

William Paterson University Faculty Senate Councils Year-End Report

Academic Year 2022-2023

1. Council: Assessment Council

2. Council members:

- Heejung An, Cara Berg (chairs)
- Valeriya Avdeev, Jyoti Champanerkar, Shakuntala Choudhury, Michael DaSilva, David Ferrier, Sue Gerber, Sandra Hill, Arnold Lewis, Eunsun Park, Mahmoud Watad, William Indick

3. Council Charges and Summary of Activities:

Standing Charges:

The Council's principal functions shall be to:

- Inform and educate the university community regarding issues and trends in relation to assessment (e.g. via an annual newsletter, and annual university forum).
 - Act as consultants for assessment projects campus-wide, including program reviews.
- * *Note: These charges are as written in the bylaws. The charges on the Senate website reflect a description of the council.*

Priority Charges for AY 2022-2023:

1. Work with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness to determine how the Council can inform and support their assessment efforts.
 2. Revisit the program review template edits and finish recommendation for the 3-year program assessment.
 3. Work with the faculty chairs and departments on the quantitative skills deficit as noted by the NSSE/FSSE task force.
 4. Review courses that have high rates of failures and repeats regarding student retention.
- 2022-2023 Summary of Activities

Charge 1

The AVP for Institutional Effectiveness is a standing member and active participant.

Charge 2

Jonathan Lincoln and Kara Rabbit attended our February meeting to discuss the program review template. They explained to the group the process and let us know we would be informed when a draft was ready and that they would like our input. We assume this will be ready at some point in the next academic year.

Charge 3.

In order to address the NSSE/FSSE data findings on the quantitative skills deficit among WPU undergraduate students, the Assessment Council first (Spring 2022) invited Anthony Bowrin,

NSSE task force chair, to discuss their findings. After the meeting, the council determined that it would be best to conduct a survey and then a focus group to gather more in-depth insights and actionable suggestions. As a result, a survey with three questions was developed and sent to each WPU department chair. Fifteen departments responded to this survey.

The three questions are:

- (1) In your department and/or college, where do you think students are exposed to quantitative reasoning both in the early stages and the latter stages of the curriculum?
- (2) Where do you think there is a disconnect between faculty and student perceptions regarding the acquisition and use of quantitative reasoning?
- (3) What solutions would you suggest to address this discrepancy?

The survey that was sent out to the departments can be found at:
https://wpunj.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_afVz5nDDgMPcjDE

The council organized the responses from 15 departments and presented the findings at the 2022 “What Works” conference on December 12, 2022. The results can be found at
<https://tinyurl.com/3z83w3ua>

Due to time constraints, the council decided to conduct a focus group discussion in the fall 2023 semester.

Charge 4

The council requested and received the raw data for the past 5 years from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, with specific factors (See slide 2 in the attached PDF) and analyzed them. See the attached PDF for the data results. The council will share the results with each college, so that they can further analyze the data as needed.

4. Recommended Charges for the Next Academic Year:

- Implement focus groups as detailed in Charge 3, report on results
- Report on data analysis to senate for Charge 4.
- Report on data analysis to each college for Charge 4.
- Revisit program review template edits once they are ready by the administration.
- Suggestion to remove Charge 1 from the priority charges and place it in the standing charge as this item does not change yearly.