

Undergraduate Student Success Committee (USSC)
Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2:00 pm, by Webex

Attendance: Nathan Klingbeil, Kerry Martin, Bridgett Severt, David Benson, Stephanie Altchuler, Marietta Orłowski, Amanda Spencer, Marsha Henderson, Phil Flynn

I. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of February 28 minutes

The minutes were discussed and approved.

II. Old Business

1. USSC 2024-2025 Priorities

i. Math/Writing Placement and Associated Interventions

No new updates.

ii. DFW Project and Associated Course Redesigns

No new updates

iii. FYS Pilots and Assessment Moving into Fall 2025

The Provost's office put out a communication announcing a modification of FYS from 3 credit hours to 1 credit hour, with a UVC course prefix for all colleges except COLA. College-level FYS faculty were apparently not involved in the decision, nor were they notified in advance of the announcement. A modification of the CORE to reduce the FYS requirement from 3 credit hours to 1 credit hour was also included on the agenda for the March 31 meeting of the Faculty Senate.

The committee discussed the announcement and proposed changes to FYS. Some faculty members expressed frustration that college-level FYS faculty members were not involved in this decision, having spent substantial effort developing 3 credit hour versions of FYS for the Fall 2024 pilot. Phil noted that the library staff went through multiple iterations to develop flexible content for use by the various college-level implementations of FYS.

In regard to the proposed modification of the Core by the Faculty Senate, the committee discussed and unanimously reaffirmed their prior recommendation from Spring of 2024; namely, that FYS be

included in the Core as a variable 1-3 credit hours. The 1-3 hour requirement could include the proposed 1 credit hour UVC course for all students, but would also allow up to an additional 2 credit hours for discipline-specific content that could still be counted within the Core (i.e., as part of the credit hours allocated for Additional Core Courses). The variable requirement of 1-3 credit hours would provide the flexibility for academic units to propose first-year student success interventions at the program, department or college level for targeted populations of students who might need them, without adding additional credit hours to their degree programs.

2. Items in Progress

i. Academic Petitions Process

No new updates.

ii. Pilot Quizzes and Exams

No new updates.

iii. Policy 4015 Final Grade Appeals

No new updates.

3. Student-Led Teaching Awards – Update and Next Steps

Nate provided an update regarding his meeting with Amy and Associate Provost Carol Loranger, who was very supported of the initiative. Carol confirmed that the proposed awards could be included in the same annual ceremony as the rest of the University-level faculty awards. The next step in the process will be a meeting between Nate, Amy and Eric Corbett to discuss the role of SGA, as well as the nomination process.

The committee also discussed some of the potential implementation details, with the following suggestions for consideration:

1) Awards should be for any level of teaching (i.e., undergraduate or graduate), although separate categories should exist for TET, NTE and Adjunct Faculty.

2) If numbers of votes are counted, they should be normalized somehow by faculty class sizes.

3) If the nomination form is electronic, it should include a text box for a brief testimonial (e.g., 140 characters)

4) SGA may want to have their senators work with a committee of students in their respective college to determine their college-level winners, who would then be sent forward for consideration by SGA for the University-level award.

II. New Business

III. Announcements/Discussion

IV. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at roughly 3:00 pm.