CORE Curriculum Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2007

Present: Dr. Huerta, Jan Haswell, Edward Kownslar, Diane Denny, Patrick Crowley, David Billeaux, Marilyn Spencer, Kristina Ortiz, Andy Piker, Nancy Goodman

Opening: Dr. Huerta welcomed everyone to the meeting and they began to review the May meeting minutes.

1. Approval of Minutes

The committee had the minutes from the May 2007 meeting which were reviewed. Dr. Spencer found a correction on the first bullet to change “rational” to “rationale” by adding an e. Then she found one on the third bullet to add an apostrophe to “today”. Then on the fifth bullet Dr. Piker’s comments seemed to be unclear. Dr. Huerta said that he will edit the minutes again into action minutes and they can deal with them in the next meeting.

Dr. Crowley asked for clarification as to what meeting they were looking at so Dr. Huerta recapped that meeting. There was a motion made by Edward Kownslar to approve the minutes and Dr. Crowley seconded that motion. It had two votes in favor but Dr. Spencer suggested that they table the minutes so the committee agreed while they’re being edited into action minutes.

2. Core Change Proposals from Spanish and Economics

Dr. Huerta introduced the proposals for changes to the Core and said that both programs who want to make changes are not adding classes to the core to reduce the number of hours in degree plans. The proposals are from Spanish who want to replace a course in the Core that they can’t offer because of staffing issues with four courses that near English Lit requirements. Economics is proposing to add Microeconomics as an addition to the Core, which would not benefit Business majors by reducing hours. Dr. Huerta introduced Dr. Ortiz to discuss the Spanish proposal and to answer any questions.

Dr. Spencer moved to accept the proposal and it was seconded. Dr. Crowley asked for a rationale so Dr. Ortiz explained that the Spanish department cannot afford to teach the one course that is required for the Core. She explained the course they are proposing and their benefits.

Dr. Crowley asked about the sequence of these classes and Dr. Ortiz explained how the period of time is too long to cover in one semester so they split it up. Dr. Spencer asked if one class is a pre-requisite for
another and Dr. Ortiz said they were not. The proposal passed unanimously.

Dr. Haswell motioned to accept the Economics proposal and Edward Kownslar seconded the motion.

Dr. Haswell asked how they would advise people and how it would benefit non business people. Dr. Crowley said that it would give them a choice and show them the difference in emphasis of the classes. Dr. Spencer answers the advising question by saying that some students will choose because of the difference in emphasis and other students will choose simply because of the times when the classes are offered.

Dr. Piker asked if the choice between Micro and Macroeconomics was offered in other Core curriculums. Dr. Crowley said that Economics is not offered in other Cores, but if it is then there is usually a choice.

Dr. Spencer said that people in the Arts and Medicine may be more interested in Microeconomics. Dr. Haswell also noted that it may cater to some other majors more than others.

Dr. Billeaux asked about the content of the classes.

Dr. Huerta said that most universities do offer both Micro and Macroeconomics and that it would help with transfer issues.

Adding Microeconomics to the Core passed unanimously.

3. Core Curriculum Committee Membership Update

The Faculty Senate voted in favor of having two members per college on the Core Committee and they would all vote except the administrators. The problem now is who will come off from the Science and Technology because they have too many and who would be added for the College of Nursing.

Dr. Haswell asked how typical it is that the chair cannot vote and if it matters. Dr. Spencer said that the chair usually only votes if there is a tie. Dr. Crowley and Dr. Billeaux agreed.

4. New Business

Dr. Huerta mentioned that there is a Retention Task Force meeting and that they have a report due to the President on November 26th. He said that the highest retention for freshman coming back in the fall of their sophomore year was about 70% and the lowest was about 50%. The numbers for 2006 were a little over 61% and the most common reason they wouldn’t come back is because of 1st semester GPA.
Dr. Spencer asked about a project entitled CORE, how retention looks, and how they can improve it. Someone suggested that they could coordinate programs to keep students more involved. Dr. Spencer suggested identifying students that have low reading and math scores.

Jason Dubose’s program ASAP was mentioned. They had 100 students in the fall and are working to broaden the program so that they could track students and help them stay in.

Dr. Haswell said that they also need to look at non academic things like student issues and financial aid supporters.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was then made by Dr. Spencer and it was seconded by Diane Denny.

Meeting adjourned: 2:36

Minutes submitted by: Heather Titzman

Approved by: