

## Educational Program and Policies Committee

### 2021-2022 Committee Report

Steve Newman & Wanda Brooks (Committee Co-Chairs)

#### 1. Current Committee Members

**Elected Faculty:** Wanda Brooks (CEHD), Boris Datskovsky (CST), Seema Freer (CST), Amy Giddings (STHM), Barbara Manaka (FSB), Steve Newman (CLA), Kumaraswamy Naidu Chitralla (LKSM), Barbara Wasik (CEHD)

**Graduate Board Representative:** Tim Patterson (CEHD)

**Director of General Education:** Jonathan Nyquist

**Vice Provost of UG Studies:** Daniel Berman

**Associate Dean:** Deborah Cai (KCMC)

**Associate Dean:** Aubrey Kent (STHM)

**Associate Dean:** Hiram Aldarondo (CLA)

**Student Senator:** none

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#### 2. Structural Changes to the Committee – None

#### 3. Number and frequency of Meetings –

The first meeting of the year happened in Sept. 2021. The total number of meetings for the year was seven. Approved minutes for six of the seven meetings are attached. (Our April 22 minutes won't be approved and available until fall 2022.)

#### 4. Issues Addressed by the Committee –

- The committee provided feedback to Vice Provost Berman on several key initiatives: Covid related masking guidelines, a proposed Wellness Day, the Bachelor of General Studies degree, a Prior Learning Credits Policy, and the Transfer Credit Policy.
- We invited the following guests to inform our discussions and recommendations for online instruction and the Office of Digital Education: Vice Provost Vicky McGarvey, Dr. Insook Han (CEHD), Assistant Vice Provost Lori Salem.
- The committee brainstormed ideas around how to improve shared governance in the university. These ideas were submitted to the FSSC.

- We invited Assistant Vice President Katie D'Angelo to discuss key findings from the RCM report with us.
- We received updates on enrollment and first year admissions from Vice Provost, Shawn Abbott. Issues of diversity and meeting the academic needs of students stood out as an area of focus in our follow up conversation.
- Led by Jonathon Nyquist, we discussed the General Education program and the increase in online instruction and use of adjuncts.
- We discussed the topic of intellectual property and how this issue relates to online courses. (This topic will carry over to next year.)
- On a number of occasions, the committee discussed and provided feedback about several overlapping issues: measuring student success, monitoring student retention, supporting student wellness, and attending to student burnout. Some discussion about wellness also focused on possible ways to address faculty burnout. (This topic will carry over to next year.)

#### **5. Decisions or Actions Taken –**

The committee voted on and submitted a set of recommendations for online instruction and the Office of Digital Education. (Please see attached recommendations). We submitted these recommendations to Vice Provost Berman who will circulate as appropriate to Provost Mandel and other university administrators.

We discussed and formally submitted ideas for improving shared governance to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee.

In general, the committee's role is to provide feedback as well as bring up topics and issues of concern.

#### **6. Incoming Chair –**

We elected Dr. Steve Newman (CLA) as our chairperson for the 2022-23 year.