Minutes of Core Review Committee
March 13, 2007

The Core Review Committee met March 13, 2007 in Kirby 108. In attendance were Brian Whitman, Philip Simon, Ernie Trujillo, Gina Morrison, and Amy Patton along with invited guests Agnes Cardoni, Bob Tuttle, Mike Case, and Deborah Tindell. The meeting was called to order at 11:08 a.m.

Minutes: The minutes of Feb. 27, 2007 were approved.

Old Business: Dr. Tuttle was present to discuss the revised Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) proposal for the Sociology Program.

It was moved by P. Simon and seconded by E. Trujilo to accept the revised Sociology Program’s WAC proposal. The motion was approved.

New Business:

Dr. Mike Case was present to discuss the Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) proposal for the Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences Department.

It was moved by E. Trujilo and seconded by P. Simon to accept the Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences Department’s WAC proposal.

Discussion: P. Simon asked if it were acceptable or a need for writing outside the department. M. Case explained that the students in the programs can take writing courses outside the department. There is a history of students who “double major” in the science programs who take writing courses outside the department. Students in the B.S. in Earth and Space Sciences Program are taking outside courses for their Education requirements. The Environmental Engineering students have a very rigid program without space for many electives outside the department, but can take writing courses if they choose to do so.

The motion was approved.

Dr. Deborah Tindell was present to discuss the Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) proposal for the Psychology Department.

It was moved by E. Trujilo and seconded by P. Simon to accept the Psychology Department’s WAC proposal.

Discussion: P. Simon asked when do students learn to write. D. Tindell explained that the students write in Psy 300 (junior year) and 400 (senior capstone) in the required APA style. In early courses the students are learning basic writing skills but much of the required writing style used professionally is taught in the upper level courses.
The committee generally agreed that the assessment procedure is unclear in the proposal. D. Tindell explained that the assessment of student writing is currently taking place in many courses as all levels; however it is specific to the instructor. Many courses use a rubric to assess writing. Both PSY 300 and PSY 400 are used as a “gateway” courses to assess the students writing before the student can move forward (PSY 300) in their education or graduate (PSY 400).

The motion was approved pending revisions that clarify the assessment procedures.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Whitman