Minutes of Core Review Committee  
September 14, 2006

The Core Review Committee met Sept. 14, 2006, in Kirby 108. In attendance: Brian Whitman, CRC Chair; Philip Simon, Andrew Miller, Marianne Rexer, Matt Brown, Susan Hritzak, Ernie Trujillo, Gina Morrison, Ellen Flint, Diane Wenger, Amy Patton, Agnes Cardoni (WAC Director), and Barbara Samuel Loftus (chair, Assessment Committee).

Minutes: The minutes of the May meeting were approved as presented.

Chairperson: The committee unanimously re-elected Brian Whitman as chair.

WAC: No departmental proposals for Writing Across the Curriculum changes have been received to date. Dr. Cardoni reiterated the basic principles of WAC (writing to learn; writing in the disciplines), and she encouraged everyone to attend lunch/make individual appointments with WAC guru Greg Colomb when he is on campus on Sept. 28 and 29. There may be more action on drafting proposals after the Colomb visit, but Dr. Cardoni noted that she has already met with a number of groups (FYF, nursing, educational faculty) and individuals on WAC.

Faculty Leaders Program: Dr. Cardoni announced that seven faculty members have volunteered for the year-long program which is intended to build conferencing skills; there is still room for one more person. Matt Brown (student representative) suggested that students should be asked for input on which faculty members most need training in conferencing skills. Dr. Cardoni offered to meet one-on-one as time permits with students and professors who need help in this area.

FYF: Susan Hritzak noted there have been several challenges to the FYF policy as it is written; it states that persons who have 23 college credits do not need to take FYF, and a few individuals whose credits include AP courses have petitioned (unsuccessfully) to be excused from FYF. It was moved and seconded to reword the policy to read “23 credits earned in college classroom” since this was the original intention of the program. Discussion: Matt Brown urged that all incoming students (regardless of standing) be required to take a FYF course because it is an important way to get to know other students and make friends. Dr. Flint disagreed, because having “upper class” students in the classes would be detrimental to a true first year experience. She offered to discuss other programs that help students transferring in with more than 23 credits make the transition to Wilkes. The motion to change the wording of the FYF policy passed, with one “no” vote.

Assessment of the Core: Dr. Loftus reported that the Core Assessment Committee…

- feels strongly about having an institutional portfolio with classroom embedded instruments;

- will soon present a proposal for a mechanism to select courses where student work will be put through assessment rubrics; this will be a non-intrusive process;
has looked at standardized tests; they have no formal proposal on this issue, and if the administration wants a snapshot analysis a standardized test would do this, but it should not be a primary assessment instrument (we do not want to teach to the test;

will encourage Dr. Cardoni and Dr. Flint to talk about their needs for WAC and FYF and assist them in assessing these programs.

Dr. Loftus further noted that the annual reviews come to the Provost at the end of September and the reviews have assessment embedded in them; history, communications, philosophy, and the arts have been particularly attentive to assessing their programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Wenger