

## 2021 ASCCC CI New/er Curriculum Chairs

Sharing pearls of wisdom: "What do you wish someone told you about this position prior to starting?" **THANKS FOR HELPING US CREATE THIS LIST!**

1. That there is no reason to feel uncomfortable or hesitant to "wield the power" of the position in the service of improving curriculum at your college.
2. It is to be expected to feel as if you have so much more to learn, even after you've been chair for years. **It is far more important to learn who and where to go to for answers than to expect yourself to know all the answers.**
3. What committees are you on, why, and what are the expectations of attendance/work?
4. It's more political than I thought. There will be pressure from various directions. Do your best; it's the best you can do :)
5. **Faculty can be more challenging to teach than students.** Provide clear guides.
6. Make clear of the role of non-voting members (Disability Resource, Library, etc)
7. The number of guidelines one has to follow for curriculum development; learned a lot during my first year as chair.
8. Ask lots of questions. Don't assume you know as much as you think you do. Talk to faculty in various departments and fields especially when they are proposing new curricula, to make sure you understand their concerns and intentions.
9. Your curriculum specialists are invaluable resources - they know just about everything
10. The PCAH can be a really helpful resource
11. Don't forget about actual teaching and learning.
12. Every college does things differently!! One of the best things about the institute is learning how other colleges solve problems, set up processes, their committee composition, etc...
13. **YOU ARE NOT ALONE.** Reach out to past chairs, VP's at your college. Reach out to the listservs, email ASCCC directly with questions at [info@asccc.org](mailto:info@asccc.org).
14. You don't have to memorize Title 5, but you might find yourself doing that after a while...
15. Control over your tech, your management system, is crucial.
16. Change does not happen overnight.
17. I would recommend a mandatory training with expectations prior to joining the committee. I didn't (and still don't) know exactly what my role is as a committee member.
18. There may be power conflicts between the Senate and Administration related to curriculum.
19. Protect your curriculum specialist. When changes are necessary, make sure the changes are coming from you and not your specialist. It's better to have the faculty upset at you instead of your curriculum specialist.
20. Remember that your committee can work with Senate to institute local curriculum policies and practices - document any idiosyncrasies in how your committee operates.
21. Recruit students to your committee, if possible. It's very helpful to have their perspective when considering programs/courses. (You beat me to it!)