

Proposal to Change the Faculty Senate Charter

Proposed Change 1 on p. 8 of the Senate Charter (see strikethrough)

V. The Organization of the Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate shall act on all proposals received either from its committees or from its members. In addition, the Faculty Senate shall hear and rule on any appeal from a college curriculum committee, and shall forward its recommendation, along with the relevant materials to the Provost.

The Faculty Senate shall also act through its committees, receiving for information reports of committee actions. However, the Faculty Senate may vote to review a committee action. The committee shall be informed of the review, and the matter shall be placed on the agenda of the next Faculty Senate meeting. The Faculty Senate shall forward its recommendation to the Provost.

A. Standing Committees of the Faculty Senate

The standing committees of the Faculty Senate are as follows: The Executive Committee, the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, ~~the Colonnade General Education Committee~~, the Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee, the Committee on Academic Quality, the Budget and Finance Committee, the Graduate Council and the Handbook Committee.

Proposed Change 2 on p. 9 of the Senate Charter (see strikethrough)

C. Composition and Duties of Other Standing Committees

The composition and duties of other Faculty Senate standing committees shall be set forth in Bylaws of each standing committee, which Bylaws are subject to approval of the Faculty Senate and are linked here:

1. [The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee:](#)
2. ~~[The Colonnade General Education Committee:](#)~~
3. [The Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibility Committee:](#)
4. [The Committee on Academic Quality:](#)
5. [The Budget and Finance Committee:](#)
6. [The Graduate Council:](#) and,
7. [The Handbook Committee:](#)

Rationale for Charter Revision:

The Colonnade General Education Committee recommends that the Senate Charter be amended to remove the Colonnade General Education Committee from the Faculty Senate's list of Standing Committees.

The committee also recommends that its functions (a) to make proposals to the Faculty Senate concerning the structure and content of the Colonnade General Education Program, and (b) to consider new courses and review existing courses proposed for the Colonnade General Education Program be reassigned to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

Expedited approval processes assigned to the Colonnade General Education Committee Chair will shift to the General Education Program Director. Moreover, other functions of the Colonnade General Education Committee will be re-assigned to a group of faculty appointed by the Provost's Office (a) to develop, review, and recommend Colonnade General Education guidelines, policies, performance standards, assessment and assessment policies; and (b) to verify that courses and policies meet the established Colonnade General Education Program requirements. This new group will be referred to as WKU General Education Oversight, Assessment, and Improvement Group (WKU GenEd OAI Group), and details of its memberships and responsibilities follow.

~~The WKU GenEd OAI Group will work in collaboration with the Director of the General Education Program and faculty who teach and support general education courses. This group will provide program level oversight by reviewing assessment data, recommending improvements, promoting consistency across general education learning outcomes, and supporting the ongoing development of the general education program and faculty teaching in the program. Recommendations from the group will be to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee by the General Education Program Director.~~

~~Currently, the members of the Colonnade General Education Committee serve two years, but this can sometimes be limited to one year based on Senate membership and other faculty course and service commitments. Consequently, there is frequent rotation in this committee which limits institutional memory. The WKU GenEd OAI Group will consist of faculty who teach general education courses or who are responsible for leading unit assessments of general education courses. Membership will be by appointment of the Provost's Office by recommendation of College Dean's Offices, and appointments will aim for at least one member per academic college. Additional appointments for membership may be recommended by the General Education program director to ensure that each category of courses in the General Education Program is represented to support course proposals, assessment, and faculty professional development. Terms of appointment are projected to be three years. These details will be worked out with the new group when formed. Initial appointment duration may be staggered to ensure that the committee maintains institutional memory.~~

General Education Oversight, Assessment, and Improvement Committee (5-4-26)

Led by the Director of General Education, the General Education Oversight, Assessment, and Improvement Committee will include faculty involved in teaching and assessing general education courses. Some departments already have coordinators who organize assessment, discuss pedagogy, and work to improve learning within a particular category (i.e., Written Communication/ENG100 and Oral Communication/Comm 145) who would automatically be selected, but the Provost will work with the Director of General Education, deans, and department chairs/directors to identify faculty with a commitment to general education and interests in assessment and pedagogy to represent the other categories and coordinate with faculty teaching in the categories. The Vice Chair of the University Curriculum Committee will also be a voting member of the committee. Whenever a position is vacant, the Director of General Education and UCC Vice Chair will invite applicants to express interest; Deans, Chairs/Directors, and faculty may also make recommendations, including self-nominations. The Provost will present to the Senate Executive Committee a full slate that includes the remaining slots filled with one faculty member for each General Education category not automatically selected and which includes representation from all five academic colleges. (Note: in the proposed revision of GenEd, the synthesis course would have two representatives to ensure that all colleges have at least one member). In executive session, the Senate Executive Committee will consider the slate for endorsement. If they fail to endorse any of the candidates, the Provost will present additional candidates until a finalist is selected and each college has at least one representative.

Responsibilities

- Each coordinator represents their specific category but works with the other coordinators to oversee assessment and continuous improvement of the full program.
- Coordinators will meet with faculty teaching general education courses in their category at least twice a year to clarify the purposes of their courses, to discuss learning outcomes, when necessary, to review assessment data, to discuss pedagogy, and to improve learning.
- The committee will review course proposals, provide suggestions, and make recommendations about the suitability of the course for the category. Whether the committee recommends approval or not, proposals will advance to the UCC and full senate for consideration and final approval. OAI by-laws and rules will also be reviewed and considered by the UCC and full senate for final approval.
- The committee will oversee drafting of rules to guide course approval, implementation, and program management. The UCC will review rules and have final authority over them.
- The committee will work to ensure that faculty understand the overall general education program and how it supports the major; the group will promote integration of learning in the program, across the courses.
- The UCC Vice Chair will have the special responsibility of liaising with the OAI and helping to oversee the integrity of the overall program on behalf of UCC; they will also report on OAI discussions for inclusion in the UCC minutes. They will not be expected to do assessment work although they are welcome to participate in all discussions and decisions.

Qualifications & Compensation

- Faculty seeking to serve on the OAI should have at least five years of experience teaching in the general education category (or a related category if a new category is approved).
- The appointment is for four years and is renewable.
- Faculty coordinating certain categories that have departmental coordinators in place will be automatically appointed (i.e. College Composition (English-PCAL), Human Communication (SOMC-PCAL), Quantitative Reasoning (Math-OCSE), Writing in the Disciplines (English-PCAL)).
- Whenever a position that is not mostly housed in one department/school (i.e., Arts & Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social & Behavioral) is vacant, the Director of General Education and UCC Vice Chair will invite applicants to express interest; Deans, Chairs/Directors, and faculty may also make recommendations, including faculty self-nominations.
- Faculty serving on the committee will receive at least one course release or, depending on unit needs, a stipend; some departments with ownership of most courses in the categories already cover compensation; for coordinators in categories with representation across departments and where one department does not cover at least 80% of SCH in the category, the Provost will pay for course replacements.
- Coordinators will receive a stipend for summer work.

FAQ

How is this different than the current Colonnade Committee and why do we need the change?

The new approach ensures that the committee is made up of faculty who teach in each general education category, who may already coordinate some general education work for their department, and who have a demonstrated commitment to general education. In addition, the approach moves the focus away from just course approval but involves faculty in leading improvement of general education courses and of the overall program. While there are certainly many examples of outstanding general education courses, the group's focus is to support all faculty in improving student learning in general education courses. One of the aims of Colonnade was to integrate learning; having a group like this would facilitate that integration across the curriculum.

Would this change take away faculty's control of the curriculum?

No. The UCC would still have final say on curriculum changes and the Vice Chair of UCC will enhance cooperation and oversight between UCC and OAI. It has been argued that if courses are not supported by the OAI Committee, then shared governance would fail. All proposals will advance to UCC, with or without the support of OAI, for a vote and then to Faculty Senate for consideration and final approval. The Director of General Education and UCC Vice Chair would serve as liaisons between OAI and UCC.

Does this change ensure that the future proposal to revise the general education curriculum will pass?

No. The new curriculum will have to be voted on by UCC and Faculty Senate. Even if the proposal were to fail and we had no changes to the curriculum and kept Colonnade, this model of administering the curriculum would help improve the delivery of the curriculum and student learning.

Are committee roles identical?

No. Some departments have coordinators in place and their work to improve learning may simply need to be refined or to have more outreach to departments that contribute to the category (i.e., Writing the Disciplines). However, other categories (i.e., Arts & Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social & Behavioral) will have more fundamental and complex work to do because so many programs contribute to the category and formal conversations about the courses in the category have never occurred among faculty.

Committee Composition

The tables below illustrate what the *likely* committee composition *might* be. One goal is to ensure that each academic college has at least one representative. The final coordinator slots would be based on the final categories in the curriculum. Note: If SEC were to reject one of the Provost’s nominees, review of each subsequent nominee to fill the vacancy would continue to ensure college representation.

Current GenEd/Colonnade

College Composition	PCAL-English (same person for CC, WD, LS)
Writing in the Disciplines	PCAL-English (same person for CC, WD, LS)
Human Communication	PCAL-SOMC
Quantitative Reasoning	OCSE-Math
Arts & Humanities	PCAL-TBD
AH Literary Studies	PCAL-English (same person for CC, WD, LS)
Social & Behavioral	Likely CEBS or CHHS or GFCB
World History	PCAL-History
Natural & Physical Sciences	OCSE-TBD
Connections—Social/Cultural	Likely CEBS or CHHS or GFCB
Connections—Local to Global	Likely CEBS or CHHS or GFCB
Connections—Systems	Likely CEBS or CHHS or GFCB
UCC Vice Chair	WKU

Program Proposed in Draft Revision as of April 3, 2026

College Composition	PCAL-English (same person for CC and WD)
Writing in the Disciplines	PCAL-English (same person for CC and WD)
Human Communication	PCAL-SOMC
Quantitative Reasoning	OCSE-Math
Creativity, Culture, Expression	PCAL-TBD
Understanding People & Society 1	Likely CEBS or CHHS or GFCB
Understanding People & Society 2	PCAL-History-Political Science
Natural Sciences	OCSE-TBD
Synthesis—Global Societies, Collaboration, Leadership	Likely CEBS or CHHS or GFCB-- 2 members to ensure college representation
UCC Vice Chair	WKU

Advisory Members

- University Libraries Representative

- Registrar
- Associate Provosts for Faculty & Academic Excellence
- Assistant Provost for Assessment & Accreditation