



State University of New York College of
Environmental Science and Forestry
Academic Affairs Committee

Agenda for November 15, 2022 Meeting 11 AM

Bray 300

or

Zoom:

<https://syracuseuniversity.zoom.us/j/97417812544?pwd=QXJQSGtSSUIVaWd6cFVYczVINIVoQT09>

Meeting ID: 974 1781 2544

Passcode: 928047

1. Call to Order: 11:09 AM
2. Approval of Minutes- by acclimation
3. General Education Discussion-
 - SUNY System wants to make sure we are considering assessment at all levels of gen ed (assessment is also coming up in the response to Middle States)
 - Core competencies (CC) need to be embedded into the gen ed program, not just individual majors/departments
 - Focus is to have CC outcomes in the four required gen ed areas
 - Gen ed dashboard will be generated by the course catalog capture at the beginning of the year.
 - SU courses being used for gen ed courses- we need to be able to provide assessment metrics for our courses and we can't get those from SU. We will have to keep this in mind as we move forward.
 - Mentioned that there used to be crosslisting so a student could take an SU course under an ESF prefix. That still doesn't provide us with the level of detail we might need, but we can potentially bring this to the contract conversation.
 - SU might resist crosslisting because they would not receive financial benefits
 - It would be easy to create a huge list of courses SU offers that fulfill gen ed, but the management of syllabi and assessment would be a challenge.
 - Physics is the only class (that we could immediately think of) that has been on the gen ed list and is required for any ESF programs.
 - World Languages is waived for ESF, but we can still use SU courses for those who choose to take it.
 - We need to be more aware of when courses are schedule within general education. Since some categories only have one course per semester, we should look for times where they aren't in conflict with other gen ed classes.
4. SUNY Draft Proposals
 - Proposal for Award of Academic Credit by Evaluation

- Assessing life experience for credit. Motivation is acknowledging changing demographics of students and providing options for folks who want to return to college.
 - This includes things we are already doing like AP/IB/CLEP but can expand to military experience, work experience etc.
 - Could also help in standardizing internship experiences and final reports that are required to assess the outcomes of those credit-bearing courses.
- Gen Ed Update
 - Hold Harmless- Making sure we are providing options that will allow students (either returning, seamless transfer or other special circumstances) to finish their degree in the least amount of time.
 - SLOs in gen ed courses can be tailored to the specific course, as long as they reflect the SUNY SLO language (e.g. "...in one of the natural sciences" becomes "...in biology" where appropriate)
 - SUNY is trying to steer us away from having one course count in multiple categories, unless you can robustly address the SLOs in both. You cannot spread SLOs over multiple courses, with the exception of basic communication.
 - SUNY Seamless Transfer- if a student has completed a knowledge area, but hasn't received a C or better, the category is fulfilled even if the credit doesn't transfer. This needs a closer look if we have the discretion to decide.
- Program Review
 - Shorter review/comment period. Certificates go straight to NYSED for approval.
 - Question about whether we can use the NYSED Paperwork for campus approval if we don't need the SUNY approval anymore. We will follow up on this.
- Hardy Shirley Faculty Mentoring Colloquium will be 1/10/23 all day in Gateway
- Academic Standards Review meeting is tentatively scheduled for 1/12/23
- How does mental health factor into the AAC work?
 - Consider whether your curriculum sequencing needs to be formatted the way it is. Are we getting the outcomes we want when students are in bio/chem/calc/writing their first semester? Can we balance this better?
 - How can we intervene with other services before it becomes a crisis? Make better connections with Student Affairs, make sure students know how to access resources.
 - Small group, social opportunities to help make connections. Revisit learning communities.
 - It is challenging to deal with multiple students with accommodations without support.
- **We need a chair for next semester!**