

Core Curriculum Committee Steering Committee
Minutes
April 8, 2011

The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. in ADM 206. The following committee members attended: Gary Elbow, Chairperson, Kent Pearce, John Howe, Robert Henry, Hansel Burley, John Zak, Anthony Qualin, Tess Barlow, Jennifer Hughes and Valerie Paton.

Minutes of the January 14, 2010 meeting were approved as distributed.

Elbow reported that the SACSCOC Fifth Year Interim Follow-Up Report, Part IV is complete and will be sent off on Tuesday, April 12. The report is available at the following URL:

<http://www.iwebfolio.com/portfolios/customReviewerView?y=1302233588523> . Elbow thanked all the Core Curriculum Core Area Committee chairs for their contribution to this effort, which resulted in a 69-page report with 56 supporting documents, many of which were provided by the CCC Core Area Committees or were based on documentation they provided through TracDat or directly.

Valerie Paton addressed the Committee on several issues related to the state-mandated core curriculum. An unofficial committee comprised of representatives from Texas Tech University, University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University, University of Houston, University of North Texas, Midland College and Amarillo College representatives held a conference call to discuss making Texas a LEAP state (AAC&U LEAP general education program). A meeting will be held in Austin in late September to work on a proposal.

Paton reported that a number of bills have been submitted to the legislature that would affect the state-mandated core curriculum. One such bill would reduce the core to 36 hours. Several would place a firm cap on undergraduate degree programs at 120 hours (with only engineering and architecture programs exempted). This has implications for the Texas Tech University 47-hour core curriculum because we have 5 hours of Institutionally Designated Courses. This makes it difficult for students in some majors to complete a degree program under the 120-hour limit.

Paton, Elbow, and David Roach attended an AAC&U meeting on general education in Chicago on March 3-5. The meeting was organized around the Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) structure developed and promoted by AAC&U. This approach to general education focuses on skill-building rather than factual information and is the framework for changes proposed by the THECB Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee (UEAC) for the Texas state-mandated core curriculum. The meeting was very informative and comprised a part of the rationale for the conference call referenced above.

A motion was offered to prepare a commendation for Dr. Paton in recognition of her efforts to remove Texas Tech University from SACSCOC probation, to institute Core Curriculum assessment procedures, and to lead the SACSCOC Fifth-Year Interim Report process. Elbow agreed to draft a commendation and circulate it among the Steering Committee membership.

The following course addition recommendations were submitted by Core Area Committees: ANSC 2310, The Horse in World Art (approved for VPA, denied for Multicultural); ARAB 3305, Arabic History and Culture, approved for Humanities and Multicultural; ARCH 2315, History of 18th, 19th and 20th Century Architecture, approved for VPA; HIST 3351, History of Spain, approved for Humanities; MATH 1451, 1452 and 2450, all approved for Mathematics and Logic. All were approved to be forwarded to the Academic Council

Changes to SLOs for mathematics, humanities and social and behavioral sciences were approved as follows:

Humanities:

Existing College-Level Outcome: Students graduating from Texas Tech should be able to think critically and demonstrate an understanding of the possibility of multiple interpretations, cultural contexts, and values.

Proposed College-Level Outcome revision: Students graduating from Texas Tech should be able to think critically and **to evaluate possible** multiple interpretations, cultural contexts, and values.

Mathematics:

Existing Student Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Apply arithmetic, algebra, geometry and statistics to solve problems.
- 2) Represent and evaluate basic mathematical information numerically, graphically, and symbolically.
- 3) Use mathematical and logical reasoning to evaluate the validity of an argument.
- 4) Interpret mathematical models such as formulas, graphs, tables and schematics, and draw inference from them.

Proposed new SLOs

- 1) Apply **arithmetic, algebraic, geometric, statistical and/or logical reasoning** to solve problems.
- 2) Represent and evaluate basic mathematical **and/or logical** information numerically, graphically, and symbolically.
- 3) Use mathematical and logical reasoning to evaluate the validity of an argument.
- 4) Interpret mathematical **and/or logical** models such as formulas, graphs, tables and schematics, and draw inference from them..

Social and Behavioral Sciences (Individual or Group Behavior)

Change SL#O2 with the addition of two new words (in bold) as follows: Demonstrate knowledge of the appropriate **and ethical** methods, technologies, and data that social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.

Delete SLO #3, Identify and appreciate differences and commonalities among cultures. The committee feels this SLO duplicates the SLO and CLO for the Multicultural requirement.

Burley reported that the Multicultural Committee is proposes to revise the existing CLO and SLOs to make them more focused. After the new CLO and SLOs have been circulated and approved, all current course instructors will be asked to revise their course syllabus to conform to the new outcome statements. Those that fail to meet the new guidelines will be given an opportunity to revise before the course is dropped from the Multicultural list.

A motion to suspend all new course approvals for the Multicultural requirement until this process is complete was passed without dissent or abstention.

Elbow circulated a list of committee chairs and members whose term expires in August 2011. Committee chairs were asked to let Elbow know if there are any committee members who should not be invited to serve a second term.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Minutes recorded by G. Elbow