

# UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE FOR GENERAL EDUCATION

## MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 1, 2021

VIA ZOOM, 2:30 PM – 3:45 PM

**Present:** Angela Anderson, Aaron Ansell, Sara Arena, Stephen Biscotte, Molly Hall, Janet Hilder, Earl Kline, Victoria Lael, Greg Novack, Annie Ronan, Hannah Shinault, Alireza Shojaei, Anita Walz, Sparkle Williams

**Absent:** Brian Collins, Nicole Pitterson, Zack Underwood,

**Guests:** Jenni Gallagher

Call to order by Hannah Shinault at 2:30 pm

### Announcements

- The quant/comp resolution passed at the 11/3/21 meeting won't be effective until UG catalog 2023-24 since many 2022-23 checksheets have already been submitted.
- VCCS Passport & Uniform Certificate of General Studies update: Stephen passed along to the Registrar's Office the concerns raised at the last meeting. The Registrar's Office is running scenarios and reaching back out to the state for further information. The hope is that the committee will have enough information to put the issue to a vote during the first spring meeting in February.
- Spring Pathways Assesstival update: The Office of Gen Ed is working on selecting a date and location for an event in the spring to review the assessment data that was submitted this semester. In the past, the event has been held during the week of spring break.

### 1. PHY 100 for Pathways Credit

The committee unanimously approved PHY 100 for Pathways concept 4 (Reasoning in the Natural Sciences) credit.

### 2. Collaboratory Demo

Jenni provided a demonstration of the [Collaboratory](#) and committee members submitted feedback through [Jamboard](#).

Anita solicited committee members' feedback on whether, at some point in the future, we may want to make the Collaboratory available outside of Virginia Tech. She emphasized that if we decide to do so, there are licensing implications, and it would be helpful to plan for those now. Committee members raised the following points for consideration:

- It may be beneficial to instructors in the Virginia Community College System (VCCS), especially since many VCCS courses are approved for Pathways.
- If we're going to make it accessible outside of VT, there should be an opt in/opt out option so that contributors can choose whether to share their work beyond VT.

- Faculty buy-in will be critical for the success of the Collaboratory and offering choice for whether to opt in or not will mitigate the possibility of folks not participating because they don't want their material shared outside the university.
- Some have expressed a fear of putting materials out into the cyberspace, especially if it's attached to an individual scholar's name/image, due to the vitriol and negativity that can flourish online. To address this, maybe have a separate version that's shown outside of VT that anonymizes entries (no faces in videos, no names, etc). Perhaps also consider making the discussion boards available only internally.
- Anita provided three possible options for licensing:
  - Don't share beyond Tech
  - Share beyond Tech without contributor's name
  - Share beyond Tech with contributor's name

### 3. Subcommittee Reports

- Advising
  - Victorial Lael provided the following updates on the advising subcommittee's work:
    - The subcommittee received and has reviewed Pathways enrollment data for political science and communication students. They will be reviewing data on biology, economics, and statistics majors next.
    - The subcommittee also discussed ways to promote Pathways courses and minors across the university.
      - Participate in recruiting events for prospective students, having a Pathways table with information on Pathways and all of the minors.
      - Tap into FYE instructors to talk about Pathways options.
      - Make a template for departments to complete that lists all of their Pathways courses, which they can hand out at the majors fair to non-majors.
- Assessment
  - Molly Hall provided the following updates on the assessment subcommittee's work:
    - Fall 2021 assessment is due Jan 31, and folks can contact her if they need assistance submitting data.
    - Molly worked with about 30 instructors this semester who participated in the assessment mini-grant. They will be submitting their assessment data and entries to the Collaboratory by Jan 31.
    - Assessment planning is in the works. A small stipend (\$200) is available to participants. More info will be forthcoming soon.
    - The subcommittee has started looking at spring data as far as who submitted, who didn't, and what SLOs are being assessed most. They plan for UCCGE to talk in the spring about opportunities to streamline assessment.

- Data was submitted for about 60% of Spring 2021 courses and 65% of sections. This was a decrease from pre-pandemic levels, but they are hoping to see numbers begin increasing again this semester.
- Collaboratory
  - Anita Waltz noted that the Collaboratory subcommittee met asynchronously in November to create/edit the script for the intro video, which can be viewed [here](#).