

Undergraduate Council Report 2024-2025 through 5/10/25

Charge: This Council shall review and recommend policy to the Provost and other administrators, as appropriate, concerning all aspects of the University's Undergraduate academic program including:

1. recommending the minimal instructional responsibilities of instructors
2. monitoring the undergraduate programs through participation in University accreditation and periodic reviews of academic programs
3. reviewing and coordinating all curricular and other academic matters that are not limited to a single major governance unit
4. monitoring policy concerning undergraduate admissions and scholarships

Membership:

Academic Representatives:

Humanities Fine Arts: Katherine Johnston, Madeline Turan

Social and Behavioral Sci.:

Natural Sciences: Hanna Nekvasil (chair), John Peter Gergen

CEAS: Jason Trelewicz, Kevin McDonnell

HSC: Kenneth Faulkner, Santina Abate

College of Business: Christine Pitocco

Library: Jennifer Devito

Professionals:

Paula DiPasquale-Alvarez

Kara DeSanna

Diane Bello

Amy Cook

Deborah Sterling

Summary of activities:

- worked closely with General Education Advisory Committee (GEAC) on ensuring that the SBC is compliant with SUNY General Education and MSCHE requirement. With a focus on
 - reworking the SBC TECH requirement Understanding Technology description and student learning objectives (SLO) to (i) be consistent with the MSCHE technological competence requirement, (ii) allow for the flexibility such that courses focusing on using a specific technology in the classroom as well as courses geared towards understanding the purpose and development of a specific technology can all be compliant with the SLO, (iii) facilitate assessment, and (iv) provide a framework that encourages new courses as societal demands for new technologies evolve.
 - considering the EXP+ contract and its substitution by an appropriate syllabus.

- discussing modification of ESI description and SLO to add the SUNY required Information Literacy benchmark with AI.
- assessed and accepted a modified scheme of GPA calculation of grades of retaken courses in which only the highest grade is used, one that is consistent with best practices of other SUNY schools and peer institutions. This will be retroactive only for a course repeated Summer 2025 or later. A GPA calculation policy for students receiving a first Q was discussed and a consensus reached which permits, after successful taking of the zero-credit seminar, retaking the course and application of the same GPA calculation scheme. The retake policy for the second or higher Q will be addressed at a future UGC meeting.
- assessed, modified, and accepted the Revised Course Evaluation Questions with Rose Tirota-Esposito (CELT).
- worked with the Undergraduate Student Success Team on a process that would put senior students automatically into graduation application status based on current graduation eligibility criteria, rather than waiting for students to take manual steps to apply and discussed the need for easy application for exemptions for students pursuing secondary majors and minors and frequent updating of DegreeWorks.
- ongoing discussions with Rachelle Germana regarding privacy concerns about sharing student papers through Turnitin.
- discussed with Provost Lejuez, Profs. Imin Kao (Executive Director of SUNY Korea), Andrew Singer (Dean, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences) and Haresh Gurnani (Dean, College of Business) the concerns raised by undergraduate students regarding the SK (SUNY Korea) designation on the semester “session” and major “plan” on transcripts. The discussion convinced the UGC that there was both sufficient equivalency to the programs at SBU and sufficient need of the students for the removal. The UGC consensus was to remove the SK designation from “session” for all SBU SUNY Korea undergraduate programs and removal of the SK designation from major “plan” for the Applied Mathematics and Statistics, Business Management, and Technological Systems Management SBU undergraduate programs at SUNY Korea.

Acknowledgements: The chair thanks the entire committee and administrators whose commitment to careful presentation of the problems, open discourse, and dedication to resolution made this committee a joy to work with!