

Year-end committee report for Core Review Committee

Date: 10 April 2017 (note that there will be one more meeting held on 27 April 2017)

Chair: Andy Seitz (School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences)

Members:

College of Liberal Arts:

Daryl Farmer, English (18)

Alex Hirsch, Social Sciences (18)

Kevin Sager, Communication (CLA 16)

Vacancy, Humanities

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics:

Margaret Short, Math (17) - Co-Chair

Lawrence Duffy, Science (18)

Library:

Katherine Arndt, LIB (17)

At-Large:

Andy Seitz, CFOS – Chair (17)

Unit Core Assessment:

Tony Rickard, CNSM

Kevin Berry, SOM

Ex Officio:

Dean's Council Rep: Marsha Sousa

Office of Admissions and Registrar: Caty Oehring, Hayley Williams

Academic Advising Center: Ginny Kinne, John Smelter

Rural Student Services: Gabrielle Russell, Colleen Angaiak

Victoria Smith: Student Support Services

Summary of activities:

As of 4/10/2017, the Core Review Committee met seven times during AY2016-2017. The main activities of the Core Review Committee were reviewing:

1. Petitions to:
 - a. add "W", "O" or "O/2" designators to courses on an individual course basis
 - b. have transfer courses count towards a core/GER requirement (X)
 - c. allow a regularly scheduled non-X UAF course count towards a core/GER requirement
 - d. allow low scores in courses (<C-) and CLEP exams (<50) count toward core/GER requirements
 - e. waive "W", "O" or "O/2" requirement for core
2. Requests to:
 - a. Include a regularly scheduled UAF course in the GER (i.e., add an X designator)
 - b. Drop a W, O, O/2, X course from the catalog
 - c. Compress a regularly scheduled X course
 - d. Change designator of X course (i.e., ENGL to WRTG)

	Type	Approve	Deny	Deny, send to Provost	Withdrawn	Total
Petition	Attach "W", "O" or "O/2" on individual course basis	11	3			14
	Transfer course to count as core requirement (X)	4	2		1	7
	UAF course to count as core requirement (X)		5	1		6
	Allow low scores in courses/CLEP count toward core	5				5
	Waive "W", "O" or "O/2" requirement for core		1			1
Request	List course in baccalaureate core (X)	9			1	10
	Drop W, O, O/2, X course from catalog	3				3
	Course compression of X course	1				1
	Change designator of X course	4				4
		37	11	1	2	51

In addition to reviewing course request and petitions, the committee made the following decisions:

1. Review process:

- a. All petitions (both denied and accepted by advisors, dept. chairs etc.) should come to us for review as part of the student's right to due process.
- b. There is an appeals process for students whose petitions have been denied by the Core Review Committee. The appeals process (<http://www.uaf.edu/files/uafgov/fsact87.html>) is to send an appeal to the Provost via the Office of Admissions and the Registrar. The Core Review Committee recommends to the Provost's staff that if the petition does not come from the Core Review Committee, that the Provost's office obtain background information about the petition.
- c. The department chair of the course that is being petitioned should review petitions. This was discussed after an OAR staff member wondered whether there should be one designated reviewer of petitions for each GER category (i.e., one person for each of social sciences, humanities, and arts), OR, whether the department chair of the course that is being petitioned should review petitions.
- d. The Core Review Committee will deny all petitions seeking to count a regularly scheduled non-X UAF course as satisfying GER requirements. Approval of these potential petitions by the Core Review Committee causes concern by various faculty in other curriculum committees (Curriculum Review Committee and Curricular Affairs Committee) and staff (Office of Admissions and the Registrar) because of the potential ramifications of approving such petitions. The Core Review Committee agrees with this concern because approving such petitions essentially sets a precedent that would effectively change the curriculum at UAF, which is not in the purview of the Core Review Committee. If there is interest in having a non-X UAF course meet the UAF GER, a request for an X designator should be submitted through a formal process that includes review by departmental and college curriculum committees, as well as campus-wide curriculum committee(s).
- e. The Core Review Committee will deny all petitions from students in older catalog years that request to substitute courses that satisfy the newly created GER arts, humanities and social sciences categories for courses in the old core curriculum Perspectives on Human Condition requirements, or simply request that the new GER satisfies the old PHC, without changing catalog years. The committee agreed that these petitions would set a very far-reaching and unmanageable precedent.
- f. The Core Review Committee agreed to periodically reexamine how some transfer courses are considered. Specifically, a question was raised of whether we should allow courses that satisfy a GER at another institution, but not UAF, be allowed to substitute for a UAF GER course in the appropriate category or area. In this hypothetical scenario, this proposed transfer, which would be accomplished through a student-driven petition, would be based on a "good faith" effort of the student to meet his/her previous GER requirements and therefore would only be allowed for students who started at another institution and then transferred to UAF. This would make transferring GER courses easier and might attract more transfer students. These petitions would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and must demonstrate the student's "good faith effort." One potential unintended consequence/precedent of this hypothetical situation would be that a transfer student could count the course towards the UAF GER, which might inspire a current UAF student to take the same course (online or distance delivery), but then not be able to count it towards the UAF GER. The committee agreed that the idea is worth thinking about in the future, but unintended consequences should be further explored.

2. Core Curriculum Review Committee bylaw modifications (see appendix 1)
 - a. The Core Review Committee requests to change its name to the GER and Core (GERC: the “G” is soft) Committee.
 - b. The Core Review Committee requests to change its faculty member composition to reflect the recent change to the GER by adding a seat to represent the “Arts” component area.
 - c. The Core Review Committee requests to add a provision for how the at-large seat is to be refilled. The committee will give the at-large member with an expiring term the option to extend, and if the member doesn't want that, then the Faculty Senate Coordinator will solicit nominations from the entire UAF faculty and an election will be held online.

Appendix 1

DRAFT Modification

MOTION:

The UAF Faculty Senate moves to amend the Faculty Senate Bylaws of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Section 3, Article V: Committees, subsection H.5 under Permanent Committees, to rename the Core Review Committee, amend its membership according to new GER component areas and amend its procedures concerning at-large membership.

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

RATIONALE: With the implementation of the General Education Requirements (GER) in the 2016-2017 catalog year, general education course requirements were modified. As a result of the change from using Baccalaureate Core requirements to the GER, the name of the Core Review Committee became outdated and the component areas of the general education course requirements changed. Therefore, we move to change the name of the Core Review Committee and its faculty member composition to reflect the recent change to the GER. Additionally, currently, the committee has no procedure concerning appointment of the at-large voting member. Therefore, we move to add a description of the procedure for appointing the at-large voting member.

BOLD CAPS = Addition

Bold Strikethrough = Deletion

Faculty Senate Bylaws, Section 3, Article 5: Committees, subsection E:

H. The standing and permanent committees of the Senate are:

...

PERMANENT

...

5. The **GER AND** Core ~~Review~~ Committee reviews and approves courses submitted by the appropriate school/college curriculum councils for their inclusion in the ~~core curriculum~~ **GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS (GER)** at UAF. The **GER AND** Core ~~Review~~ Committee coordinates and recommends changes to the **GER** ~~core curriculum~~, develops

the process for assessment of the ~~core curriculum~~ **GER**, regularly reports on assessment of the ~~core curriculum~~ **GER**, monitors transfer guidelines for core **AND GER** courses, acts on petitions for core **AND GER** credit, and evaluates guidelines in light of the total core **AND GER** experience. This committee will also review courses for oral, written, and natural science ~~core~~ **GER** classification. **THE GER AND CORE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO PERIODICALLY REVIEW SYLLABI OF COURSES TO WHICH "O" AND "W" DESIGNATORS ARE ATTACHED TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH FACULTY SENATE GUIDELINES.** If the committee determines that a course fails twice in a row to meet "O" or "W" guidelines as specified by the Faculty Senate, the committee shall have the power to revoke "O" or "W" designators from that course.* Committee actions made prior to March 1 will become effective in the next year's Catalog. Designators will be restored as soon as the course has been reapproved by the committee as once again conforming to "O" or "W" guidelines.

*As found at:

<http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty-senate/curriculum/course-degree-procedures-/guidelines-for-core-desig/>

The committee shall be composed of one faculty member from each of the ~~core~~ **GER** component areas: (Social Sciences, English, Humanities, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Communication, Library Science **AND INFORMATION RESEARCH, AND ARTS**), and one faculty member from a non-~~core~~ **GER** component area, and one faculty member from CRCD, as voting members. **THE MEMBER FROM A NON-GER COMPONENT AREA SHALL BE ELECTED AT LARGE FROM AMONG UAF FACULTY, WHILE SEATS FROM GER COMPONENT AREAS AND CRCD SHALL BE ELECTED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE FACULTIES.** Membership on the committee **ALSO** may include an undergraduate student as a non-voting member, and representatives from the colleges specifically tasked with core **AND GER** assessment.