

Final Recommendations from the Subcommittee on Faculty/Senate Oversight of Courses

Summary

The Senate Council tasked the subcommittee to assess and make recommendations relating to the appropriate or suitable governance structures for courses that require Senate oversight. Specifically, the subcommittee contacted representative stakeholders concerning courses homed above the college level, those with EAP, HMN, and UK prefixes. Through these consultations, the subcommittee secured input and perspectives on the identification of faculty governance bodies and a 'dean-like' officers for each of these prefix groups. Where pertinent, the subcommittee also assessed the relationships of specific courses to multidisciplinary research centers. The subcommittee here submits to the Senate Council recommendations on parameters for Senate approval of respective 'faculty bodies' and 'dean-like' officers for these courses (for Senate Rules purposes). It offers notes on related items that the Senate Council might further consider.

I. Members:

Senate Council Members:

- DeShana Collett, Professor in College of Health Sciences, Dept of Physician Assistant Studies, Subcommittee Chair.
- Shannon Oltmann: Associate Professor in College of Communication and Information, School of Information Science
- Leslie Vincent: Senior Lecture in Gatton College of Business, Department of Marketing and Supply Chain
- Michael Hawse: Student Body President doubling majoring in Political Science and US Culture and Business Practice

Additional Member:

- Davy Jones: Professor Emeriti in College of Medicine Toxicology and Cancer Biology

II. Charge:

The Senate Council appointed a subcommittee to make recommendations related to the appropriate or suitable governance structures for courses that require Senate oversight.

The subcommittee has convened on several occasions, and during each of those meetings, we ensure we are utilizing the GRs (GR IV, VIII.E, & XI), ARs (Ar1:4.III.F), and Senate Rules (see below)) to guide and inform the committee's discussions and recommendations. Additionally, the subcommittee invited and engaged the necessary stakeholders in our discussion before rendering final recommendations. The stakeholders included:

Robert DiPaola, Provost

Sue Roberts, Associate Provost for Internationalization

Katherine McCormick, Acting Associate Provost for Planning and Assessment; Vice President for Student Excellence and Engagement

Kirsten Turner, Vice President for Student Success

Melynda Price, Director, Gaines Center

III. Findings:

A. Foundational Framework Related to Regulations and Rules

Given the current regulatory structure outlined in the Senate Rules, the following foundational Senate rules were provided guidance for which compliance issues have been raised.

1. The University Senate must possess and exercise decisional jurisdiction over **all** Senate numbered courses. (GR IV.C.3; SR 3.2 *et seq*)
2. Proposals for changes to courses and related educational policies (*including EAP 599, HMN prefix, UK prefix, and any other Senate numbered courses homed outside of a college*) are initiated by the vote of a Senate-identified **faculty body** that acts in the manner of a voting department faculty. (SR 3.2.2.3.1.1)
3. There must be a person who is the “**responsible dean**” for student academic offense cases and educational policy purposes. (SR 6.4.2.2 *et seq*)
4. The individual identified as the “dean” must report to the Provost when functioning in the capacity of this purpose.

Relating to Shared Governance Principles. In addition to the foundational Senate policies, the subcommittee recommends including foundational shared government principles related to the faculty body and the “responsible dean.”

1. The person who is the “**responsible dean**,” for the purposes of EAP 599, HMN prefix, UK prefix, and any other Senate number courses homed outside of a college, shall provide an **annual report** to the Senate on the academic status and issues of those courses. (“ensuring accountability to all vested stakeholders”; Strategic Plan)
2. Each committee for EAP, HMN, UK 101/201, and similar courses outside of a college ought
 - a. Be a **majority** of faculty, with not more than 50% at or above the title of department chair
 - b. Include a **student representative**
 - c. Only the faculty members (GRVII.E.3-5) vote on the educational policy items

B. Findings Concerning Specific Courses, Academic Administration and Educational Units

The subcommittee initially identified several credit-bearing courses of organizational structure that were not in compliance with the current regulatory structure found in the University Senate Rules. To identify all Senate-numbered courses that are currently homed outside of a college, the subcommittee requested and received from the UK Registrar’s Office an inventory of all classes offered at UK over the last eight years. The inventory included the educational units for each course.

The subcommittee identified the following courses that did not have a Senate-concurred faculty body and did not identify a responsible Dean for educational policy and academic discipline.

Courses:

- EAP 599
- HMN prefix

- UK 101/201,etc. prefix

The subcommittee identified the following MDRC educational units at the Provost office, with structure/reporting/course homing issues.

MDRC:

- Gaines(undergraduate)
- Bioinformatics
- Center for Interprofessional Health Education

Non-existent Centers:

- MBA Center (B&E 650, MBA 645, MBA 646, MBA 647, MBA 648, MBA 650, MBA 660).

IV. Recommendations:

NOTE: The subcommittee *notes* the very recent creation by the Provost of the position “Senior Associate Provost for Administration and Academic Affairs.” The officer has a broad supervisory leadership role over the several educational unit centers (Gaines, Biomedical Informatics, and Interprofessional Health Education) that are in the Provost area. The subcommittee did not specifically address what might be the relationship of this office to the officer roles recommended below for specific situations but does advise that the Senate Council may further consider this question.

A. EAP 599

1. Faculty Body

Sue Roberts *described* that for EAP 599 educational policy purposes, she uses both an Education Abroad Committee (EAC) and an International Affairs Council (IAC), the former being a subset committee of the latter.

Sue Roberts *recommended* that the Senate approve the IAC to act as the ‘faculty body’ for the purposes of educational policy concerning the course (e.g., approving proposals to the Senate for changes to the course).

The *subcommittee recommends* that the Senate approve the IAC to act as the ‘faculty body’ for the purposes of educational policy concerning the course (e.g., approving proposals to the Senate for changes to the course).

The subcommittee *recommends* the Senate specify that

- the majority of the voting membership of the IAC be faculty, of which not more than half have administrative titles at or above the level of a department chair,
- the committee membership includes a student member,
- only the faculty membership of the committee vote on educational policy matters.

2. Dean - Educational Policy

Sue Roberts *described* that no person is currently designated by the Senate as the “dean” of this course for Senate educational purposes.

Sue Roberts *recommended* that the position of her office be designated by the Senate as the “dean” of this course for educational policy purposes.

The *subcommittee recommends* that the Senate approve the position of Associate Provost for Internationalization (or similar future Provost area officer) be designated by the Senate as the “dean” of this course for educational policy purposes.

3. Dean –Academic Disciplinary Cases

Sue Roberts *described* that no person is currently designated by the Senate as the “dean” of this course for academic disciplinary purposes.

Sue Roberts *recommended* that the dean of the college in which the student is enrolled be designated by the Senate as the “dean” of this course for academic disciplinary purposes.

The *subcommittee recommends* that the Senate approve the position of her office be designated by the Senate as the “dean” of this course for academic disciplinary purposes.

NOTE: The subcommittee *notes* that for pedagogical reasons, the University Senate rule prescribes that the responsible “dean” for academic offense in a course is the dean of the college that homes the course. For example, what ‘academic cheating’ looks like in the course of one college’s discipline may look different from what it looks like in another college’s disciplines. The subcommittee’s recommendation here is that (for reasons of the idiosyncrasy of EAP 599) the dean of the student’s enrollment be the responsible dean of academic offenses *is a singular exception* to the pedagogically-based Senate rule.

B. HMN Courses

1. Faculty Body

Melynda Price *described* that for the HMN educational policy purposes, she has articulated specifics of a faculty committee to act as the ‘faculty body’ responsible for the HMN courses. This faculty committee is the same faculty body that is responsible for the activities of the Gaines Center.

Melynda Price *recommended* that the Senate approve that the same faculty committee that acts as the ‘faculty body’ for the Gaines Center is the same faculty committee/body that makes educational policy decisions about the HMN courses (e.g., approving proposals to the Senate for changes to the course).

The *subcommittee recommends* that the Senate approve the same faculty committee that acts as the ‘faculty body’ for the Gaines Center is the same faculty committee/body that makes educational policy decisions about the HMN courses (e.g., approving proposals to the Senate for changes to the course).

The subcommittee *recommends* the Senate specify that

- the majority of the voting membership of the HMN faculty committee be faculty, of which not more than half have administrative titles at or above the level of a department chair, which is currently the case.
- the committee membership includes a student member,
- only the faculty membership of the committee votes on educational policy matters.

NOTE: The subcommittee *notes* that in the above academic structure, the HMN courses are 'aligned closely with,' but not formally 'homed within' the Gaines Center, pursuant to SR 3.3 that credit-bearing courses are not formally homed within multidisciplinary research centers. Rather, the HMN courses are 'homed at' the Provost's office.

NOTE: The subcommittee notes that in the above recommendation, the HMN courses will be individually homed at the Provost Office, closely aligned with the Gaines Center but not themselves contained in a 'unit' structure. The subcommittee further notes that an educational unit structure, "Interdisciplinary Instructional Program," is a kind of educational unit that can home credit-bearing courses (e.g., as Honors used to do for HON courses before Honors became its own college). The subcommittee in this report does not take a position for/against the concept that the HMN courses be gathered into a unit structure, such as IIP, homed at the Provost Office lateral to, and closely aligned with, the Gaines Center. However, the subcommittee draws this concept to the attention of the Senate Council for potential further consideration and discussion with affected stakeholders.

2. Dean – Educational Policy

Melynda Price *described* that for the HMN courses, there is not currently an officer approved by the Senate to act as "dean" for educational policy purposes (the former "Dean of Undergraduate Studies" position having been abolished by a previous Provost). Melynda Price *recommended* that the position of Director of the Gaines Center be designated by the Senate as the "dean" of the HMN courses for educational policy purposes.

The subcommittee *recommends* that the position of Director of the Gaines Center be designated by the Senate as the "dean" of the HMN courses for educational policy purposes.

3. Dean – Academic Disciplinary Cases

Melynda Price *described* that for the HMN courses, there is not currently an officer approved by the Senate to act as "dean" for academic disciplinary purposes (the former "Dean of Undergraduate Studies" position having been abolished by a previous Provost).

Melynda Price *recommended* that the position of Director of the Gaines Center be designated by the Senate as the "dean" of the HMN courses for academic disciplinary purposes.

The subcommittee *recommends* that the position of Director of the Gaines Center be designated by the Senate as the "dean" of the HMN courses for academic disciplinary purposes.

NOTE: The subcommittee *notes* that in the above recommendation, the Director being also the Dean is akin to colleges that have no departments, in which a single person has both the functions of 'chair' and of 'dean.'

C. UK Prefix Courses

1. Faculty Body

Kirsten Turner *described* that the original faculty committee for 'UK' prefix courses had not been functioning in recent times. She described the establishment of a new faculty committee that seemed to have few members that are faculty without administrative title and has no student member.

Kirsten Turner *described* that she supports the use of a faculty committee with the parameters identified by the subcommittee, as the 'faculty body' of the UK prefix courses, for Senate purposes.

The *subcommittee recommends* that the Senate approve the use of a faculty committee (with the following parameters identified by the subcommittee) as the 'faculty body' of the UK prefix courses for Senate purposes.

The subcommittee *recommends* the Senate specify that

- the majority of the voting membership of the faculty committee on UK prefix courses be faculty, of which not more than half have administrative titles at or above the level of a department chair, which is currently the case.
- the committee membership includes a student member,
- only the faculty membership of the committee votes on educational policy matters.

2. Dean - Educational Policy

Kirsten Turner *described* that there is currently no person approved by the Senate to serve as the 'dean' of the UK prefix courses for educational policy purposes.

Kirsten Turner *recommended* that the Senate approve an administrative officer as the "dean" of the UK prefix courses and that for this educational policy purpose, the officer reports to the Provost.

The subcommittee *recommends* that the Senate designate an administrative officer as the "dean" of the UK prefix courses and that for this educational policy purpose, the officer reports to the Provost.

3. Dean - Academic Disciplinary Cases

Kirsten Turner *described* that there is currently no person approved by the Senate to serve as the 'dean' of the UK prefix courses for academic disciplinary purposes.

Kirsten Turner *recommended* that the Senate approve an administrative officer as the "dean" of the UK prefix courses and that for this academic disciplinary purpose, the officer reports to the Provost.

The subcommittee *recommends* that the Senate designate an administrative officer as the “dean” of the UK prefix courses and that for this academic disciplinary purpose, the officer reports to the Provost.

D. Multidisciplinary Research Centers (MDRCs)

1. ‘MBA’ Center and BE/MBA courses. The subcommittee determined (from information provided by the Registrar) that some B&E/MBA courses are identified in SAP as being ‘homed’ in an ‘MBA Center.’ Further investigation by the subcommittee ascertained that the courses are actually homed at the college level, not homed in an “MBA Center.” The subcommittee *recommends* that the Senate Council request the Registrar to update SAP to show that the courses are homed at the level of the college.
2. Gaines Center. The Gaines Center is a multidisciplinary research center kind of educational unit, with an emphasis on undergraduate research. As such, the Gaines Center activities and faculty governing body can operate in alignment with HMN prefix courses, though the Gaines Center does not officially home these courses (these courses being homed ‘at the Provost Office’). The subcommittee *recommends* that the Senate Council advocate that the Provost identify an appropriate ‘academic organization’ within the Provost Office that can effectively support the coordinated activities of the Gaines Center and HMN courses.
3. Bioinformatics. The Bioinformatics Institute is a multidisciplinary research institute kind of educational unit, with an emphasis on graduate and professional research. The subcommittee *recommends* that the Senate Council advocate that the Provost identify an appropriate ‘academic organization’ within the Provost Office that can effectively support this educational unit’s graduate and professional research activities.
5. Center for Interprofessional Health Education (CIHE). The CIHE is a multidisciplinary research center kind of educational unit that has become primarily emphasizing ‘instruction on how to deliver health professional instruction.’ Because its activities are no longer those of a ‘primarily research center,’ there is a separate proposal submitted to the Senate to change the center to an “administrative center.”

Note: The subcommittee discussed its concern about the academic standing of persons being assigned as Instructor of Record for courses homed above the college level. It appears that many of these persons are staff, not faculty and that these staff do not possess an Adjunct faculty title. The subcommittee would like to bring this to the attention of the Senate Council as a potential area of concern that may warrant further inquiry.