

# **Winthrop University – Academic Council**

**Friday, August 29, 2025 @ 2:00pm  
Owens 103**

## **Agenda**

- I. **Approval of minutes** of the April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting
- II. **Remarks from the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs** (Sebastian van Delden)
- III. **Remarks from the President of the Student Government Association** – Victoria Williams
- IV. **Reports from Standing Committees**
- V. **Old Business**
  - a. Course repeat policy
- VI. **New Business**
  - a. CUC and GNED chair appointments
  - b. Gen Ed Assessment Committee (Tim and Noreen)
    - i. Proposal for Modification to the General Education Assessment Committee Membership – Appendix A
- VII. **Announcements**
- VIII. **Adjournment**

## Current Academic Council Members

Cody	Walters	Library	Elected (College FA)	2027	<b>CHAIR</b> (1-year term)
Mike	Sickels	CAS	Elected (FC)	2028	
Timea	Fernandez	CAS	Elected (College FA)	2028	
Kori	Bloomquist	CAS	Elected (FC)	2026	
Kelly	Costner	CESHS	Appointed (VPAA)	2028	
Jessie	Hamm	CAS	Elected (FC)	2027	
Dan	Drane	CESHS	Elected (College FA)	2028	
Justin	Isenhour	CVPA	Elected (College FA)	2027	
Kelly	Ozust	CVPA	Appointed (VPAA)	2027	
Anna	Romanova	CBA	Appointed (VPAA)	2026	
Kevin	Parker	CBA	Elected (College FA)	2028	
Ephraim	Sommers	CAS	Elected (College FA)	2027	
Joy	Stapleton	CESHS	Elected (College FA)	2026	
Paul	Wiegand	CBA	Elected (College FA)	2027	
Brent	Woodfill	CAS	Elected (College FA)	2026	
Kristen	Wonderlich	CVPA	Elected (College FA)	2026	
Gina	Jones	Rec and Reg	Appointed		Ex Officio
Victoria	Williams	Student	Appointed (SGA)	2026	President, SGA or Designee

# **Modification to the General Education Assessment Committee Membership**

**Proposal submitted by:**

**Dr. Noreen Gaubatz (Assistant Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and SACSCOC Liaison)**  
**Dr. KB Gwebu (Director of Assessment and General Education Assessment Committee Chair)**

**Proposal submitted to:**

**Academic Council**  
**August 29, 2025**

## **Introduction**

Considering the responsibilities of the General Education Assessment Committee, the current committee structure is not optimally positioned to sustain this work. Without adjustments, committee members (1) will experience an excessive workload and (2) will be required to facilitate faculty discussions outside their areas of expertise. Such circumstances create challenges for committee members and may limit the overall effectiveness of the General Education assessment process. To address these concerns, a restructuring of the General Education Assessment Committee membership is recommended. The proposed adjustments, outlined in the following sections, are intended to better align membership with expertise, distribute workload more equitably, and enhance the committee's overall capacity for productivity.

## **Committee Responsibilities**

Per the General Education Assessment Committee description:

- Assessment of General Education shall occur every year on a rotating basis. The results of these assessments will be shared with the faculty teaching within each of the general education component areas.
- Committee members will be assigned specific General Education Components and are responsible for working with the relevant faculty to ensure (1) data gathering efforts are complete and submitted prior to deadlines, (2) data are discussed by faculty within each of the specific general education components, and (3) action plans for improvements based on these data are formulated and submitted prior to deadlines.

To allow the General Education Assessment Committee to work effectively with faculty from each of the General Education components, the committee membership should be representative of these components. This is currently not the case.

## **Committee Membership**

Current General Education Assessment Committee Membership:

- Three members from the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences (appointed)
- One member from the faculty of the College of Business and Technology (appointed)
- One member from the faculty of the College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences (appointed)
- One member from the faculty of the College of Visual and Performing Arts (appointed)
- Four Core faculty – Director of Composition, Director of HMXP, CRTW Coordinator, Director of First-Year Experience
- Assistant Provost for Institutional Effectiveness (Division of Academic Affairs)
- Director of Assessment (Committee chair)

## General Education Assessment

In addition to the General Education Core (ACAD 101, CRTW 201, HMXP 102, WRIT 101), the distribution requirements include the following components:

- Constitution Requirement
- Global Perspectives
- Historical Perspectives
- Humanities and Arts
- Intensive Writing
- Natural Sciences
- Oral Communication
- Physical Activity
- Quantitative Skills
- Social Science
- Technology

### General Education Workload – Fall 2025

General Education Component	Number of Course Sections	Number of Faculty	Possible College Committee Member
Constitution Requirement	18	9	CAS
Global Perspectives	47	23	CAS or CESHs
Historical Perspectives	44	21	CAS
Humanities and Arts	279	68	CAS or CVPA
Intensive Writing	30	26	CAS
Natural Sciences	68	36	CAS
Oral Communication	51	40	CESHs
Physical Activity	60	23	CESHs
Quantitative Skills	37	15	CAS
Social Science	45	27	CAS
Technology	64	24	CAS or CBT
Core – ACAD 101	53	44	OSS
Core – CRTW 201	23	13	OSS
Core – HMXP 102	24	13	OSS
Core – WRIT 101	32	15	OSS
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>397</b>	

During the 2025-26 academic year and for each subsequent year, committee members will communicate via email with General Education faculty several times each semester (i.e., instructional email, reminder email, missed deadline email, response emails to general education faculty inquiries). The number of emails that each committee member is responsible for could be greatly reduced with a larger committee. Currently, six committee

members are addressing all eleven General Education components, excluding the General Education Core. Additionally, the impact of the committee member's email may be diminished if the faculty recipient does not recognize the committee member or does not acknowledge the email as coming from a peer (e.g., a committee member teaching Humanities & Arts General Education courses reaching out to a faculty member teaching in the Natural Sciences component).

During the 2026-27 academic year and for each subsequent year, committee members will meet with faculty teaching in each specific General Education component to share the data that have been submitted by faculty within the specific component, discuss the analysis, and facilitate a conversation resulting in an action plan to enhance student learning based on the data presented. A committee member with expertise in the content area (i.e., historical perspectives, quantitative skills, technology) would be ideally positioned to lead this discussion. Not only is their student data part of the aggregate dataset, but they also have expertise in the area and are regarded as peers by fellow faculty members teaching in the same General Education component.

### **Recommendation**

For the General Education Assessment Committee to fulfill its charge in an efficient and effective manner, it is recommended that the membership be expanded to include a representative from each of the General Education components, including the Core (i.e., from twelve to seventeen members). As assessment of student learning is germane to this work, every effort should be made to ensure that the faculty selected to serve on this committee have a working knowledge of assessment practices for student learning.