Minutes of Core Review Committee  
November 8, 2007

The Core Review Committee met November 8, 2007 in Kirby 108. Members present: Brian Whitman, Andrew Miller, Gina Morrison, Ernie Trujillo, KarenBeth Bohan, Diane Wenger, Susan Hritzak (ex-officio), Ellen Flint (ex-officio) and Carl Santana (student representative). Also present: Mary Kropiewnicki and Larry Kuhar.

The meeting was called to order at 11:07 a.m.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

Old Business: Brian Whitman reported that Ellen Flint and the FYF Committee will have the description change for FYF101 ready well in advance of the deadline set at the last meeting. The CRC’s role is to review and comment on the description and then forward it to the Curriculum Committee.

New Business: Transfer policy change. On behalf of the history faculty, Humanities chairperson Larry Kuhar and Diane Wenger presented a change in the policy for giving transfer credits and AP history credits. (Under the new policy, 6 hours of American history would no longer substitute for HST 101. Included in the proposal are other modest housekeeping changes: students would receive credit in HST 101 for a 3 or higher score in AP World rather than European history; and a score of 3 or higher in US AP history would come in as only 3 credits—either as HST 125 or 126—rather than 6.)

Dr. Kuhar explained that the issue is maintaining faculty ownership of the curriculum; the present policy has been in place since 2000 and is part of a “liberal transfer policy” meant to make it easier for incoming students to transfer in credits. Dr. Wenger noted that the faculty feels the change in the American history credits policy is necessary to meet the university mission of educating students for a “constantly evolving and multicultural world,” which is an objective of HST 101 (Foundations of the Modern World). The change would affect very few students, since, according to Amy Patton, only 5 or 6 transfer students each year substitute 6 hours of American history for HST 101.

Dr. Whitman noted that the exact process whereby this policy was put into place is not clear; however the CRC can make the decision on the change. The issue does not require full faculty approval, but would be taken to the faculty as a point of information. (Dean Darin Fields and V.P. Michael Frantz were invited to attend the CRC meeting to discuss this change, but they were unable to be present.

Drs. Bohan and Flint both spoke in favor of the proposal since the new policy is better aligned with the university mission. Andrew Miller also expressed support, but noted he had reservations about voting since all interested parties could not attend. Susan Hritzak commented that it is a departmental decision and she did not see any problems.
The motion to change the transfer policy was approved with one abstention; the new policy will be forwarded to the FAC.

Assessment of General Ed: The Provost recently requested that Dr. Whitman, Dr. Flint, and Dr. Kropiewnicki come up with a plan to assess the current core. Dr. Kropiewnicki explained that the idea would be to send out a survey with a simple template, asking departments if they are meeting the listed outcomes, and, if so, to present artifacts as evidence; she emphasized that, according to Middle States, grades are not evidence.

In response to the Provost’s request, Drs. Whitman, Flint and Kropiewnicki have prepared a draft document on outcomes. Dr. Whitman requested that each CRC member review his/her distribution area in this document (as well as the learning outcomes in one other area—to be assigned) and forward their suggestions for any changes to him before the next meeting.

The next meeting, November 27, will be a joint meeting with the Assessment Committee and the Provost; lunch will be provided.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Wenger