

General Education Council Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2022
3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. via Zoom

Attendees: Cavitt (Chair), Hanks, Mohan-Dey, Supancic, Blunk, Showalter, Shah, Hamilton, Delaney, Houser, Domsch, Wang, Kelemen, Wilson, White, Stern, Tschirhart, Guzman, Green, Henrici, Burns (for Rodda), and Nielson (for Chrans)

Absent: Rodda, Chrans

Guests: V. Fleming, Ekin, Bolch

Cavitt welcomed attendees.

The minutes from November 29, 2021 were approved unanimously.

Invited guest: Dr. Tahir Ekin, Presidential Fellow and Associate Professor of Quantitative Methods, McCoy College of Business, presented a Student Success and Retention Analysis Report focused on first-time incoming freshmen using data sets from 2016-2020. Using a comprehensive multiple factor descriptive analysis, he studied the following predictors of student retention: academic readiness, university readiness (first generation), financial need, and gender/minority status. Major findings and potential recommendations were shared.

Invited guest: Dr. Kambra Bolch, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, University College, presented information regarding Initial Academic Feedback. In 2017, Dr. Bolch asked the registrar's office to activate the Initial Academic Feedback tool in Banner to help students who faced academic challenges in US1100 (University Seminar). This tool is also being used in developmental mathematics courses and courses in the College of Science and Engineering with higher DFW rates. Cavitt encouraged the General Education Council to consider endorsing the use of initial academic feedback for all general education courses at Texas State University. This would allow for systemic data collection and interventions with Success Coaches. Concern was raised that intervention needs to be explained to students as supportive rather than punitive. Bolch explained best practices related to academic interventions can be modeled to assist with guiding students towards support services.

Student Success in the General Education Core Curriculum discussion:

Cavitt asked the General Education Council to consider how we can best revise or enhance general education syllabi templates to improve student success. Drs. Alex White and Nancy Wilson agreed to provide a prototype for consideration at a future GEC meeting.

Cavitt called for new business. None was introduced.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.