

Faculty Senate Core Review Committee End of Year Report

Members 2013-14 Academic Year

Miho Aoki, Humanities - Chair

Jean Richey, Communication

Jennifer Schell, English

Walter Skya, Social Sciences

Xiangdong Zhang, Science

Tyson Rinio, Library

Andrew Seitz, SFOS

Kevin Berry, SOM

Allan Morotti, Dean's Council Rep

OAR: Caty Oehring, Holly Sherouse

Academic Advising Ctr.: Andrea Schmidt, Linda Hapsmith, Stacey Howdeshell

Rural Student Services: Carol Murphrey

The committee worked on the following items in AY2013-14,

- **Non-UA lower division credit transfer policy change**
The committee discussed the Non-UA transfer credit motion in Fall 2013 semester. The proposal was to align non-UA transfer guidelines with the Board of Regents' general education policy and to allow a wider range of courses taken at other institutions to count toward UAF baccalaureate PHC core requirements. The committee approved a recommendation to forward the motion to Curricular Affairs Committee on November 8, 2013. The motion to revise the policy was approved by the Faculty Senate in the March meeting.
- **Reviewing core course petitions**
The committee reviewed student petitions regarding core courses, including Oral and Writing intensive courses (OWs), ENGLISH 111X, 212X and 213X, COMM 131/141X, Math core courses, and Natural science core courses. Many of the petitions involved substituting courses with special topics courses or transferred courses. The average number of the petitions was 3-5 per meeting, but it tended to increase toward the end of semester.

The committee approved the motion to give blanket approval for HRN293H Honors Music Appreciation, taught by Vincent Cee (September 27, 2013).
- **The Committee approved the motion to give blanket approval for BIOL/WGS F493 (201301) Women in Science as a Writing Intensive course (April 2014)**
- **New core designator applications**
There were 5 applications for new core designations this year. There were 3 W requests,

one O, and one X* (lower division core course) requests. All applications were approved except one W request (as of April 26, 2014).

* MATH 194 (X) Preparation for Calculus (trial course): The trial course cannot have “X” designation. Until the course turns into the regular course with a permanent course number, students have to petition to fulfill the core math requirement with this course. **The committee discussed blanket approval for this course. The registrar’s office would like to have the approval from the committee chair every semester. The chair can use the core petition form for this approval.** (from Feb 14, 2014)

- Oral and Writing intensive course assessment
As part of OW course assessment, the committee reviewed 39 course syllabi of O and W courses offered during AY 2013-14. While there were few course syllabi that fully incorporated the Faculty Senate Oral and Writing intensive course guidelines, the majority of the syllabi partially satisfied the guidelines. This doesn’t mean that the actual course activities fully reflect the guidelines. However, there were a few syllabi that did not have any information on O/W requirements, failed to follow the guidelines or had an incorrect designator. As of April 26, 2014, the review has not been complete. More detailed information will be submitted as an addendum to this report. Since reviewing syllabi is very limited in terms of assessing of the effectiveness of the course, the committee discussed an alternative way of assessing the communication skill development: asking departments to submit reports on their academic programs. Some departments may already have such reports compiled for accreditation purposes.
- The committee drafted new bylaws, which were requested by the Faculty Senate President Elect. The draft bylaws added one voting member from the College of Rural and Community Development and included a quorum for voting members. The committee bylaws must be updated again if the current oral and writing intensive course requirements change with new general education requirements.

Proposed change in ()s:

The committee shall be composed of one faculty member from each of the core component areas: (Social Sciences, English, Humanities, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Communication, and Library Science) ~~and~~ one faculty member from a non-core component area (**and one faculty member from CRCDD**) (**as voting members**). Membership on the committee will (**may**) include an undergraduate student (**as a non-voting member**), and representatives from the colleges specifically tasked with core assessment.

- All meeting records, reviewed syllabi and other documents are kept on the Core Review Committee website (access restricted to the committee members).