

Core Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2013
Killam Library Conference Room 330

Members Present: Frances Bernat, Carmen Bruni, Pablo Camacho, Patricia Cantu, Rohitha Goonatilake, Conchita Hickey, Michael Kidd, Kevin Lindberg, Juan Carlos Lozano, Bill Manger, Mark Menaldo, Paul Niemeyer, Deborah Scaggs

Members Absent: Manuel Broncano, Paul Madlock, Bernice Sanchez, Richard Wright

Guest: LeeBrian Gaskins, Veronica Martinez, Mary Trevino

Approval of minutes

Kevin Lindberg requested that the minutes for March 29, 2013 be read and approved. It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes with a few corrections to the attendee list. Motion passed

Scheduling of Additional Science Labs outside of Component Area Option

Kevin Lindberg opened the discussion by clarifying that the extra 1 SCH science lab needed to become part of the elective hours in the 2014-2015 degree plans. .

Frances Bernat noted that the degree plan part of this would be difficult, as almost all courses are 3 SCH, and adding a 1-SCH lab would practically require students to exceed the 120 SCH limit. Kevin Lindberg stated that exceeding the 120 degree limit was not an option and that degree plans would have to include the science lab in lieu of elective or required hours and that a 3 SCH course in the degree plan could be reduced to a 2 SCH course if necessary.

Proposed Assessment Plan Draft

Kevin Lindberg requested that the membership respond to the draft assessment plan document sent prior to the meeting to discuss how best to implement it starting 2014-2015. He underscored the need to close the loop once the collective assessment data was made available by developing an action plan for continuous improvement.

A robust discussion followed covering the following topics: number of artifacts needed from each course, rotation schedule proposed by department chairs, collection and archiving of artifacts, limited evaluator expertise in the arts, science, and mathematics courses that could use rubrics accurately, and other topics.

Some suggestions included collecting 200 artifacts for communication and critical thinking and 100 artifacts for the other competencies. Kevin Lindberg explained that three options for assessment using the rubrics included the individual professor of the class, a department committee or a university committee depending on the type of artifact and competency being measured. Mark Menaldo suggested that we consider using graduate students to help with the creation of databases to handle the logistics of assessment.

Pablo Camacho proposed that we consider sampling students who are “core complete” and have them produce an artifact to evaluate the effectiveness of our core offerings. Veronica Martinez indicated that perhaps core completers could take a test at the end of their core to measure all competencies. Advantages and disadvantages were discussed.

Some discussion about the role of technology and OIT support services to assist with the assessment process occurred. Brian Gaskin indicated that his office could provide limited support but could not be expected to be present for all recordings of oral presentations, performances, etc. Discussion followed about the conversion to Blackboard in about two years, the archiving of documents in the cloud, lecture capture and other topics. Veronica Martinez reminded the group that we had to have a ten year window of accessible archives for SACS purposes. Kevin Lindberg asked Brian Gaskins to have OIT represented in the Core Curriculum Committee. Brian Gaskins indicated that he would serve.

Kevin Lindberg indicated that the Associate Provost Advisory Committee would revisit the process and present a revised version of the assessment process to the committee before the next meeting.

With no further business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.