

Minutes of the Carolina Core (General Education) Committee Meeting

July 12, 2011
12:30-2:00 p.m.
Thomas Cooper Library

Members Present:

Cheryl Addy, Pam Bowers (ex officio), Kenneth Campbell, Helen Doerpinghaus (Administrative Co-Chair), Kris Finnigan (ex officio), Kimberly Glenn, Janet Hudson, Stuart Hunter, Carolyn Jones, Sheryl Kline, Jerry Wallulis (ex-officio), Virginia Weathers

Members Absent:

Elise Ahyi (ex-officio), Jim Burns, Mary Ann Byrnes, Mary L. Hjelm, Gene Luna, Allen Miller, Phil Moore (ex-officio), Patrick Nolan (ex-officio), Susan Parlier, Joseph Rackers (Faculty Co-Chair), Teresa Smith, Rick Stephens, Irma Van Scoy, Jennifer Vendemia (ex-officio)

Faculty Content Consultants Present:

Alexander Beecroft, Christy Friend, David Hitchcock for Don Edwards, Andrew Graciano, George Khushf, Camelia Knapp,

Handout materials:

- Agenda
- June 14, 2011 minutes – draft
- Template for syllabus rubrics
- Draft rubrics
 - o Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding (LO – foreign language)
 - o Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding (LO - historical thinking)
 - o Analytical Reasoning and Problem Solving
 - o Values, Ethics and Social Responsibility
 - o Information Literacy
 - o Aesthetic and Interpretive Understanding

Minutes from the June 14 meeting were approved with no corrections. Helen reminded the group that the Fall meeting schedule is posted on the Carolina Core website. Mary Ellen Bellanca, Associate Professor of English, Division of Arts and Letters, USC Sumter, will be joining the committee in August.

Electronic forms and process for receiving and reviewing Carolina Core course proposals is scheduled to be ready by August, but a back-up plan to conduct the process on paper is being developed.

Goal for the meeting was to review draft rubrics prepared by specialty teams for considering proposed CC courses. The plan is to post the rubrics in August so that faculty can access them to guide their development of course proposals. The following criteria guided the discussion for each rubric:

Is it clear and easy to use?

Does it work for a variety of courses?

What do you like best about this guide/rubric?

What would you like to see changed or added?

Is this helpful in developing the next rubric for student learning?

Each specialty team had a representative in attendance to note specific comments and recommendations to take back to their team for discussion. The following comments broadly summarize the more specific suggestions for each rubric. Rubrics created for the purpose of reviewing course proposals and syllabi for a specific CC designation should:

- describe the expected characteristics of syllabus content, rather than characteristics of student achievement of the learning outcome
- describe types of course activities that the team expects are necessary to develop students' achievement of the learning outcome, and would therefore expect to find in a proposed syllabus
- find the right balance of providing enough detail about the type of learning activities that are expected without being too prescriptive
- specify the differences expected in foundational courses compared to integrative courses
- apply to a variety of courses (usually not limited to one discipline)
- use the template provided by this committee so faculty will find comparable guidance for all CC learning outcomes

Specialty team chairs were asked to take the committee's specific feedback to their teams, make adjustments to the rubrics and send revisions to the committee, for posting on the Carolina Core website in August.

Two questions were raised during the discussion:

- In regard to SACS requirements for instructor credentials, will it be a problem for instructors of overlay courses to be teaching outside their discipline (for the overlay content of a course, which could be information literacy; values, ethics and social responsibility; or oral communication)? Helen will check on this.
- Could UNIV 101 be considered as an information literacy overlay course? Yes, if common syllabus is revised to incorporate necessary components – as with other courses that request this designation. It was noted that this could provide an attractive option for students to meet this CC requirement and learn these skills early in their academic careers, since this course is already taken by most freshmen.

Many overlay courses will be needed to meet student demand for Carolina Core credits; so faculty should be encouraged to consider overlay options.

Helen said a Faculty Forum will be held in September to discuss expectations and encourage development of overlay courses.

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

The next Carolina Core meeting will be August 9, at 12:30 in Room 204 of the Thomas Cooper Library.

Submitted by Pam Bowers.