

Core Curriculum Meeting

November 1st, 2006

Notes

Present: C. Jenkins, D. Buhrmester, M. Chaffin, L. Salter, S. Ntafos, M. Wilson, E. Elliott
Absent: J. Hoffman, M. Coleman, K. Jarrell
Guests: R. Nelsen, J. Reed

New Core Course Proposal

BA 33XX Business Communications

This course will replace BA 4305 as the upper level writing requirement for business majors.

Concern was raised over the length of the writing assignments. M. Chaffin said she would look into it.

****Unanimously Approved**

SACS

Duane – First goal should be to close the loop on the summer.

We need to reconsider the objectives for Communication Core and Science Core. JoyLynn stated that Communication Core poses the biggest problems.

Duane – We need to teach to match the course objectives (Which stem from a. State mandated objectives b. core course objectives c. course specific objectives)

Looking at the Communications Core objectives:

Objective 1 is a concern as if students are only doing one type of writing, it doesn't fit the objective. Robert stated that they were derived with the idea of Rhet 1301 and 1302.

Objective 2 is about mechanics. Objective 3 is about argumentation, Objective 4 is about application. While these are about a specific assignment, Objective 1 is about a range of assignments. Therefore, if a class only requires one type of writing, simply focus on the latter three objectives (Rhet 1302 encompasses all four. Together, these two will reflect the core objectives.)

Some courses (science, for example) have oral presentations, therefore they address different modes of communication.

New Communication Core Objective Wording

Objective 1: Students will be able to write in different ways for different audiences.

Objective 2: Students will be able to write effectively using appropriate organization, mechanics, and style.

Objective 3: Students will be able to construct effective written assignments.

Objective 4: Students will be able to gather, incorporate, and interpret source material in their writing.

Duane and John Hoffman will work on the science core objectives, which basically incorporate knowledge, research methods, application of knowledge and methods.

Duane – We need to answer the question: Do we have adequate procedures for evaluating the effectiveness of the core?

Robert – We are having difficulties gathering Fall 2006 assessment plans (only 34% are in).

Duane – Is there an effective administrative plan? It doesn't appear that way.

Recommendation of identifying a liaison from each school to help remind people, follow up on their progress, etc..

We are only at the point of identifying whether or not there are adequate procedures in place to assess core courses, NOT whether or not the courses are meeting the core objectives yet.

Duane suggested developing/establishing two things:

1. Assessment training and help
2. Assessment compliance and follow-through

Also, can there be a direct link from Galaxy to all of the necessary SACS sites (core, WEAVE, etc.) It will be looked into, along with getting ADUs administrative permissions to view reports as they are submitted (currently they can only see who has submitted.)

Duane recommends for closing the loop:

Strengthen and broaden training and administrative structure at the level of each school.

Question: Is assessing every course every semester acceptable or reasonable?

Robert – For starters, yes. Once we are well established with the process, then we can sample, as this is a continuous process.

Robert – We can use the committees for effective teaching at each school to work through aspects of this process.

Duane – Some day we might consider committees at the level of the core components. They can offer a menu of potential learning objectives and benchmarks to be considered across all sections of a course. These individuals will become the experts in these particular areas.

No meeting next week, November 7th.