

**Minutes of Core Curriculum Committee  
WHTC 125  
November 19, 2012**

Members Present: R. Bachnak, M. Broncano, C. Bruni, P. Camacho, C. Ferguson, R. Goonatilake, C. Hickey, M. Kidd, B. Leyendecker, K. Lindberg, J. Lira, J. Lozano, W. Manger, V. Martinez, M. Menaldo, T. Mitchell, P. Niemeyer, J. Reed, P. Roberson, D. Scaggs, M. Treviño, R. Wright

Members Absent: F. Bernat, P. Madlock, D. Mott, B. Sanchez, C. Waters

**Minutes:** Dr. Lira asked that the minutes be read and asked for a motion to approve. C. Hickey moved and C. Bruni seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

**Summary of Provost and Deans' Meeting:**

Dr. Lira informed the committee of some of the core options, in particular courses in the Component Area Option (CAO), that had been discussed and endorsed at the Deans' Council Meeting with Dr. Arenaz on November 14, 2012.

The results of the deliberations are the following:

1. Since Wellness has been removed as a CAO option, the extra hour in the CAO will be assigned to one science lab. The other science lab hour will need to be worked into the degree programs.
2. Foreign language requirement – Dr. Lira reviewed two changes that need to be made regarding the foreign language degree requirement. First, the foreign language courses or Semester Credit Hour (SCH) credits need to be included in the core, not outside it, because the Coordinating Board does not allow hidden requirements.

Second, the 6 SCHs of Foreign Language need to be reduced to 3 SCHs to fit in the CAO and to also keep our degrees at 120 SCHs, as required by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. This means that students who have not met the foreign language requirement through their high school courses will need to take only two years of a foreign language during high school instead of three as is presently required.

3. UNIV 1101 and 1102 remain 1 SCH each.
4. COMM 1315 will remain as a CAO course, but COMM 1311 has been removed as an option and ENGL 2311 will be redesigned into two Technical Communication course options: COMM 23XX and ENGL 23XX. Reading, which would be the foundation for both, will complement the written communication, oral communication, and visual communication components in both courses. However, COMM 23XX will have a stronger oral communication emphasis, while ENGL 23XX will stress reading and writing. Reading assignments will be tailored to fit students' majors. Courses will not be cross listed.
5. MATH1371 and the proposed BUS 13XX and ED13XX courses will not be part of the CAO since they are too degree specific.

6. HUM 2301 The Western Cultural Tradition course has been moved to the Language, Philosophy, and Culture foundational component.

Dr. Lira asked for discussion on any of these proposals. Dr. Lisa Flores asked whether the foreign language courses would then need to be submitted for approval. Dr. Lira explained that would be the case.

### **Course Requests for Inclusion in the Core**

**UNIV 1101** Foundational Components: Communication, Critical Thinking and Social Responsibility.

**UNIV 1102** Foundational Components: Communication, Critical Thinking, and Teamwork.

Dr. Hickey presented the syllabi for each course, reviewed the course request documents that included the 50% communication requirement, the assessment plan, and the assignments. UNIV 1101 will meet the three components through the Common Read portion, since students will be required to write an essay regarding the book and a social responsibility topic. Other assignments will also provide evidence of student work in these three areas. UNIV 1102 will mainly meet the three components through the library project assignment that requires students to work in teams, present their work orally at a conference, and develop critical thinking through evaluation of sources. Library worksheets that documented the critical thinking component for UNIV 1102 were highlighted. Dr. Scaggs moved that UNIV 1101 and 1102 be approved for the CAO. Dr. Roberson seconded. Motion passed.

**COMM 1315:** Critical Thinking, Communication, Team Work, and Social Responsibility. J. Reed presented the request for inclusion in the core. She reviewed the syllabus, highlighting the course requirements that embedded the assessments. These included an analysis of historical speeches, written assignments, delivery of speeches, visual aids for communication, social responsibility via service learning opportunities in certain sections, and group presentations.

C. Bruni moved and B. Leyendecker moved to accept the request. Discussion followed regarding the teaching of it online. Motion passed.

### **ENGL 1301 and 1302:**

Foundational Components: Personal Responsibility, Teamwork, Communication, Critical Thinking

**ENGL 1301** - Dr. Scaggs stated that faculty members have now incorporated oral and visual communication components into the courses. She reviewed the syllabus, highlighting how the student learning outcomes have been modified. Ethics (as a component of personal responsibility) is now underscored and very transparent. Students will work in teams and incorporate visual communication through their written presentations (font, white space, bold, etc.)

Dr. Scaggs then reviewed the writing requirements and grade values. She explained that the oral presentations and debates would require teamwork and oral communication.

M. Treviño recommended that all future course requests include the crosswalk piece that Dr. Scaggs used, since that format indicates how the competencies in the foundational core curriculum objectives are addressed by the student learning outcomes. This was quite helpful for the review process and insured that courses were clearly aligned with the core requirements.

Dr. Niemeyer moved that ENGL 1301 be accepted and M. Treviño seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## **ENGL 1302**

Dr. Scaggs then reviewed the student learning outcomes, assignments and assessment plan for the course. Assignments included Rhetorical Analysis and in depth discussion of Plagiarism. The Writer's Workshop that is embedded in the class requires drafts and teamwork, since students work collaboratively with each other.

For the assessment component: The research project can be assessed by students and faculty. Communication and critical thinking can be assessed through the use of the rubric.

C. Bruni moved to accept the course as part the core curriculum and M. Kidd seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## **Next Meeting:**

Dr. Lira reminded the committee that the next meeting is scheduled for December 3. Mathematics, Political Science and History course requests are up for review at this meeting.

Dr. Lira stated that some committee members would be going to the SACS conference on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> and there would be presentations about institutional reviews. After this date, we will have more information and be in a better position to make a decision about how we want our institutional plan to work. We will have two processes going on at the same time: course requests and institutional assessment plans. He then reviewed the rest of the schedule so that faculty/committee members can be ready with their course requests. Faculty can send documents to Dr. Lira or Dr. Hickey for early review, if they wish.

Adjournment: B. Leyendecker moved and Dr. Mitchell seconded a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.