments or colleges.

6.7.2 Reviewing content areas in the general education core, adding or deleting courses or content as necessary.

6.7.3 Monitoring the general education program to ensure appropriate implementation.

Additionally, for 2018-19, the committee is charged to:

- 1) Continue to follow and maintain committee bylaws.
- 2) Submit report to Faculty Senate on activities, including on 1st & 2nd year Seminars completed for accreditation review in 2018-19.

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- 3) Ongoing charge: continue the recertification process for General Education courses (which has been a considerable undertaking for some years). A general framework and strategy is in place. Consultation and coordination with the office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education should begin for implementation. (This charge carries over from prior years).
- 4) Revised charge: investigate, appraise, and assess the new Curriculum system being considered by UNLV administration, which should create an online approval process for General Education, including Core Courses, 1st and 2nd year Seminars, and International and Multicultural courses, with forms that allow for electronic signatures and transmission. These forms and procedures should replace paper approvals currently in use, if and when possible.
- 5) Outline a strategy and procedure for the assessment of the academic success of 2nd year Seminars in achieving pedagogical and General Education goals, including an assessment across the curriculum of comparable rigor of the broad range 2nd year Seminars offered by the Colleges. Support and coordination should be sought from the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education. (Report findings to the Faculty Senate).
- 6) Generate a report on all activities including a record of committee meetings and attendance, delivered to the Chair of the Faculty Senate no later than May 15, 2019.
- 7) Conduct an election for chair of the committee for the 2019-20 academic year no later than May 15, 2019.