

TAAC Report to Faculty Senate
1-23-2025
Mid-year Report

TAAC - Teaching, Advising, and Assessment Committee

- [Link for general information](#)
- Doug Reed - Philosophy – 3rd year on committee
- Penny Steen - Kinesiology – 3rd year on committee
- Mikong Kim - Communicative Disorders – 2nd year on committee
- Leon Thiem - Civil and Environmental Engineering – 2nd year on committee
- Justin Wyatt – Communication Studies - 1st year on committee
- Ingrid Lofgren - Nutrition – 3rd year on committee and past chair
- Rebecca Romanow – Film/Media - 1st year on committee and chair
- Ted Walls - FSEC liaison

Priorities for TAAC

Advising

- Penny Steen (KIN) and Doug Reed (PHIL) are TAAC members who are attending the meetings of the Reimagining Advising Committee chaired by Dean Libutti
 - Dean Libutti visited with the committee in November with updates from the RAC
 - Since last January the Re-Imagining Advising Committee, in consultation with the deans of each college, has begun sketching a new advising model which would be a hybrid model that gives the colleges more control over how advising is done in their units
 - This model is not fully decentralized, however, because there would still be standards across campus and other shared advising resources
 - No timeline for when the model would go into effect--the committee is exploring the feasibility of implementation
 - URI's goals:
 - more advisors to improve advising ratios and the potential for a mixed advising model, where colleges could decide their own advising approach raise retention rates
 - model would involve the rebranding of University College into an exploration center, with advisors moving to the colleges
 - need for advisors with mental health and social work skills
 - importance of maintaining a 12-month advising system

- investing in technology to enhance advising, such as AI tools for better student support.
- Committee has reviewed national reports and best practices, gathering information from different Colleges across URI about advising

Honors Program

- Ingrid Lofgren [NUT] and Leon Thiem – Engineering
- Proposal for implementation of Honors “Institute” and Honors Contracts has consumed much of the committee’s time this Fall
- In November, TAAC voted down both the Honors Contract Proposal and the Honor Program becoming an institute. The Honors Institute proposal has been sent back to the Honors Program, but with more direction provided by other Faculty Senators during the open discussion at the 12/12 meeting. The proposal may well come back to TAAC with more needed details and protocol.
- Proposal from the Honors Program to create “Honors Contracts” as an alternative to having specified Honors Courses: at the 12/12 Faculty Senate meeting, the Faculty Senate voted to allow Honors to have trial contracts for the Spring 2025 semester [Resolution to extend this through Fall 2025 will be presented at the 1/23/25 Faculty Senate meeting]. This may assist Honors in providing a new/modified proposal for the Honors Contracts.

Teaching

- Mikyong Kim (CMD) and Jusitn Wyatt (COM)
- Committee to discuss examining how ATL supports faculty teaching through their various offerings and ATL’s future plans
- Committee may also take up consideration of IDEA scores, metric, and rankings

Assessment

- Rebecca Romanow (FLM) [to possibly be moved to JAPROA]

Admissions

- Last year LOOC [Learning Outcome Oversight Committee] and APRC [Academic Program Review] were consolidated into JAPROA, and the addition of accreditation related work and assessment moved to the charge of that committee.
- Faculty Senate does not have a group focused on Admissions data, standards, and goals. RI law affords the Faculty Senate shared governance authority with the president over admission, as in all the other academic functions. Currently, Faculty Senate has no committee overseeing admission data, standards, and goals, and this best fits as a charge for TAAC.

TAAC shall study and make recommendations to the Faculty Senate on the following matters:

- good teaching, advising, and assessment at the University by conducting and reporting to the Faculty Senate an annual audit of programs, activities, policies, etc.,
- assess university-wide advising and make policy recommendations to the Faculty Senate on all advising matters pertaining to the University College for Academic Success,
- in collaboration with the Director of the Honors Program, shall oversee the Honors Program and bring distinguished scholars to the campus for general lectures and/or other public programs
- In a

By-laws 4.30-4.34

4.30 The Teaching, Advising, and Assessment Committee shall comprise five or more faculty members, and consider and make recommendations to the Faculty Senate on the items specifically assigned to it (see By-laws 4.31-4.34). The Committee shall study and make recommendations to the Faculty Senate (or return the matters unapproved, with comments, to the units from which they originated) on the following matters referred to it by the various colleges, schools, the Faculty Senate or its Executive Committee, the Administration, or from another authoritative source, or taken up by the Committee on its own initiative: [#21-22-37](#)

4.31 The Committee shall promote good teaching, advising, and assessment at the University by conducting and reporting to the Faculty Senate an annual audit of programs, activities, policies, etc., which are available at the University to support good teaching and assessment and undertake each year, in cooperation with other interested parties, an initiative designed to improve teaching and assessment practices at the University. [#17-18-12](#)

4.32 Further, the Committee shall assess university-wide advising and make policy recommendations to the Faculty Senate on all advising matters pertaining to the University College for Academic Success. [#17-18-12](#)

4.33 Moreover, the Committee, in collaboration with the Director of the Honors Program, shall oversee the Honors Program (see [University Manual Chapter 8, Academic Programs, Sections 8.60.10 – 8.65.13](#)) and bring distinguished scholars to the campus for general lectures and/or other public programs. [#17-18-12](#), [#18-19-32](#)

4.34 The Committee shall meet at least once a month and shall prepare and present, in January of each year, a report to the Faculty Senate including a review of current initiatives, policies, and practices as well as recommendations for future improvements. [#17-18-12](#)