

William Paterson University Faculty Senate Councils
Year-End Report

Academic Year 2021-2022

1. Council: **Assessment Council**

2. Council Members:

Cara Berg (interim chair/chair Nov 2021-May 2022), Mark Arnowitz (chair September 2021-December 2021, member Fall 2021), Megan Conrad, Sesime Adanu (Fall 2021), Sue Gerber (Spring 2022), Dorothy Feola (Fall 2021), Bela Florenthal (Fall 2021), Vale Avdeev (Spring 2022), Sandy Hill, Heejung An, Michael Laughlin, Daryl Moore, Arnold Lewis, Andrew Nyaboga, Jyoti Champanerkar, Michael DaSilva.

3. Council Charges and Summary of Activities:

Standing Charges:

The Council's principal functions shall be to:

- Inform and educate the university community regarding issues and trends in relation to assessment (e.g. via an annual newsletter, and annual university forum.
- Act as consultants for assessment projects campus-wide, including program reviews. *

**Note: These charges are as written in the bylaws. The charges on the Senate website reflect a description of the council.*

Priority Charges for AY 2021-2022:

1. Analyze the results of Faculty Assessment survey (spring 2021) and report findings and recommendations to the Senate.
2. Work with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness to determine how the Council can inform and support their assessment efforts.
3. Determine courses that have high rates of failures and repeats. Consider how these could benefit from a curriculum overhaul to help in the retention of students.
4. In consultation with Kara Rabbitt, to address what should be done to address the quantitative skills deficit as identified by the NSSE/FSSE Results Task Force

2021-2022 Summary of Activities:

Charge 1: Spring 2021 Faculty Assessment Survey

The council analyzed the results of the Spring 2021 Faculty Assessment survey and presented the findings and recommendations to the Faculty Senate on April 12 (full report archived in the April 12 packet).

Findings included:

- Most faculty have adjusted their assessments since the COVID-19 pandemic began.
- The majority of respondents said they felt prepared and confident using online assessments of course SLOs

- Over a third of faculty relied on outside resources for the development of their course assessments
- Faculty are asking for help ensuring academic integrity in online assessment.

Recommendations included:

- The Office of Institutional Effectiveness may want to look at the outside resources mentioned and address the needs they fill for faculty.
- The university should also consider the cost of educational platforms to students.
- Workshops on academic integrity in online assessment, offered via the Office of Institutional Effectiveness or the Center for Teaching Excellence, may be beneficial.

Charge 2: Office of Institutional Effectiveness collaboration

The council saw the departure of Sesime Adanu as the Director of Institutional Effectiveness but welcomed new member Sue Gerber. The lines of communication remain open between the council and the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

Charge 3: Courses with high failures/repeats

This charge began to be discussed in council meetings but will need to be fully explored in FY22-23.

Charge 4: NSSE/FSSE quantitative skills deficit

The council invited Dr. Anthony Bowrin to discuss the quantitative skills deficit in the NSSE/FSSE results. We discussed the gap and steps we can take to address the gap. The council developed talking points to take to the college chairs to let them know that we would be working with faculty for feedback on this during the Fall 2022 semester.

Additional tasks: Incorporating market data (EAB reports) into program review

The council was asked by the Senate Executive Committee to review the program review handbook and make recommendations on where departments can use marketing data. The council made recommendations and presented it to the Faculty Senate during the May 5 meeting (proposed changes in the meeting packet).

4. Recommended Charges for the Next Academic Year:

- 1. Work with the faculty chairs and departments on the quantitative skills deficit as noted by the NSSE/FSSE task force.
- 2. Determine courses that have high rates of failures and repeats. Consider how these could benefit from a curriculum overhaul to help in the retention of students.
- 3. Work with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness to determine how the Council can inform and support their assessment efforts.
- 4. Revisit the program review template edits.

5. Please provide suggestions for how the council can be better utilized in the next year:

The council does still struggle with our identity as we are one of several assessment groups on campus. In addition, the ex-officio members of the council are the Assessment Coordinators of their college and may serve in other assessment groups (I.e. the Academic Assessment Committee). We would love to see more

collaboration and defined roles between the multiple assessment groups on campus so work is not duplicated and our purpose is clear and understood.