

Core Curriculum Committee

Minutes of February 27, 2015 Meeting

Present: Briana Capuchino (Associated Students – Honor Council), Tom Dalton (Business), Jennifer Gorsky (Math & Comp. Sci.), Koonyong Kim (English), Kathleen Kramer (Engineering), Adam Siepielski (Biology), David Sullivan (Comm. Studies).

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m.

Approval of minutes: The minutes from January 30, 2015 were approved. (7-0-0)

Discussions:

1. Core Curriculum Proposal for D Courses: POLS 309 (formerly POLS 316) (Shelby)

- Dean Norton has been approved to teach this course as a D course. Shelby is requesting blanket approval because the entire course is “D” in approach and addresses such diversity-related issues as sex, power, and politics.
- In the CCC meeting in November 2014 it was pointed out that covering issues of gender or feminism was not sufficient in fulfilling requirements for D courses. Based on that discussion, the Committee didn’t approve a D course request (PSYCH 330D) at that time. Thus it is important for the Committee to be consistent in reviewing Shelby’s “D” proposal.
- However, the Committee also noted that there is no perfect consensus on the specifics of what gives a course a D designation. Therefore, the Committee concurred that this issue should be discussed further, and that the CCC’s final decision on Shelby’s proposal should be deferred until more committee members participate in a substantive discussion next month.

2. Core Curriculum Proposal for Literature: HNRS 314/315 (Gist & Robinson)

- This is a new course and thus there is no Bulletin description yet.
- It was pointed out by some committee members that it was not clear whether this was proposed as a course for Literature or Fine Arts.
- The syllabus doesn’t have a detailed course/reading schedule.
- The Committee voted (with a vote of 7-0-0) to approve the course for Literature Core, provided the following revisions are made:
- The Committee also thought that should this course seek approval for something other than Literature Core, the proposal needs to be reviewed and discussed again by the CCC.

3. Core Curriculum Proposal for Theology and Religious Studies: HNRS 316/317 (Kirkley & Cartwright)

- This course is currently offered in Spring 2015.
- While the course syllabus focuses on religion and theology, it doesn’t have enough information on Fine Arts components of the course. The latter components need to be spelled out.

- Some of the learning outcomes are not concrete enough. For example, “Achiev[ing] greater comfort articulating the importance of ‘things’ in historical and contemporary terms” cannot be measured and needs to be reformulated in a way that aligns with the Core learning outcomes.
- Initially, the Committee voted (with a vote of 6-0-0: Briana Capuchino had to leave during discussion) to approve the course for THRS. The Committee also agreed (with a vote of 6-0-0) that the proposal must make clear how the course outcomes meet requirements for Fine Arts Core.
- However, given that the department chair’s signature is missing, the Committee finally decided to postpone its decision until the chair’s approval can be verified.
- The Committee also wants to know how this course can already be taught even before it is discussed or approved by the CCC.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Koonyong Kim