

University Core Curriculum Council Minutes

October 29, 2021

Present: Charlotte Simmons, Donna Cobb, Gary Steward, Reid Weber, Jennifer Flygare, Gang Xu, Beth Allan, Jennifer Foster, Sam Ladwig, Scott Williams, Sarah Combs, Rosa Bird, Manoshi Samaraweera, Nora Gayzur, Leslie Similly, Stan Adamiak, Stephanie Driver, Linh Pham, John Wood, Sam Kramer, Heather Peck, Shonna Covin, Tawni Holmes, Liz Lane-Harvard

Absent: Liliana Renteria Mendoza, Adrienne Wright

Meeting began at 3:05 pm

Dr. Simmons started the meeting addressing the charge of the Core. The committee is charged with evaluating courses for inclusion in Core based on the Core course descriptions.

Drs. Cobb and Steward discussed the history of the Core. (Handouts provided.)

Q&A:

Q - When drafting proposals that seemed to be appropriate for the Core, they'd get screened out by a Dean. Are there additional limits that we need to consider? Is there a maximum number of courses allowable in the Core?

A – The Core should not take these things into account. We are only to consider the course and its suitability. Deans and Academic Affairs have to look into resources and how to allocate those.

Q – Where does this committee sit with coherency to the Core?

A – The committee is to determine whether a course fits into the core description and could it benefit all students. In 2002, we were dinged for not having a coherent Core. We then began to evaluate courses on their merit within Core areas. How well does course align with the core area, and how can it be assessed?

Q - Does the size of the Core matter?

A – The size of the Core doesn't necessarily matter. We are to look at the merit of the course. In Life Skills, for example, more is better. We can reach more students with more options, which is why we've seen Life Skills grow.

Q - If we identify a class, should we first go to our Dean?

A – There is a process for a course to be vetted and considered by the Core. Department chair → dean → All departments within College → Dean's council

Q – How is the Dean's-first structure (now) consistent with the faculty ownership of the Core?

A – The reality is we have to consider resources, and it has to be on the front end. This is on AA's radar, and it needs to be looked at.

HLC visit is upcoming. Review and assessment of the Core will be a priority and evaluated thoroughly. HCL noted in 2017 that we were making progress.

Meeting adjourned 3:55 pm