

Structure of the BSI Committee: A Proposal

Over the past several months, I have had multiple conversations with Dean Hunt and Senate President Wyly (among others) regarding the most effective structure for our committee, and in all cases I have received excellent feedback and advice. We have also discussed this at some length in our BSI meetings, most extensively during our meeting on May 12th (draft notes and related documents attached), where we discussed the strengths and weaknesses of our committee's current structure as well as the "Safety Net Committee" proposal we developed in 2015 (attached). Please review Melissa's notes (specifically pages 3-4) for a more detailed description of the conversation, but after that conversation and other conversations of which I have been a part, here is what I propose:

Merge our committee with the new Student Equity and Success Council (SESC) which has been proposed and supported by the Academic Senate and SCC administration. The SESC would include membership from faculty (appointed by Senate) an administrator (currently Dean Hunt) and CESEA/staff. One of the big "aha" moments during the implementation of the Transformation Grant over the past year was the extent to which the wellbeing of our students depends on "the village"—we need to tear down the silos and work together (faculty, staff, administrators) to create equity, increase access and inclusion, and do everything we can to support student success. This new committee/council conforms to the chancellor's office vision as well, as we have been tasked with integrating plans and "braiding" funding streams; clearly, in this new world, a stand-alone Basic Skills (BSI) Committee no longer seems the best path. One frustration voiced in our last meeting was that good ideas are discussed in Basic Skills, but action and follow-through remain elusive. This new committee's structure would minimize that risk—since representatives from SSSP, Equity, Transformation, and BSI would be members of our new committee, the integrated plan would be informed by the committee, and the larger SCC community could participate on this committee to ensure their voice and perspective are heard. Dean Hunt proposes a structure where the large council meets once or twice a month (where everyone interested in this work would attend), but then on the alternating Fridays various task forces and subcommittees would work to institute the plans and processes which come out of the larger meetings. This would give us real opportunity to create the follow-through we have been seeking. Finally, the SESC should have representation on Shared Governance Council—this could either be the faculty coordinator/chair or another faculty member appointed by the Senate.

This committee would be co-chaired, with a faculty chair/coordinator and an administrator. My term ends in May 2018, so one proposal would be that the basic skills coordinator would be faculty chair and Dean Hunt would be the administrative chair. In this scenario I could co-chair during the creation of the committee (its first year), but then we could hire a faculty coordinator/chair to begin in Fall 2018 (a position for which any faculty member could apply). The Senate would appoint faculty representatives and we would identify a process for staff to be appointed to the committee as well (representation from Assessment, Institutional Research, OAR, etc. seem crucial).

This new committee's structure would need to be approved by the Faculty Senate and the Board, a process that we hope to be concluded by January. And of course, this is just a proposal; we can discuss this more in the fall, and I plan to bring this proposal to the Academic Senate for their feedback and advice.

Josh Scott
Chair, Basic Skills Committee
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