

Curricular Affairs Committee – Mon., Feb. 9, 2015 – 1-2 p.m. 408 RASM

audio conference information: [1-800-893-8850](tel:1-800-893-8850) Participants' PIN: 1109306

Invited: Brian Cook, Catherine Hanks, Cindy Hardy, Dennis Moser, Joan Hornig, Ken Abramowicz, Rainer Newberry, Rob Duke, Todd Radenbaugh (remote), Doug Goering, Jayne Harvie, Alex Fitts, Carol Gering, Caty Oehring, Casey Byrne, Holly Sherouse, Libby Eddy, Linda Hapsmith, Stacey Howdeshell

I. Approve minutes from January 26 meeting (attached)

II. Old business

A. GERC and “C” –

- Current plan (motion is in development):
 - **Departments will demonstrate how they address communications learning outcomes (see next bullet) by submitting a communications plan as part of their SLOA plans, and subsequently, by submitting a short summary report addressing how the plan is working (and revising the plan as necessary).**
 - **Each baccalaureate degree program must include, as part of its degree plan, integration of communication at the lower- and upper-division level, as evidenced by baccalaureate graduates’ abilities to address the following four communications-related Learning Outcomes:**
 - **UAF undergraduates will demonstrate effective communication when they are able to:**
 - **Explain disciplinary content using a variety of modes of communication.**
 - **Communicate to audiences in the discipline using appropriate disciplinary conventions.**
 - **Translate disciplinary content to audiences outside the discipline, making disciplinary knowledge relevant to broader communities.**
 - **Integrate feedback from others to enhance or revise communication.**
- How this is tracked: GERC is proposing a committee that would review these programs every 2 years (basically they’d look at each department’s regularly-submitted SLOA reports). Minus the committee, this is similar to how the capstone will be assessed and tracked; however, it may make record-keeping complicated on how individual students are completing these Baccalaureate requirements.
 - If all required communications courses exist within the same department or degree program, this seems like less of an issue. However, if some communications outcomes are being addressed through courses offered by other departments, this seems more complicated.
- Should a C designator still exist – would that assist in tracking this? For instance, if a department identifies 5 courses across its curriculum that provides a given student with communications skills (based on the above outcomes), should each of those have a C designator?

B. GER Buckets to replace PHC

- GERC Chair Leah Berman attended CLA’s Chair Council meeting on Friday to ask departments to submit suggestions for courses that could fulfill the GE requirements. She is also going to reach out to other colleges (especially ANS and School of Management – both already offer current PHC courses). The idea is to begin to solicit options for courses and to have an idea of what the buckets might look like so that, when common GERs are established between UAF, UAA and UAS by the statewide committee, a significant amount of work towards creating the buckets has already been done.
- Obviously, vetting the lists and approval of the change from PHC into buckets in committees and Faculty Senate would still need to happen after we know what the GERs are.
- The other benefit is that instead of saying “there will be buckets,” as we go through the approval process, specific classes in the buckets will be part of the proposal.
- The process for approving the individual courses populating each bucket has not yet been decided.

Current General Education University Regulations:

- Written Communication Skills 6 credits minimum
- Oral Communication Skills 3 credits minimum
- Humanities/Social Sciences 15 credits minimum [3 unspecified]
 - At least 3 credits in the arts
 - At least 3 credits in general humanities
 - At least 6 credits in the social sciences, from 2 different disciplines
- Quantitative Skills/Natural Sciences 10 credits minimum [3 unspecified]
 - At least 3 credits in mathematics
 - At least 4 credits in the natural sciences, including a laboratory

TOTAL

34 credits minimum

Perspectives on the Human Condition	Current University Regulations
HIST F100X--Modern World History	"broad survey courses which provide the student with exposure to the theory, methods and data of the social sciences"
ECON/PS F100X--Political Economy	
ANTH/SOC F100X--Individual, Society and Culture	
ENGL/FL F200X--World Literatures	"courses that introduce the student to the humanistic fields of language, arts, literature, history, and philosophy within the context of their traditions"
ART/MUS/THR F200X, HUM F201X, ANS F202X--Aesthetic Appreciation	"an introduction to the visual arts and performing arts as academic disciplines as opposed to those that emphasize acquisition of skills"
ETHICS (BA F323X, COMM F300X, JUST F300X, NRM F303X, PS F300X, PHIL F322X)	[UAF-specific requirement]

C. Statewide Gen Ed committee updates –Rainer can fill us in on any updates he has about the committee or its process.

D. Probation/disqualification policy – still on hold.

E. Aerospace engineering minor update – Michael Hatfield has amended the proposal to remove the sentence about a future new program, and to correct the error about the minimum passing grade (should be C-). This minor will be on the agenda for the Ad Comm meeting this month for consideration for the March Senate meeting. Michael is prepared to be in attendance at the Senate meeting to address questions, assuming the motion is brought forward for consideration.

III. New business

A. Core Class Compression in Wintermester and Maymester (Referred from Core Review)

1. Core Review Committee has considered a course compression proposal for SOC 100X, which generated a lot of debate.
2. From email from Leah Berman, Core Review Chair: “We had a long discussion in Core Review about the wisdom of trying to compress SOC 100X into 10 days as a wintermester course. In the final analysis, Core Review did vote to approve the compression—in large part because ANTH 100X had already been approved for such a compression (!) in the past. However, there was significant concern as to whether it is really, truly possible to complete a semester’s worth of intellectual engagement in 10 days; while it is technically possible to complete the in-class minutes, it is not possible to complete the typical “two-hours-out-of-class-per hour-in-class” outside work.
3. The current Maymester schedule offers the following Core courses: ANTH 100X, ART 200X, MUS 200X, JUST 300X, PHIL 322X, PS F100X, which means all of these courses have previously been approved for course compression. They are also PHC-fulfilling courses.
4. The issue is one of precedent: since previous committees have approved the compression of these courses, in the case of SOC 100X, Core Review saw fit to approve the compression proposed.
5. This becomes relevant again as the PHC courses are to be replaced with bucket lists to fulfill GE requirements. A change does not NEED to be made, but it seems a good time to discuss the issue Core Review raises to see if CAC/the Senate feel any change or clarifications should be developed/implemented alongside new GE requirements.
6. It is important to note that a significant percentage of 2015’s Wintermester and Maymester offerings were/are compressed Core courses.