

**Minutes of Core Curriculum Committee
February 1, 2013
WHTC 125**

Members present: Drs. Ray Bachnak, Frances Bernat, Pablo Camacho, Stephen Duffy, Chris Ferguson, Rohitha Goonatilake, Conchita Hickey, Michael Kidd, Kevin Lindberg, Juan Lira, Jose Carlos Lozano, Paul Madlock, **Veronica Martinez**, William Manger, Mark Menaldo, Paul Niemeyer, Bernice Sanchez, Carol Waters; Ms. Carmen Bruni, Mary Treviño.

Members absent: Drs. Manuel Broncano, Dan Mott, Philip Roberson, **Deborah Scaggs, Richard Wright**, and Ms. Bede Leyendecker

1. Approval of minutes for December 3, 2012

Dr. Frances Bernat moved and Dr. Paul Niemeyer seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

2. Request for Course Approval

HIST 1301 The U. S. to 1877 and HIST 1302 The U. S. Since 1877

Dr. Stephen Duffy explained the principles used to incorporate the relevant core curriculum objectives into HIST 1301 and HIST 1302. He then mentioned the objectives and described how questions could be molded to meet the requirements for the different objectives. Dr. Duffy also provided some examples of the various types of tasks that could be used to assess the relevant core curriculum objectives. After explaining the contents of the Request for Proposal, he highlighted the rubrics that could be used to assess students' work and described how these instruments could be used to measure students' performance.

Dr. Carol Waters moved and Ms. Mary Treviño seconded a motion to approve the course syllabi and Request Form for HIST 1301 and HIST 1302. The motion passed unanimously.

Political Science 2305 American National Government and 2306 American State Government

Dr. Mark Menaldo explained how the relevant core curriculum objectives (i.e., critical thinking, communication, personal responsibility, and social responsibility) were incorporated into each course syllabi and Request for Core Curriculum Course form in a fungible manner. He also mentioned that these objectives would be assessed in each section of PSCI 2305 and PSCI 2306.

Dr. Menaldo stated that he had found a 24-item survey that could be administered through survey monkey at the beginning and end of each course to assess students' perceptions of social responsibility.

He recommended that personal responsibility be viewed through the lens of ethics and explained that it could be assessed by asking students to construct a 250-word essay based on a prompt provided to them dealing with appropriate issues (e.g., immigration, education, unemployment). The essays would be reviewed by the Political Science faculty.

Dr. Paul Niemeyer moved and Ms. Carmen Bruni seconded a motion to approve the syllabi and request forms for PSCI 2305 and PSCI 2306. In response to a subsequent question from Dr. Pablo Camacho, Dr. Juan Lira explained that the core curriculum development process has evolved into two parallel tracks - - one that involves the review of core curriculum course syllabi and corresponding Request for Core Curriculum Course forms; the other calls for the establishment of a sub-committee corresponding to each core curriculum objective to develop an appropriate instrument to assess each core curriculum objective across its corresponding foundational component areas. Dr. Conchita Hickey reminded everyone that

there is no one way to develop these means of assessment. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

MATH 1314 College Algebra, MATH 1316 Trigonometry, MATH 1324 Business Math I, MATH 2412 PreCalculus, and MATH 2413 Calculus I

Dr. Rohitha Goonatilake described how the student learning outcomes for each course and the corresponding core curriculum objectives had been incorporated into the appropriate course syllabi and Request for Core Curriculum Course forms. Dr. Goonatilake explained how the number and content of the student learning outcomes had been carefully designed in order to maintain the uniqueness of each course, while still appropriately addressing the required core curriculum objectives (i.e., critical thinking, communication, and empirical and quantitative skills). He also reported that the last student learning outcome for each course is the same, since it calls for students to demonstrate their written communication competency by preparing a final paper. Dr. Goonatilake also explained the grading criteria that would be used in each course.

Dr. Juan Lira explained how the course syllabi for these courses may serve as examples of how common course syllabi can be devised and used across different sections of the same course.

Dr. Frances Bernat moved and Dr. Bernice Sanchez seconded a motion to approve the proposed mathematics course syllabi and corresponding Requests for Core Curriculum Course forms. The motion passed unanimously.

Establishment of Core Curriculum Subcommittees

Dr. Juan Lira explained why it was important to establish the subcommittees, mentioned their respective chairs, and thanked these individuals for their leadership, service, and commitment. The subcommittee chairs are:

- Dr. Kevin Lindberg: Critical Thinking
- Dr. Deborah Scaggs: Communication
- Dr. Rohitha Goonatilake: Empirical and Quantitative Skills
- Dr. Paul Madlock: Team
- Dr. Pablo Camacho: Personal Responsibility
- Dr. Mark Menaldo: Social Responsibility

Dr. Conchita Hickey explained that the committees should have representatives from each of their corresponding foundation component areas. She also reported that she and Dr. Lira had met with the subcommittee chairs to explain their roles and responsibilities, as well as provide them with resources to facilitate their efforts.

Dr. Lira stated that each subcommittee needs to be prepared to share its proposed university-wide assessment tool at the April 5, 2013 meeting of the Core Curriculum Committee. Two mid-process checks will be established to allow subcommittee chairs to meet with Drs. Lira and Hickey to discuss their progress and address issues that can facilitate their work. The Core Curriculum Committee will be kept informed of the subcommittees' efforts.

In response to a question, Dr. Hickey stated that the subcommittees could use any of the sample rubrics that have been developed by other institutions, if after careful consideration, they were deemed to accurately assess the intended outcomes.

Change to Time and Place for March 1, 2013 Core Curriculum Committee Meeting

Dr. Lira announced that the March 1, 2013 meeting will be from 9:30 to approximately 11:30 a.m., since the College of Arts and Sciences is having its retreat in the afternoon and evening on this day.

Ms. Mary Treviño reported that the University Curriculum Committee will also be meeting at this time; however, this development was not expected to interrupt the proceedings of the Core Curriculum Committee, since the courses in Creative Arts component of the Core Curriculum are scheduled to be reviewed at this time.

Core Curriculum Table Update:

Dr. Lira explained the following:

- The additional Semester Credit Hour (SCH) for MATH 2412 PreCalculus and MATH 2413 Calculus I will need to be counted as part of the degree requirements, since the 2014 core curriculum allows for only 3 SCH for mathematics.
- To satisfy the Life and Physical Sciences requirement, students whose degrees do not call for 8 SCH of Science will complete a 3 SCH science lecture and 1 SCH accompanying lab course, plus an additional 3 SCH science lecture course. The 1 SCH lab credit will be counted as part of the Component Area Option.

Students whose degree programs call for 8 SCH of Life and Physical Science will enroll in two 3 SCH Science Lecture and two 1 SCH accompanying lab courses. 6 SCH of lecture will count in the Life and Physical Science Core Curriculum component, 1 SCH of lab will be incorporated into the Component Area Option, and the additional 1 SCH lab credit will be included as part of the degree requirements.

- The Creative Arts component of the core curriculum has been modified to include DANC 1349 Ballet Folklorico I and DANC 1351 Dance Performance I. DANC 1350 Ballet Folklorico II and DANC 1352 Dance Performance II have been removed from the core curriculum, but may be incorporated into students' degree plans, as appropriate.
- The Component Area Option includes three SCH from COMM 1315 Public Speaking/COMM 23XX Technical Communication/ENGL 23XX Technical Communication; UNIV 1101 Learning in a Global Context I, UNIV 1102 Learning in a Global Context II; and 1 SCH of a science lab.

Drs. Bernice Sanchez, Deborah Scaggs, Gilberto Martinez, Jose Carlos Lozano, and other faculty are working on developing COMM 23XX and ENGL 23XX. The course syllabi and Request for Core Curriculum Course forms for these courses are scheduled to be presented to Drs. Hickey and Lira for review on March 18, 2013 and to the Core Curriculum Committee for consideration at the March 22, 2013 meeting.

- Dr. Pablo Camacho requested that individuals interested in working on the Personal Responsibility Core Curriculum Objective Subcommittee contact him as soon as possible. Dr. Lira encouraged those present to help the subcommittee chairs in whatever ways they can and stated that he would emailing the deans, associate deans, and department chairs to request that they and their faculty assist the sub-committees as well.

With no further business to conduct, Dr. Niemeyer moved and Dr. Camacho seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.