

University Core Curriculum Committee Minutes
April 19, 2013
WHTC 125

Members Present: Ray Bachnak, Frances Bernat, Carmen Bruni, Stephen Duffy, Rohitha Goonatilake, William Granger, Conchita Hickey, Michael Kidd, Kevin Lindberg, Juan Lira, William Manger, Paul Niemeyer, Deborah Scaggs, Mary Treviño, Carol Waters.

Members Absent: Manuel Broncano, Pablo Camacho, Chris Ferguson, Bede Leyendecker, Jose Carlos Lozano, Paul Madlock, Veronica Martinez, Mark Menaldo, Tom Mitchell, Dan Mott, Philip Roberson, Bernice Sanchez, Richard Wright.

- Approval of minutes for April 12, 2013 meeting
Deborah Scaggs moved and Paul Niemeyer seconded a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion passed.
- Consideration of re-incorporating ASTR 1310 Principles of Astronomy and ASTR 1110 Principles of Astronomy Lab into the 2014 Core Curriculum for TAMIU

Ray Bachnak reported that the core curriculum committee of the Department of Engineering, Mathematics, and Physics met and reviewed the proposal to incorporate ASTR 1311 Planetary Astronomy, ASTR 1111 Planetary Astronomy Lab, ASTR 1312 Stellar Astronomy, and ASTR 1112 Stellar Astronomy Lab into the core curriculum. The review revealed that the current numbers and content of these courses are inconsistent with information found in the state Academic Course Guide Manual and the Texas Common Course Numbering system. Consequently, they would like to keep ASTRO 1310 and ASTR 1111 in the core curriculum and carefully consider the modifications needed to ensure that ASTR 1311, ASTR 1111, ASTR 1312, and ASTR 1112 conform to the state guidelines.

Kevin Lindberg moved and Michael Kidd seconded a motion that we re-incorporate ASTR 1310 and ASTR 1110 into the 2014 core curriculum for TAMIU. Motion passed unanimously.

- Review of revised Core Curriculum Report to TAMUS

Kevin Lindberg reported that the Science department faculty has expressed some concerns regarding the designation of unique lecture and laboratory science courses for the 2014 core curriculum, e.g., going from 4-SCH course numbers (BIOL 1470) to a 3 SCH lecture (BIOL 1370) and 1 SCH lab (BIO 1170). Because they have a concern in grading students' work in the two courses, Science faculty would prefer to keep the lecture-lab course designation intact. During subsequent discussion, committee members were reminded that the core curriculum restriction to 6 SCH in the sciences is a result of the mandate from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Juan Lira indicated that due to the lateness of the request, the numbering system should stay as is and that proposed changes can be discussed during next year's University Core Curriculum Committee's deliberations.

Speaking on behalf of the science faculty, Kevin Lindberg recommended that:

- BIOL 1308 Survey of Life Science /BIOL 1108 Survey of Life Science Lab be changed back to their former numbers BIOL 1370/BIO 1170, respectively.

- BIOL 1470 Human Biology be changed to BIOL 1371 Human Biology and BIOL 1171 Human Biology Lab.

Mary Treviño moved and Kevin Lindberg seconded a motion to endorse this proposal. Motion passed.

Prior to the adjournment of the meeting, Conchita Hickey and Juan Lira thanked the University Core Curriculum Committee for their strong commitment, hard work, and careful deliberations. Their combined efforts and those of their colleagues facilitated the completion of the proposed 2014 core curriculum report for Texas A&M International University.

With no further business to conduct, Paul Niemeyer moved and Deborah Scaggs seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.