Minutes of Core Review Committee  
February 27, 2007

The Core Review Committee met February 27, 2007 in Kirby 108. In attendance: Brian Whitman, CRC Chair; Philip Simon, Andrew Miller, Ernie Trujillo, Gina Morrison, and Diane Wenger. The meeting was called to order at 11:17 a.m.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Old Business:

1. Multicultural & Global Awareness. The group discussed action item #2 of the Multicultural & Global Awareness in the Core Curriculum document (previously distributed to the committee):

   That the CRC approve the alignment of Wilkes University General Education requirements with Middle States Core Competencies by requiring all Core courses linked to Critical Analysis & Reasoning and Information Literacy, the two competencies necessary for multicultural and global awareness, to include objectives and assessments that address the Four Components of a Multicultural Curriculum.

   Rather than taking action on this item, the group spent time discussing how best to present it to the faculty who will potentially be involved.

   It was agreed to not link capstone courses to these two competencies. There was also some discussion about FYF 101 courses; as it stands some instructors are addressing these competencies and some are not; some topics taught in FYF seem a more natural fit than others. Andy Miller asked if we will meet resistance from the FYF staff and students. Some students already resent FYF 101 and some advisors seem to disdain these courses.

   Diane Wenger asked if we will fold these competencies into the revised core (and will there be some questioning of the linkage of these two competencies with the selected courses?). Gina Morrison noted that multicultural education is a natural fit with these competencies, and making these competencies part of the core will strengthen our position with the faculty and with the Middle States review. We can argue that we are moving forward with diversity in the core because it is aligned with the Middle States competencies.

   Brian Whitman urged the committee to take a soft approach; there are issues of academic freedom to be considered. Instead of saying that courses must do this, we might bring in the folks involved in teaching the courses, determine what these instructors are already doing, and ask for buy in on the four components.

   G. Morrison expressed concern that some students might wiggle through without taking the multicultural courses; should we have a designation (like WI/WMS)? (There was little support for this suggestion.)
Phil Simon noted the importance of our task; this is an important aspect of our liberal arts mission, and it is one of the strengths of our school that all students take liberal arts courses.

The Committee agreed to bring in the faculty (or chair person) who teach courses linked to the two competencies to ask for their input and support. Before this meeting, G. Morrison, B. Whitman, and D. Wenger will prepare a clean version of the Multicultural & Global Awareness document.

2. WAC Proposals

Sociology has submitted a revised proposal; the committee members had not had time to review it yet and this was tabled until the next meeting, when the EES and Psychology proposals will also be discussed.

March 13th was tentatively set for the next meeting; the invited panel will be asked to attend a meeting on March 27.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Wenger