

# Undergraduate Council

**Charge:** The Undergraduate Council reviews and recommends policy to the Provost and other administrators, as appropriate, concerning all aspects of the University's Undergraduate academic program including:

1. recommending the minimal instructional responsibilities of instructors
2. monitoring the undergraduate programs through participation in University accreditation and periodic reviews of academic programs
3. reviewing and coordinating all curricular and other academic matters that are not limited to a single major governance unit
4. monitoring policy concerning undergraduate admissions and scholarships

**Co-Chairs:** Leo Bachmair and Roy Lacey **Voting members:** Brenda Anderson, Sandra Brennan, Justin Clark (undergraduate representative), Kenneth Faulkner, Norm Goodman, Judith Lochhead, Liz Montegary, Hanna Nekvasil, Christine Pitocco, Jacqueline Rowe, Camillo Rubbini (graduate representative), Justin Ullman (undergraduate representative), Debbie Zelizer **Ex-officio members:** Diane Bello, Jennifer Dellaposta, Arlene Feldman, Deborah Serling **Cognate Administrator:** Charlie Robbins

## Agenda 2018-2019

### Curricular matters

- The Council approved a new Stony Brook Curriculum (SBC) objective, Respect Diversity and Foster Inclusiveness (DIV). This SBC objective was approved by the Senate on October 1, 2018, and will be included in undergraduate degree requirements effective Fall 2019.
- The Council, in conjunction with the SBC Implementation Group, established a new SBC Certification Committee, which will review requests for certification of courses for any SBC category to ensure consistent application of SBC standards across different academic units. The committee is chaired by Scott Sutherland and includes members from the various curriculum committees, the Undergraduate Council, and the SBC Implementation Group. The initial focus will be on certification of courses for the new DIV objective.
- The Council reviewed a draft report by Kane Gillespie, Director of Academic Assessment, on the findings of a pilot project assessing student performance on a significant portion of the SBC objectives.

- Susan Scheckel spoke to the Council about a pilot project aimed at creating outcomes for the experiential learning (EXP+) objective of the SBS and improving the delivery and management of EXP+ courses that generally do not have syllabi, such as teaching practica, internships and undergraduate research.
- The administration has decided to replace periodic reviews of academic programs by departmental program assessments focused on curricula and student outcomes. Kane Gillespie reported on a corresponding pilot project that involves three undergraduate programs: English, Chemistry, and Economics.

### **Undergraduate program proposals**

- The Council had initial discussions of 3+3 programs that combine three years of an undergraduate program and three years of a graduate program, with the undergraduate part being completed in the fourth year. There be a further review of two concrete proposals, one from the University at Buffalo Law School and one from the Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine.

### **Academic policies**

- The Council discussed the academic policies on posting of course syllabi and on final exams. Compliance with these policies is spotty. For example, syllabi for most courses are unavailable on Classie Syllabus Explorer, the web site intended to provide students with syllabus information. The Council strongly supports these policies and, as an interim measure, endorses the extraction of syllabi from Blackboard course sites.