

Task Force on Liberal Arts Curriculum Structures

Charge Date: February 28, 2025

Background: The Comprehensive Academic Plan (CAP) for Ramapo College outlines a vision for the future, emphasizing the need for dynamic, innovative, and effective curricular structures to support the college's liberal arts mission. In alignment with this strategic direction, a Task Force is hereby established to provide expertise, insights, and recommendations to the Provost on establishing curricular structures that support the Ramapo liberal arts experience.

Charge: The Task Force on Liberal Arts Curriculum Structures is charged meeting during the contract year with the following responsibilities:

1. Review the Comprehensive Academic Plan. Thoroughly examine the Comprehensive Academic Plan, paying particular attention to goals and objectives related to curricula. Understand the overarching vision and key strategies set forth by the plan.
2. Assessment of Current Curricular Structures. Conduct an assessment of the existing structures within the college, including overall degree requirements, unit core requirements, other required courses, credit structures. Evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges associated with the current framework to achieving a liberal arts education for all students, particularly the integration of our four core pillars across the college curriculum.
3. Examine continuous improvement models. Identify and assess the ways in which our curricula are regularly evaluated for meeting our mission, foster student success in academic achievement and degree completion, impact on students, faculty and the community, sustainability, equitable use of resources.
4. Engage Stakeholders. Facilitate open and inclusive discussions with faculty, students, staff, and relevant stakeholders to gather diverse perspectives on the strengths and weaknesses of the current structures and to identify areas for improvement or potential new structures to support our mission.

5. Research and benchmark against current and best practices in curricular structures within peer institutions and leading institutions. Identify successful models that align with the goals outlined in CAP.
6. Develop a set of clear and actionable recommendations or recommended options to the Provost for enhancing a Liberal Arts curricular structures and enacting practices for continuous improvement. Consider factors such as the size and scope of the General Education program, credits required to complete majors across the college, school core, opportunities for students to explore, through elective options, minors or double majors in disciplines not related to a primary major.
7. Implementation Strategies. Provide strategies and practical steps for the phased implementation of recommended changes. Consider potential challenges and proposed solutions to ensure a smooth transition.
8. Establish metrics and mechanisms for ongoing assessment to measure the effectiveness of the implemented changes.
9. Input and Community. Develop a plan for stakeholder input into drafts of recommendations and a plan to disseminate the task force's findings. This step should ensure transparency and solicit feedback for continuous improvement.

Timeline and Reporting: The Task Force is expected to complete a draft of its findings by June 30, with a final report detailing findings by October 1. The committee should plan to meet every other week throughout the faculty contract period, with regular progress reports and consultation with the Provost, to move the work forward. Funding for Summer work is available should the Task Force or a subcommittee of the Task Force need additional time to complete the report.

Co-Chairs:

Jeremy Teigen, Professor of Political Science (HGS)

Vanessa Arriola, Assistant Provost for Budget and Management

Members:

Rikki Abzug, Professor of Management (ASB)

Bonnie Blake, Professor of Graphic Design and Interactive Media (CA)

Naseem Choudhury, Professor of Psychology (AFT Representative)

Jeff Ellsworth, Associate Professor of Law and Society (FAEC Representative)

Anne Marie Flatkeval, Associate Professor of Nursing (TAS/Nursing)

John Gronbeck Tedesco, Professor of American Studies (HGS)

Sharon Leathers, Assistant Professor of Education (SSHS)

LaQuan Norman, Director of the Cahill Center (Out of Core Rep)

Emma Rainforth, Professor of Geology (TAS)

Victoria Sciancalepore, Digital Humanities Librarian (Library)

Jessica Steinheimer, Assistant Director of Student Success (Out of Core Rep)