

MINUTES
Faculty Senate Meeting
April 19, 2022 – 3:45 pm, Lowrimore Auditorium

I. Meeting was called to order by Chair Gourley at 3:47 PM

Members present: All senators were present (except Woosley-Goodman)

Also present: Bauer, Steadman, M. Brauss, Clayton

New Senators present: Kershner, Titanski-Hooper, Kirby, Diop, Law)

II. Minutes from the March 22, 2022 meeting were approved as posted

III. Elections

a. Vice-Chair of the Senate – *J. Mark Blackwell*

b. Secretary of the Senate – *Karen Fries*

IV. Reports from standing committees (The reports are found AFTER the report from the AAC in the Attachment below and are for informational purposes only).

V. Report from the Executive Committee

The Senate Finance committee has completed their budget to be taken to the full senate for debate and approval. It contains a 3% raise for all state employees but does not contain the bonus currently in the House budget. It has a larger tax cut/rebate than the House budget with the theory that “everybody including state employees will benefit from a state-wide bonus. The committee basically cut all higher education institution’s tuition mitigation funds by 40%. Of note is also they have reduced the minimum teacher’s salary from the House version of \$40,000 to \$38,000. There is a possibility that neither the CRT nor Trans-gender sports bills will pass this legislative term. The funding for the FMU Forestry Building is in the Senate Finance Committee budget and if approved by the full senate it will be locked in as it would then be in both budgets. But of course, there is the possibility of a gubernatorial veto, but that is not anticipated. The House approved a restructuring of the Board of Trustees for the University of South Carolina with no debate and only a single dissenting vote. The consensus is that there will be some debate in the Senate. The FMU board of Trustees will have a meeting this Thursday to discuss the acquisition of Dargan Pond and personnel matters. I will be sending out an email to the faculty but let me go ahead and remind the senate to return their Administrator Evaluations even if you choose not to fill them out. The deadline to return is **5:00 pm – Friday, May 6, 2022.**

VI. Report from the Academic Affairs Committee (*See the attachment for complete proposals. See the appendix for supporting materials.*)

1. Proposal from the Department of Biology – *All items passed as written.*

- A. Modify Biology Major
- B. Modify BIOL 105
- C. Modify BIOL 106
- D. Modify BIOL 107
- E. Modify BIOL 108
- F. Modify BIOL 115L

2. Proposal from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness

A. Presentation of the 2020-2021 General Education Report - *See appendix for the complete General Education Report*

3. Response of the AAC to the 2020-2021 General Education Report (for informational purposes only)

VII. Report from the Graduate Council (See the attachment for complete proposals. See the appendix for supporting materials).

There were no proposals sent forth from the GC for this meeting.

VIII. Old Business - None

IX. New Business - None

X. Announcements -None

XI. Meeting was adjourned by Chair Gourley at 4:00 PM

Attachment to the Faculty Senate Agenda – April 19, 2022

VI. Report from the Academic Affairs Committee

1. Proposal from the Department of Biology

A. **MODIFY** elective requirements on page 65 of the current catalog:

FROM:

A major in Biology requires the following:

Communications.....9-10 hours
 English 101 (or 101E/L), 102.....6 or 7

Speech Communication 101.....	3
Mathematics.....	6 hours
Mathematics 111, 132, or higher.....	6
Social Sciences.....	9 hours
Political Science 101 or 103.....	3
Social Science Elective.....	3
Social Science Elective	3
Humanities.....	12 hours
Literature.....	3
History.....	3
Fine Art Appreciation	3
Humanities Elective.....	3
Biology	33 hours
Biology 105/115L* or 107.....	4
Biology 103 and 104 may substitute for 105 and 115L with permission from the department	
Biology 106 or 108	4
Cellular Biology Block (either 301, 302, or 407).....	4
Organismal Biology Block (either 201, 202, 206, 207, 208, 209, 303, 307, 311, 312, 313, 315, or 320)	4
Ecology Block (either 308, 317, 318, 402, 411, or 412).....	4
Genetics Block (either 401 or 409).....	4
Biology Elective.....	4
Biology Elective.....	4
Senior Seminar (499).....	1
Chemistry.....	12 hours
Introductory Chemistry (111, 111L, 112 and 112L).....	8
Organic Chemistry (201).....	4
Physics.....	8-12 hours
General Physics (215 and 216).....	8
OR Technical Physics (200, 201, and 202).....	12
2nd Collateral OR Chemistry Minor	7-12 hours
Electives.....	14-25 hours
Total Hours Required for Graduation.....	120 hours

TO:

A major in Biology requires the following:

Communications.....	9-10 hours
English 101 (or 101E/L), 102.....	6 or 7
Speech Communication 101.....	3
Mathematics.....	6 hours
Mathematics 111, 132, or higher.....	6
Social Sciences.....	9 hours
Political Science 101 or 103.....	3

Social Science Elective.....	3
Social Science Elective	3
Humanities.....	12 hours
Literature.....	3
History.....	3
Fine Art Appreciation	3
Humanities Elective.....	3
Biology	36-37 hours
Biology 105/115L* or 107.....	4
Biology 103 and 104 may substitute for 105 and 115L with permission from the department	
Biology 106 or 108	4
Cellular Biology Block (either 301, 302, or 407).....	4
Organismal Biology Block (either 201, 202, 206, 207, 208, 209, 303, 307, 312, 313, 315, 320, 400).....	4
Ecology Block (either 260, 308, 317, 318, 402, 411, or 412).....	4
Genetics Block (either 401 or 409).....	4
Biology Electives.....	11-12
Senior Seminar (499).....	1
Chemistry.....	12 hours
Introductory Chemistry (111, 111L, 112 and 112L).....	8
Organic Chemistry (201).....	4
Physics.....	8-12 hours
General Physics (215 and 216).....	8
OR Technical Physics (200, 201, and 202).....	12
2nd Collateral OR Chemistry Minor	7-12 hours
Electives.....	11-22 hours
Total Hours Required for Graduation.....	120 hours

RATIONALE for A: Traditionally, biology courses have all been 4 credit hours, 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of lab. However, as our department continues to grow and add additional courses, the number of 3 credit hour courses is increasing. Many disciplines within biology, such as neuroscience, fisheries, forestry, bioinformatics, genomics, and more, lend themselves better to offering courses that are 3 credit hours opposed to 4 credit hours. As our department increases the breadth of courses offered to our students, we are proposing to update the number of required biology elective hours for biology majors from 8 hours to 11 hours. We are proposing this update in part to ensure that students choosing to take courses that are 3 credit hours opposed to 4 credit hours are not penalized for doing so. Additionally, requiring biology majors to complete 11 credit hours of electives will help ensure that graduates of the biology department have a more in depth understanding and appreciation of their chosen field of study. Furthermore, modifying the number of hours earned from elective courses within the major, will update our curriculum to be more in line with those of the other science majors on campus, namely chemistry and physics, which require a minimum of 36 total credit hours from courses taken within the major. In

staying aligned with the goals of a liberal arts education, this update will allow our students to become more proficient in their chosen field of study while still having flexibility in their schedule to complete courses outside of biology.

B. **MODIFY** requirements for BIOL 105 on page 67 of the current catalog:

FROM:

105 Biological Sciences I (3) F, S, SU.

TO:

105 Biological Sciences I (3) F, S, SU. (Eligibility to take Math 111)

C. **MODIFY** requirements for BIOL 106 on page 67 of the current catalog:

FROM:

106 Biological Sciences II (4:3-3) F, S, Su.

TO:

106 Biological Sciences II (4:3-3) F, S, SU. (Eligibility to take MATH 111)

D. **MODIFY** requirements for BIOL 107 on page 67 of the current catalog:

FROM:

107 Integrated Biological Concepts I (4:3-3)

TO:

107 Integrated Biological Concepts I (4:3-3) (Eligibility to take MATH 111)

E. **MODIFY** requirements for BIOL 108 on page 67 of the current catalog:

FROM:

108 Integrated Biological Concepts II (4:3-3)

TO:

108 Integrated Biological Concepts II (4:3-3) (Eligibility to take MATH 111)

F. **MODIFY** requirements for BIOL 115L on page 67 of the current catalog:

FROM:

115L Laboratory for Biological Sciences I (1:3)

TO:

115L Laboratory for Biological Sciences I (1:3) (Eligibility to take MATH 111)

RATIONALE for B-F: It is the desire of the department of Biology to increase student success and retention within the biology program by adding eligibility for Math 111 as a pre-requisite. Data collected over the past 8 semesters show that students taking Math 105 at the same time as Biology 105 have a 58% probability of failing (F) or withdrawing (W) from Biology 105. In contrast, students eligible for Math 111 or higher when taking Biology 105 have a 32% probability of failing or withdrawing from Biology 105. There is some variation across individual semesters, however, each semester showed a similar trend where students enrolled in Math 105 have a higher probability of failing or withdrawing compared to students eligible for Math 111 (Figure 1). The data show that there is an increase in the failing or withdrawing probability of 20-40% during these 8 semesters for students in Biology 105 when they are enrolled in Math 105 (Figure 2). Understanding and working with data are a core concept within biology. Many biological concepts (e.g., inheritance and species diversity, calculation of concentrations, unit conversions) covered in introductory biology (BIOL 105, 106, 107, and 108) require a working knowledge of basic algebra (e.g., taking exponents, linear equations, graphs, etc.). Based on the data, the department of Biology feels it would benefit students greatly to be eligible for Math 111 before attempting to take Biology 105. Students that do not begin an introductory course in their first semester will not be off schedule for graduating in 4 years with a Biology degree. Additionally, pre-nursing students will still be able to make application to the Nursing program in a 2-year window and still complete a Nursing degree in the 4 year time frame.

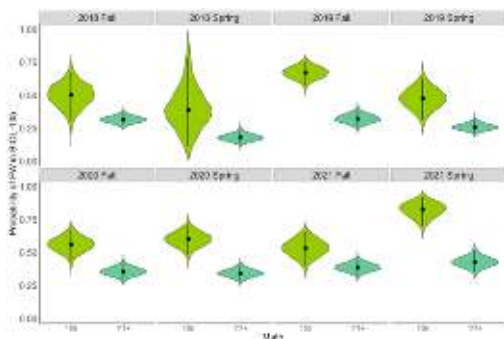


Figure 1: Probability of Failing (F) or Withdrawing (W) from Biology 105 while enrolled in Math 105 (green) or Math 111 (blue). Violin plots represent the full posterior probability distribution of the estimated FW rate by semester/Math course. Points are the median of the posterior probability and the error bars are the bounds of the 95% posterior probability range.

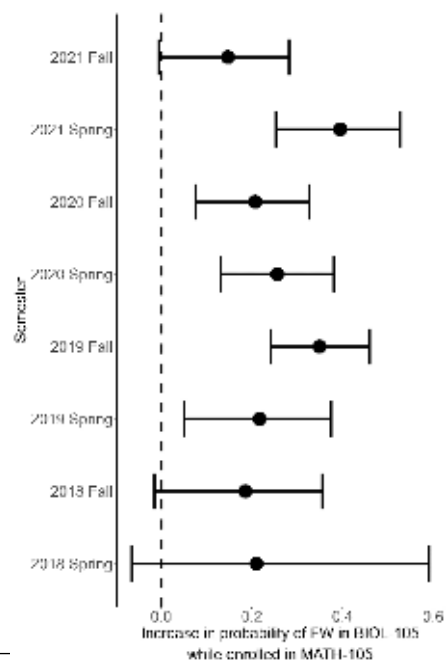


Figure 2: Increase in probabilities for students enrolled in Biology 105 and taking Math 105 being assigned an F or W for several semesters. Points are the median change in probability of getting an FW and the error bars are the 95% probability intervals.

2. Proposal from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness

A. Presentation of the 2020-2021 General Education Report - *See appendix for the complete General Education Report.*

3. Response of the Academic Affairs Committee to the 2020-2021 General Education Report (for informational purposes only)

After a review of the 2020-2021 General Education Report, the Academic Affairs Committee finds that the General Education goals are presently being met under the current model of assessment as indicated by student responses on the Exit Survey. The committee also recognizes the unique strain placed on data collection and evaluation during the pandemic and encourages the continuing progress of departments toward meeting the target standard for their student learning outcomes. To that end, the committee supports the following action items identified by the Institutional Effectiveness Committee based on this year's report:

- To review other universities' general education assessment methods
- To develop an appropriate process for our campus based on our institution's needs
- To establish an alignment among goals, content of student knowledge, and courses within the General Education curriculum
- To determine what courses should participate in the General Education assessment
- To standardize an appropriate rotation method for the assessment procedure
- To work with others in identifying artifacts for the assessment
- To create any universal rubrics needed for the assessment procedure
- To determine method of assessing artifacts and evaluating the data presented

IV. Reports from 2021 – 2022 – Francis Marion University Committees

Academic Affairs Committee

The activities of the Academic Affairs Committee can be found in the 2021 – 2022 minutes of the Faculty Senate.

Accreditation Committee – Allison Steadman & Rusty Ward

The Accreditation committee met twice during the course of the 2021-2022 academic year to review proposals for the Ready to Experience Applied Learning (REAL) program. 62 proposals were considered and a total of approximately \$255,000 was awarded. The number of students involved in each proposal ranged from 1 to 145, with an average of approximately 14 students per proposal.

The Accreditation Committee met twice this year, once in fall and once in spring. At both meetings we reviewed REAL grant proposals (summary provided by Dr. Rusty Ward) and reviewed updates on Accreditation. Our SACS-COC mid-cycle review will be in 2024 and the

university is working on identifying a faculty liaison to assist in that review. Our upcoming program accreditations are NASP (Psychology, 2023), NASAD (Visual Arts, 2023 or later-accreditor schedule is currently backed up), CAA-ASHA (Speech-Language Pathology, 2023), and ABET (Engineering, 2023).

Admission, Advising, and Retention Committee (Chair, Alissa Wartens)

Report to the Faculty Senate

April 13, 2022

The Admission, Advising, and Retention Committee met five times to consider appeals from the Registrar's Office and the Office of Admissions.

June 2, 2021:

The Registrar's Office presented the committee with five appeals from students who were dismissed for academic reasons in the prior semester. Four students were allowed to continue. The committee requested additional information from the fifth student and deferred the decision.

June 3, 2021:

The committee met to review the student whose dismissal decision was deferred in the previous meeting. The decision of the committee was not to allow the student to continue.

July 28, 2021:

The Registrar presented the Committee with one appeal from a student who was dismissed for academic reasons in the prior semester. The student was allowed to continue.

August 13, 2021:

The Registrar presented the Committee with one appeal from a student who was dismissed for academic reasons in the prior semester. The student was allowed to continue.

January 6, 2022:

The Registrar presented the Committee with four appeals from students who were dismissed for academic reasons in the prior semester. Three students were allowed to continue. One student was not allowed to continue.

Faculty Grievance – Elizabeth Zahnd

The Faculty Grievance committee did not meet during the course of the 2021-2022 academic year. No cases were brought before the committee.

Faculty Life – Caroline Padgett

The Faculty Life committee met twice in the 2021-2022 academic year. The committee first considered and resolved an issue brought by a faculty member regarding the processes in the Faculty Handbook. We also selected the Moran Address nominee. Finally, the committee selected the three award winners for teaching, research, and service, after considering a total of 20 candidates across the three categories.

Gender Studies Committee: - Rachel Spear

The Gender Studies Committee was appointed fall of 2021 and has met 3 times this academic year. Over the course of the year, the committee has reviewed 17 courses towards Gender Studies credit, both standing and special topics, approving 16 total. Standing courses went on to be approved by the General Faculty early spring. The Gender Studies 200 course was added as an option under the Humanities and Humanities/Social Sciences electives within the General Education curriculum, and Gender Studies 301 (a special topics course) was added to the catalog. The program's planned fall events were postponed or canceled, but the spring yielded 4 events. Over the year, the program made general website updates, worked with the Communications Office to obtain basic program material such as flyers, stationary, and a table cloth, and created social media accounts. The program is proud to report that the number of minors and collaterals has increased from 2 to 10 over this past year and will continue efforts to grow.

Grade Appeals – Lindsey Banister

Since we do not receive appeal cases until after the conclusion of the semester, I am only able to report on the Summer II 2021 and Fall 2021 semester. We received zero cases for Summer II and there for did not meet. For the Fall 2021 semester, we convened 15 times to review 7 appeal cases; 2 cases were quite contentious and required additional meetings. We will likely convene several more times to review appeal cases at the end of the Spring 2022 semester.

Graduate Council

The activities of the Graduate Council can be found in the 2021 – 2022 minutes of the Faculty Senate.

Information Technology – Nathan Harness

The IT Committee met four times in order to build a Request for Proposals, and to evaluate IT Grant Proposals. We awarded ~\$85,000 to 12 proposals with 36 faculty listed as PI or co-PI.

Institutional Effectiveness Committee: - Rachel Spear

The Institutional Effectiveness Committee has met 2 times this academic year, supplementing additional meetings with email correspondence when needed. In addition, the committee chair and the Director of Institution Effectiveness both attended the national SACSCOC virtual annual meeting in December. The committee has outlined action items related to improving the assessment of the General Education curriculum and will move forward with a sub-committee dedicated to those initial endeavors. All committee members reviewed IE reports during the summer of 2021 and will review the submitted university-wide reports over the upcoming summer months with each having a minimum of two reads.

Peak Report to the Faculty Senate - Marie DeVincenzo

The PEAK Committee met 4 times during the 2021/2022 school year. The program funded 28 projects, totaling \$88,872.46. These projects impacted 476 students.

Professional Development – Lorna Raquel Cintron-Gonzalez

The following is the report from the Professional Development Committee for 2021-2022:

The Professional Development Committee has moved successfully to online applications via Blackboard this year. The committee has met six times so far, this Academic year, with its last meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 20th.

During this academic year, the Committee has reviewed almost 200 proposals, and a total of approximately \$234,000 has been awarded:

- *A total of nine Sabbaticals were awarded for the 2022-23 Academic year*
- *A total of 13 Summer Research Stipends were funded for a total of \$52,000*
- *A total of 17 Research Grant requests have been funded for a total of over \$30,000*
- *A total of 144 Conference/Workshop/Course proposals have been funded for the current Academic year, for an approximate total of \$136,000.*