CORE Curriculum Committee Minutes  
UC Dolphin Room 306, 9-10 am  
April 25, 2008

ATTENDING: Susan Murphy, Patricia Hill, Diane Denny, Joanna Mott, Janis Haswell, Gale Stuart, Andy Piker, Richard Gigliotti, David Billeaux, Edward Kownslar, Carlos Huerta.

Approval of 3/27/08 minutes:  
Minutes were unanimously approved.

Core curriculum Assessment Update  
a. Summary of meetings w/ UCCP Resource Group and curriculum maps  
Gale Stuart distributed a handout of the Map of Core Curriculum Component Outcomes to Aggregate Outcomes to update the committee on how the Resource group members have aligned the exemplarily education objectives with the learning outcomes. She explained that they do not have anything filled in for “listening” but she has met with Kelly Quintanilla of the Communications department and is waiting on her response. The group also did not assign an exemplary objective for “health and wellness,” but the Psychology and Sociology departments said that they could incorporate the Wellness Wheel into their instruction.

J. Huerta added that they gave the Resource members a homework assignment to review and modify the objectives in their component areas because the last time it was updated was in 2004 and there are new courses in the Core.

b. Overview of Core Curriculum Assessment Plan  
J. Huerta drew attention to the “Core Curriculum Assessment Plan” section at the bottom of the Agenda. He said that they already outlined the plan.

c. Discussion of role of Standardized Core Curriculum test  
G. Stuart reiterated that VSA (Voluntary System of Accountability) requires a standardized assessment of the Core program.

The following is some of what was discussed:

- Some people took an abbreviated version of the math test. It did not measure writing, at least not in the way that it is taught here, but it did address the mechanics of writing.
- The test was consistent, which is a positive aspect, but it seemed more like an intelligence test so should be used initially, before students enter the program. However, the VSA design says to test both freshmen and seniors.
- G. Stuart said that there is a section on the VSA website where they can upload information to personalize assessment and get desired outcomes. There is a lot of room available for their own learning outcomes, but that will distract from the purpose of comparing with other schools.
- Assessment is critical because it could create problems if we begin to get bad scores and instructors are forced to begin teaching to the test. D. Billeaux said that if they are being forced to use a standardized test, then it should measure the things they want.
• Transfer students must be part of the sample, but we will subgroup them. We will have to separate transfer and native students, maybe also by colleges because writing skills are valued differently.
• There must be a control for SAT scores, which may be a problem for us because we accept the ACT and many students take that test.
• The ACT is more appealing to students who are stronger in math, but there are no majors that absolutely need the ACT. SAT II is also available because it tests different subject matter.
• The purpose of VSA is to compare our University with other institutions. They need to find a way to motivate students to take the test, especially seniors.
• Awards do not really work, but they could make it a graduation requirement. They would need to build a structure and create a capstone course.
• Part of the plan is to use the professional ethics class as a capstone course.
• They do not have any control over the content taken at other Universities during the summer, so it is important to have common objectives and refrain from deviating from those.

The committee needs to continue discussing ways to motivate seniors to take the test and they need to talk to the different colleges and programs. They should talk to people from the Biology and Business departments because they have already implemented programs with capstone classes and exit exams.

The committee should also follow up with Patrick Crowley to acquire information from the major field test that they administer to Business students as they exit the program. What was the outcome of that?

Questions/Comments
• What is the problem with requiring only the SAT for all students? It would be a change of entrance requirements for the University.
• What is the downside for requiring only the SAT? The ACT tests a variety of different things such as science.
• Some students do not test well, what about them? There can be some alternative assessments on the website that can better embellish and describe what they are learning.
• Why are we assessing the Core in their senior year? The 14 learning outcomes are not unique to just the 45 core hours and SACS requires assessment of graduating seniors. In addition, many students do not complete the Core as freshmen.
• Why not run assessments through each class? Science students stagger the Core classes throughout their whole undergraduate degrees since it is not possible for them to complete it in two years because of the additional labs they take.

Update on Adding ARTS 1303 to the core
The only degree plan that has been affected by the 120 hour rule is the Bachelor of Fine Arts with Teacher Certification degree, so the Art department wants to put Art History I as an additional option in the Core.
Most other state schools have Art History in their Core so adding it would help with transfer students. The 120 hour group voted unanimously in favor, and if the College of Liberal Arts votes yes then the vote will come to this committee.

Anyone will be able to take this new course, but people in the Bachelor of Fine Arts program will definitely want to so that their program is only 129 hours. The program will not get accreditation if the proposal is not accepted.

Questions/Comments
- J. Haswell was concerned about the paragraph in the proposal regarding the Honors program because she was not contacted about the program’s involvement.
- Does Advanced Placement Art History count to fulfill this requirement?
- Can we vote by email on accepting the proposal? Yes, we have done it before with a math course.

Announcements
- There will probably be a short meeting on May 1st, unless the committee decides to vote by email.