UCCP/CORE

Committee Meeting

Minutes
April 11, 2007

Present: Dr. Huerta, Dr. Billeaux, Pat Carroll, Rebecca Stephens, Dave Grise, Diane Denney, Joanna Mott, Jose Giraldo, Andy Piker, Richard Gigliotti, Randy Bonnette, Edward Kownslar, Jan Haswell, Pat Hill, Adolfo Benavides, Patrick Crowley

Opening:

Dr. Huerta welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented the minutes from the March meeting for approval. They were approved. He also informed the committee that he would allow this meeting time for the guests to state any questions and/or concerns that they may have.

A. Discussion of CORE 45 Hour Chart

Dr. Huerta reviewed the 45 hour Core Curriculum chart. He went over the component areas and explained the following requirements:

- Requirements are Speech, Ethics, etc.
- First Year Seminar has been in place since 1994 and that it is the foundation of the Core.
- These requirements cannot be waived since they are university required.

B. Open Discussion from UCCP Committee

Dean Gigliotti - Issues emerged and were brought up in Liberal Arts because of the accrediting body and teachers certification of 24 hours. There are some people that don’t want to go down to 120 hours, with good reason, but we are going to be watched by the State, which is comparing us with other universities. Our challenge at TAMU-CC is that we have a CORE that is set up by faculty that and that we have a few extra credits. This will come up against State law and a competing accrediting body. I advocated to Provost to turn committee over to faculty so that we can come up with process of resolving this issue.

P. Carroll- We don’t have to assume that we have 120 hours. There are 130 hours and the numbers are slippery. Core affects every program in University, its composition makes it distinct and we don’t have to cut them.

J. Mott- Catalog does not look consistent. Need clarification on whether the 2 hours is counted from seminar. We will go down from 123 to 121 hours, and are these hours a requirement?
Dean Gigliotti- Yes, hours are required, based on Legislation.

Dean Hamilton- Problem exists because of programs in A&M system-we are going to be at 133 hours- above the 120 hours. And we are down to about 61 hours in Major, because the accrediting board mandates these general education courses. There are fields of study that cannot be included in CORE- these courses are specific to the field of study courses.

R. Bonnette- Clarify award winning CORE- what is this?

Dr. Huerta- FYLC will have LC courses and FY Seminar (not part of CORE requirement). We are 1 out of 13 that have the STAR award.

COB- National competition was not only on Ethics-they represented a broad spectrum of Major.

P. Carroll- What we do is discipline specifics. In the Ethics Bowl we look at ratings-it shows we’ve done well. This was 3-4 years in the making and a lot of work went into it. This distinguishes us from other universities. We have done well on student retention.

R. Bonnette- Equal representation should be on committee. Why does LA have more representation?

Dean Gigliotti- This committee is just to gather facts-Provost will show leadership if there should be any changes.

Dr. Huerta- Dr. Murphy and I are not representing Liberal Arts.

R. Bonnette- Could you do an either/or –because I was told that that would break the rules.

Dr. Huerta- There are some either/or – such as one of one in Economics. But, they have to be in the same component.

R. Bonnette- Is there consideration for Schools in Society to be counted in CORE? Also, equal representation- it’s more crucial at undergraduate level. Any decision made has potential to impact someone else. This should be referred to other bodies. Education is probably the hardest hit by the 120 hours.

Dean Gigliotti- When laid out, the issues that surfaced were the hidden courses/pre-requisites. Pedagogy could be taught (these are points raised) such as the 24 professional development.

Education- 24 hours is introduction to pass test. Its field experience in classroom-we need more and earlier exposure to students. We have 6 sites in community where students practice “teaching” where special needs are addressed. We also applied to the State to change our hours from 18 to 24 for our field base and it was approved. Different degree programs have different requirements.
Dr. Huerta- Can you clarify? Is it 18 hours minimum?

Education- Yes. Minimum is 18, but we have 24 hours.

A. Piker- Ethics- did we win Bowl because of Ethics? It’s a very big class, the training for Ethics Bowl consists of Ethics class and it’s a big factor in our winning. There are inter-disciplines that come into play at Ethics Bowl. It has a unifying function. Also, is there a timeline for the 120 hour project?

Dr. Huerta- I will meet with Dr. Kirby to discuss this. Deadline must be met by Fall 08.

Dr. Billeaux- The end point is determined, not the process

P. Carroll- In terms of specifics- is program subject to outside accrediting

Dr. Billeaux- There are no steps- programs have a good reason. We need to address and make a case, hopefully we can start today with this meeting. We have to make an institutional decision, either 120 or 130 hours. We are not unique in this.

Dr. Kirby- I think what will be critical is where we are in comparison to where others are. CORE is rational and well thought out. I don’t think that everyone will have 120 hours across the board.

Dr. Rennier- Using the language of “Susan K.” there are different requirements that total over 130. Is UCCP added - is everyone required to take same courses. We’d like to have conversation with Susan-we are professional program and we have both requirements- by law and accreditation.

Dean Abdelsamad- I know that the CORE is unique. We should leave it alone if we afford it, unless there is Pedagogy involved. Let’s try to convince- we should have Ethics requirements that every student should take (just look at newspaper). How can you sell this, I would argue more in trying to sell this program and I commend the program.

P. Carroll- When faculty are looking into degree plans- can there be “double-dipping”? My concern philosophically is 1 place is cutting down to 120 hours.

Dr. Huerta- Professional development is beneficial from Education.

Dean Abdelsamad - We should all take advantage of this informal meeting.

C. Meeting Adjourned

At 5:15 pm

Minutes submitted by: Sara Chapa

Approved by: Dr. Carlos Huerta