



GEATFC MINUTES SUMMARY

General Education Ad Hoc Task Force on Curriculum

May 6, 2019. 12:00 p.m., CLEV 418

GEATFC Senate Website page:

<https://collegesenate.buffalostate.edu/general-education-ad-hoc-task-force-curriculum>

GEATFC Co-Chair Bhakti Sharma called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

Bhakti stated that continuing with discussion on WG-2 Ann Liao's report from the last meeting would be best to begin with that. **Bhakti** mentioned to everyone that she and **Jason** have prepared the GEATFC Final report and she will and also on behalf of **Jason**, present that to the Senate on May 10th.

Bhakti and **Jason** then discussed the variances between voting on the 1st Semester Seminar proposed by **Ann Liao's** WG Coherence report or continuing with discussion on the remaining areas of that report. **Jason** stated that at the April 22nd meeting the conversation went from the sentiment of do nothing, and except as is, or to have a large lecture hall style seminar. He asked for feedback/thoughts?

Discussion began with **Amitra, David** and **Scott**.

Jason asked to project **Scott's** report that showed a breakdown of seminar ideas/concepts/comments for discussion.

	description	common experience	1st year SLOs	cost*	implementation difficulty*	Comments
1	Do nothing	N	N	0	0	
2	1-credit "Buffalo State Experience"	Y	Y	1	1	New course. 1-credit causes some difficulty with teaching loads. Some new adjunct teachers.
3	3-credit common course Does not complete SUNY	Y	Y	3	3	BSC 101-like. May be difficult to implement and costly. Cost due to it being a course that adds to our gen. ed. (does not replace anything) and low quotas. Many new adjunct teachers.

	requirement					
4	3-credit, First-Year Seminar completes SUNY requirement	Y/N	Y	1	2	This is in the proposal. Can provide some common experience for students in same cognate area. Cost associated with reduction of quotas, otherwise replaces existing cognate sections of gen. ed. Some new adjunct teachers.
5	1-credit large (200+) seminars connected to CWP (or other)	Y/N	Y/N	1	1	Much depends on implementation. Large sections provide some common experience. Coordination between teachers of large sections could provide more. Could provide limited 1 st year SLOs, but some might have to be moved to companion courses or recitation. Limited costs associated with offering 6-8 large sections. No new adjuncts.
6	common cognate courses. All students take ART 101, HUM 101, SCI 101, and SSC 101.	Y	N	1	3	Limited costs associated with lower average quotas. Cognates required for a major would still need to be offered, so new courses could not replace all lower-level cognate sections. High faculty resistance would be anticipated due to loss of individuality/academic freedom. No change in adjuncts. Some new adjuncts
7	"F" Tag attaches 1 st -year SLOs to any appropriate gen ed course	N	Y	0	0	All incoming students placed in 1 "F" course that delivers 1 st -year SLOs. Could be in major course, writing, math, or other gen. ed. Could be combined with option #6 to provide 1 st -year outcomes. No new adjuncts

- **First Semester Seminar (FSS) Discussion**

- Extensive discussion continued from; ***Kathy, Scott, Jason, David, Joy, Ann and Bhakti.***

- **David** contributed his idea of a trial basis for a large lecture hall seminar. If it will work or not, testing it out could determine better choices for students.
- **Joy** asked; “Do we believe in an FSS, and is it valuable enough in the bigger picture at Buffalo State.”?
 - *What does it look like?*
 - *What do we want to accomplish?*
- **Joy** felt that until some of these questions can be answered firmly, then there wouldn’t be enough to present to the Senate with more solid information to form a resolution or any other format from GEATFC.
- **Jason** stated that possibly tabling this may be the current option.
 - Are we endorsing this and will work out the details later?

Joe liked **David’s** idea of a trial basis. Come up with a framework, we endorse an idea; and come up with details on it later. We can email each other to continue this over the summer, or when we reconvene in late August or September.

Scott stated that when BSC 101 was first piloted, the kinks were worked out after.

Jason suggested working up a proposal for the FSS. Amitra said it may be a lecture for incoming students.

Bhakti asked; a.) “Are we in favor of this? b.) What is the end goal of FSS?”

Campus needs to decide on amount of credits FSS would offer; 1, 2 or 3 credits? Does it need to be attached to CWP or Oral Communication?

Jason said that if the four cognitives were not worked on for FSS, then it would just become a; “BSC 101.”

Bhakti stated that if you attach FSS to a department, then the department would be responsible for prepare the students.

Jason said that staffing issues or the lack of would hinder that.

Bhakti: We aren’t going to get FT Faculty and it will be adjuncts teaching this going forward.

Bhakti and Jason thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Ann made a few suggestions:

- Required courses for each discipline.
- Revision versus brand new.
- 1 credit FSS? Student would prefer (preference from student feedback to Ann).

- What about first-generation students?

Scott suggested to narrow down and decide what we want this to be

The discussion was extensive.

Commentary:

Should WG make recommendations, and Co-Chairs make final decisions?

Credits; 1, 2, or 3?

Provost document cannot be ignored.

We can't endorse as this is not policy.

The discussion turned, and questioning arose as to why is this task force needed.

Joe recapped the process as to how this came about within the Senate Executive Committee meeting in September 2018. CCCC, S4S, APC and SWC Chairs all felt that this was too big for just us, and we should form a task force to focus strictly on Gen-Ed. Adopting SUNY changes to our Gen Ed at BSC.

Need to go piece by piece and go through a checklist. We ended up with GEATFC, which the Senate voted on and approved of forming. Reps from the Senate, all schools, staff and Graduate Student would be on GEATFC. Starting late in the academic year was only because it took time forming GEATFC. We are doing good work and can continue with this next year and hopefully can have something finalized in Spring 2020 for the campus.

Steve then makes a motion to; conceptually approve the "document," and list essential questions for consideration by the full senate-(in the next academic year).

David spoke against the motion. We should continue with discussion and communicate over the summer on FSS.

Bhakti stated that we have a mechanism the three WG's; we can go scenario by scenario.

The discussion continued over implementation, recommendations to the Senate, what direction GEATFC needs to move and focus on, goals.

Bhakti stressed that as reps from the various campus academic areas more discussion is needed, and firm decisions made on FSS and the other areas on Gen Ed, before we can move forward. She stated that she doesn't see this as workable at this time.

Jason brought up the importance of the SLO's and what kind of SLO's are needed for FSS. The possibility of having 'sample SLO's', one for each of the cognitive areas.

Bhakti felt that separation was needed between FSS and SLO's.

Scott, Lisa Marie, Ann, Joy and **Amitra** contributed more thoughts and comments on SLO's, credits and where GEATFC is headed.

Further discussion continued until **Joe** reminded everyone that there is still an active motion on the floor that **Steve** made. This needs to be voted on.

Scott stated that there wasn't anything in the motion that is specific.

Bhakti said she would be willing to take this model back to the CSCC for review and discussion.

Bhakti then returned to the motion on the floor. All those in favor of this motion. The Nays were unanimous, motion defeated.

Faherty stated that a focus for GEATFC should be; "what is our goal?" and; "what do we want to accomplish?"

Further discussion ensued over the 45 credit hours that eventually will be effective as per SUNY. Also recapping Scott's FSS comment and idea chart.

Joy was in favor of communication over the summer to keep things current and in mind.

Bhakti, in conclusion we did not vote on anything related to FSS, and undecisive GEATFC commentaries, that have led us to continue our optional communication over the summer and reconvening in the Fall.

Joe stated that meeting on a regular basis beginning in the Fall could and would possibly lead to a conclusion for the work GEATFC was set to do by Spring 2020. We are doing really good work here.

Bhakti and **Jason** thanked everyone for their hard work.

Adjournment: 1:10 p.m.