



ACADEMIC COORDINATING COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes of November 21, 2017

**Call to order:** *ACC Chair* Seán Murphy called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm, welcoming a total of 16 attendees (roster attached).

**Minutes:** ACC Minutes of 7 November 2017 were approved as written.

### REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Seán Murphy, ACC Chair:**

- Questions have arisen in relation to paragraph 4 of the new Credit Hour Policy about college and departmental discretion with regard to course scheduling and the point at which ACC review becomes necessary. ACC will schedule time to discuss guidance on this topic at its next meeting.

**Steve VanderStaay, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education:**

- The Washington State legislature has asked that all of the state's public baccalaureate institutions review AP credit transfer evaluation standards in an effort to establish greater statewide consistency. Departments with AP credit standards that deviate from those of most other state institutions may be asked to review current practices and to consider the impact and feasibility of change.

**Hunter Eider, AS VP for Academic Affairs:**

- Eider and *Assistant Dean of Student Engagement* Eric Alexander recently met with college deans to establish groundwork for the future Student Senate. The Associated Students are seeking advisory positions for student representatives on college-level governance committees.

### REVIEW OF CURRICULUM MINUTES

#	Committee	Date	Actions	Minutes prepared by
20	Committee on Undergraduate Education (CUE)	10/26/2017	RETURNED for content clarification. <sup>1</sup>	S. Miller
<a href="#">21</a>	Woodring Curriculum Committee (WCE)	10/26/2017	ACCEPTED	C. Teshima
<a href="#">22</a>	Huxley College CC (HCCC)	10/30/2017	ACCEPTED with exception of ENVS 405. <sup>2</sup>	R. Kawczynski
<a href="#">23</a>	Graduate Council (GC)	10/31/2017	ACCEPTED	D. Patterson
<a href="#">24</a>	Fairhaven College CC (FCCC)	11/1/2017	ACCEPTED	Anna Blick
<a href="#">25</a>	College of Science & Engineering (CSE)	11/6/2017	ACCEPTED	J. Caplan-Auerbach
<a href="#">26</a>	College of Science & Engineering (CSE)	11/13/2017	ACCEPTED with comment. <sup>3</sup>	J. Caplan-Auerbach

<sup>1</sup> Commissioners observed that whereas Priority Area 1 in ACC's report on Recommended Improvements to General Education specifies W1, W2, and W3 requirements, CUE discussion of a draft writing proposal cites W1-5. A **motion** (forwarded by Julie Helling and seconded) **to return** CUE minutes of 26 October 2017 for clarification of writing requirement numbering **passed** by unanimous consent. Commissioners request a clear explanation of proposed W1-5 requirements in relationship to ACC's W1, W2, and W3.

<sup>2</sup> [ENVS 405](#) RETURNED: Commissioners observed that while the title of the course is being updated, no corresponding change has been proposed to parallel language in the course description.

<sup>3</sup> Commissioners noted that, while the large number of credits included in proposed changes to the [Industrial Technology: Vehicle Design BS](#) substantially violates Western's 3:2:1 model, the department is currently seeking ABET accreditation and is therefore bound by ABET requirements.

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

**ACC General Education Recommendations Priority Area 3 (GUR Competencies):** Prior to discussion of possible revisions to the GUR Competencies, a commissioner forwarded a constituent concern that ACC is perceived to be doing the work of the Committee on Undergraduate Education. *ACC Chair* Seán Murphy observed that all work undertaken by CUE lies within ACC's purview.

Commissioners discussed their ideas for revision of the GUR Competencies. Possibilities put forth included employing the LEAP Essential Learning Outcomes developed through an initiative of the American Association of Colleges and Universities, utilizing disciplinary competencies that connect more closely to the various GUR attributes, continuing to make use of the existing eleven competencies, and simplifying the competencies into 4 or 5 categories. Two suggested frameworks were put forth for a simplified approach. The first, proposed by Brittany Schade, includes the categories of communication literacy, critical thinking, problem solving, global citizenship, and learning and development. The second, proposed by Seán Murphy, includes the categories of communicative capacity, creative capacity, critical capacity, and civic capacity. Commissioners who favored utilizing the LEAP Outcomes observed the benefit of being able to access a substantial amount of existing research for purposes of assessment. Student members noted that many students find disciplinary competencies easy to understand and favor them for that reason. Commissioners also noted the desirability of aligning the GUR competencies with language in Western's Mission statement.

*ACC Chair* Seán Murphy stated that ACC would continue its discussion of GUR Competencies at its next meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm**

**ACADEMIC COORDINATING COMMISSION – ROSTER 2017-18**

VOTING ATTENDEES				NON-VOTING ATTENDEES		
Faculty				Advisory		
1	Seán Murphy, <i>ACC Chair</i>	<i>Senator</i> ~ Liberal Studies	P	17	David Brunner, <i>Registrar</i>	P
2	Doug Clark	A ~ Geology	P	18	Jamie Lawson, <i>Catalog Coordinator</i>	P
3	Paul Chen	B ~ Political Science	--	19	Lizzy Ramhorst, <i>Shared Gov Ops Mgr</i>	P
4	Joan Hoffman	C ~ Mod & Classic Lang	--	<b>Recorder</b>		
5	Brittany Schade	D ~ Design	P	20	Kylee Swift, <i>FS Admin Assistant</i>	--
6	Phil Thompson	E ~ Economics	P	<b>Guests</b>		
7	Julie Helling	F ~ Fairhaven	P	21	Jackie Caplan-Auerbach, <i>Assoc Dean, CSE</i>	P
8	Brooke Love	G ~ Environmental Studies	--			
9	Tracy Thorndike	H ~ Special Education	P			
10	Peter Smith	I ~ Wilson Library	P			
11	Aaron Perzigian	<i>Senator</i> ~ Special Education	P			
12	Sheila Webb, <i>Vice Chair</i>	<i>Senate appt</i> ~ Journalism	P			
<b>Ex Officio</b>						
13	Steven VanderStaay, <i>Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education</i>		P			
<b>Students</b>						
14	Hunter Eider, <i>AS VP for Academic Affairs</i>		P			
15	Bill Martin, <i>AS appointee</i>		P			
16	Vacant, <i>AS appointee</i>		--			
<b>Voting members in attendance</b>				<b>12</b>	<b>Voting attendees</b>	<b>12</b>
					<b>Non-voting attendees</b>	<b>4</b>
					<b>TOTAL ATTENDEES</b>	<b>16</b>