Minutes of Core Review Committee  
February 8, 2007

The Core Review Committee met February 8, 2007 in Kirby 108. In attendance: Brian Whitman, chair; Andrew Miller, Gina Morrison, Amy Patton, Marianne Rexer, Philip Simon, Ernie Trujillo, Ellen Flint, Diane Wenger, and Mary Kropiewnicki, chair of the Assessment Committee.

Minutes: The minutes of Nov. 28, 2006 were approved.

Gina Morrison presented her report, “Multicultural & Global Awareness in the Core Curriculum,” and moved to discuss action item #1: “That the CRC adopt the above recommendations of the Task Force on Multicultural & Global Awareness Across the Curriculum on the need to align the Wilkes University Core Curriculum with NAME [National Association for Multicultural Education] goals by embedding the Four Components of a Multicultural Curriculum into the Core.” Second by Phil Simon.

The four components identified by the task force are:

1. **Awareness of self**—focus on self-reflection and the understanding of one’s own history or other group influences that have shaped individual perspectives and biases.

2. **Awareness of others**—focus on particular cultural, ethnic, or social groups, including the knowledge and skills that enable productive cross-cultural relationships to occur among people of different societies or groups

3. **Awareness of issues**—focus on issues of power, privilege, and discrimination (PPD) and other issues that divide groups within the same societies or groups

4. **Empowerment to social action**—focus on the development of global citizenship by assisting students in planning and taking measures to improve the society-at-large

Marianne Rexer offered a friendly amendment to change the motion to read: “In support of the NAME goals the CRC recommends embedding into the core these four components of a multicultural curriculum....”

Andrew Miller pointed out that some of these components involve shifting core values; this is hard to assess. P. Simon urged the committee to keep the goals broad; as stated there are getting too close to objectives for class teaching. We do not want to infringe on academic freedom or dictate what faculty should teach. He suggested limiting the components to the italicized parts and proposed amending the components as follows:

*In support of the NAME goals, the CRC recommends embedding into the core these four components of a multicultural education:*

1. (motion to amend by P. Simon, second by M. Rexer): **Awareness of the importance of self-reflection and self-understanding.** Motion carried; one nay vote. (G. Morrison argued that this version makes the component too general).
2. (motion to amend by P. Simon, second by A. Miller): **Awareness of other cultural, ethnic, and social groups.** Motion carried; one nay vote.

3. (motion to amend by P. Simon, second by A. Miller): **Awareness of issues of power, privilege, and discrimination.** Motion carried; one nay note.

4. (motion to amend by P. Simon, second by A. Miller): **Empowerment to global citizenship through responsible social action.** Motion carried; one nay vote.

Discussion on amended motion: G. Morrison argued that in this form the components do not address the issues; it would be better to create one core course. P. Simon noted that the motion keeps the powerful words; E. Flint pointed out that if the components are broadly stated and that they can be assessed implicitly.

The motion carried as amended. The task will now be to get the components into core courses.

The next CRC meeting is scheduled for Feb. 27, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Wenger