

**WMU Faculty Senate
Undergraduate Studies Council (USC)
Charges for 2015-2016**

Delores Walcott will serve as the Faculty Senate Executive Board representative on USC

In addition to its specific responsibilities listed in the Undergraduate Studies Council's role statement and the work of subcommittees if such exist, the Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the USC to consider, as a committee of the whole or through the appropriate subcommittee or task force, the following issues:

1. Look at ways in which to engage faculty in recruitment of undergraduate students, with intentional focus on under-represented groups. Gather information on best practices and ideas; provide opportunity for discussion, including a possible Faculty Senate presentation or forum.
2. Look at ways in which to engage faculty in retention of undergraduate students, with intentional focus on under-represented groups. Gather information on best practices and ideas; provide opportunity for discussion, including a possible Faculty Senate presentation or forum.
3. In conjunction with the senior campus leaders and the Senate Executive Board, work to develop division-level and unit-level plans to promote and advance morale and improve the campus climate. Initiate and promote campus-wide trainings at all levels for promoting a positive working and learning environment that discourages discrimination, harassment, bullying, incivility, and intimidation. Increase accountability of campus leaders for implementing and enforcing zero tolerance for discrimination, harassment, bullying, intimidation and incivility.
4. Identify and enhance existing multicultural programs and/or develop new programs that serve to advance the multicultural competencies encompassed within the prominent predictor variables from the WMU Campus Climate Study.
5. Review the current academic misconduct policy, academic integrity process, plagiarism definition, and the current Faculty Senate syllabus statement on plagiarism. As needed, propose revisions for council and full Senate approval (Collaborate with Graduate Studies Council for comparable language for graduate course syllabi).
6. Partner with the Ad Hoc Committee on General Education to promote discussions regarding the future of general education. Depending upon the proposed model, review and provide recommendations to the Ad Hoc Committee and the Senate Executive Board on the number of courses being designated as general education courses.
7. Review all University catalog (graduate and undergraduate) copy and relevant University policies related to the teaching of 5000-level courses. Revise and update the policies for Council and Faculty Senate approval with the goal of providing University-wide clarity.
8. In consultation with the Office of Service Learning, establish, for Council and Faculty Senate approval, both a policy and process for designating undergraduate service-learning courses. The process should also include a cyclical review to ensure courses meet this designation.

Suggested Reading:

- Vincent Tinto *Completing College*
- 2013 Campus Climate Study Executive Summary:
<http://www.wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u5/2013/WMU%202013%20Campus%20Climate%20Study%20Exec%20Summary.pdf>
- 2013 Campus Climate Study Full Report:
http://www.wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u249/2013/Final%20Campus%20Climate%20Study%20Full%20Report_0.pdf

NOTE: The USC will seek information from the office of the Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Education and related administrative offices to maintain communications with those offices on issues directly related to them. The USC is expected to keep the Senate Executive Board apprised of progress, especially in connection with any MOA it may develop, and to give advance notice of any action the USC seeks to place on the Senate agenda, including the final text of any proposed MOA, report or resolution. The Executive Board should also be notified of substantive procedural issues addressed by the USC.

The USC chairperson shall provide a written summary of the council's progress for the year; list the above charges noting each item's progress and current status; any other activities undertaken; and draft charges for the 2016-17 academic year, no later than June 30, 2016.