

# Core Curriculum Oversight Committee

**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017

**Time:** 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Meeting Location:** Alumni Conference Room, LSC, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor

**Attendance:** Ruben Anguiano, Sheryl Coffey, Deserai Crow, Andrea Falcone, Carol Golemboski (chair), Jeff Franklin, Christy Heaton, Nimol Hen, Antwan Jefferson, Hans Morgenthaler, Gwen Persons, Candice Shelby, Traci Sitzmann, Mary Lee Stansifer, Tammy Stone, Gregory Walker, Mary Baitinger (recorder)

## Agenda and Minutes

### 1. Approval of minutes from February 1, 2017 meeting

**Vote:** These were approved by the present 9 voting members.

### 2. Announcements/Updates

- Behavioral Sciences Core Syllabi – Spring 2017 - Mary Baitinger and Carol Golemboski thanked the CCOC for meeting the March 1 deadline. Carol will collaborate with Hans Morgenthaler (incoming CCOC chair) to distribute the scores and feedbacks to the chairs, who will then forward these on to their individual instructors.

### 3. Review of First Year Seminar (FYS) Proposals

Christy Heaton, Director of First Year Experiences, attended the meeting with regards to the FYS course proposals for Fall 2017. Both Christy and Carol provided the following information and background:

- Part of the FYS guidelines require that faculty include college success components such as campus resources, time management, study skills, etc., which are reflected in the syllabi via workshops, activities, and lessons.
- Annually, the CCOC is asked to give license and approve new FYS courses, with a blanket reapproval of those already in existence.
- A total of 19 FYS courses will be available to incoming first-year students in Fall 2017. More UNIV sections are being offered this fall as well, with the goal of building enrollment of FYS and UNIV courses and reaching a broader number of FY students. If all courses are filled this fall, over half of the incoming first year students would be taking an FYE course of some kind.
- Core-Area learning outcomes and rubrics are integrated by instructors into the syllabi.
- Highlighted areas on the syllabi reviewed by the CCOC are dates are from fall 2016. Instructors will change these once the fall 2017 milestone dates are established.
- The MGMT 1111 course has been taught before, but since it has been three years, it is being reviewed again.
- Adding more FYE courses is restricted by the UE budget for this program.
- Good FCQs have been reported for FYS/UNIV courses, and higher retention rates of students (upwards to 4.5% in 2015-2016) are experienced as a result of the program.

Comments by the CCOC included: The School of Business would like to add more courses and encourage non-majors to take FYS classes; FYS courses are positive experiences for students and eases

the transition into college; and advisors should encourage students to take an FYS course outside their major.

**Vote:** The new proposed FYS courses and current existing courses were approved by the present 9 voting members.

#### 4. Review of Student Petition for Tiffani Breslain

Carol provided the following regarding the student's petition:

- Tiffani's advisor (Diccon Conant) submitted a request to waive Tiffani's Core Requirements, based on a prior degree, even though the degree was earned more than 10 years prior to beginning course work at CU Denver.
- Tiffani earned her BA in Liberal Studies (magna cum laude) from Point Loma in 1995, her MS in Special Education from National University in 1997, and an Educational Specialist degree from Point Loma in 1999. She started at CU in Fall 2015 (deferred Spring 2015 acceptance).
- Her advisor printed a Degree Audit that stated all Core requirements were "Satisfied via Previous Bachelor's Degree."
- Given the audit, and for some years CAM had waived Core requirements if a prior bachelor's degree was less than 20 years old, the advisor advised Tiffani that all of her Core requirements were complete.
- The advisor believes that it is important that the university honor this documentation and advising she was given.

**Vote:** Tiffani Breslain's petition was approved by the present 9 voting members.

#### 5. Review of Student Petition for Sean Adams

Carol provided the following regarding the student's petition:

- The student is a Computer Science Major and would like to substitute a 3000 level Digital Animation course for general Arts requirement.
- The student believes that the course includes all of the aspects of the Arts Core course and additionally includes a collaborative component with the Digital Animation cohort. His pursuit of the DAC certificate (which has not been approved yet) adds another year to his graduation date and he is already taking additional Arts studio classes.
- The course requested will be of more value because it better contributes to his understanding of the creative process as a computer scientist. In addition, the student wants to plan "light semesters" for AY 2018-2019 to accommodate new technical challenges.
- The petition has a letter of support from class teacher and VA chair, arguing that the course covers the learning outcomes for Arts Core Courses and in fact, is upper level. In addition, the advisor does not oppose the petition.

As a CAM Department member, Carol noted that all Visual Arts Majors and Minors are required to take an Art Core course even though they are MAJORING in an area of Visual Arts. This student is *choosing* to take upper level DAC courses to possibly pursue a certificate. If Arts majors who take over 80 arts credits and Arts minors, who take between 15 and 18 arts credits still need to take an Arts Core course, then this student, who is taking 9 credits of DAC, should not be excused.

The CCOC discussed their precedent of not approving substitute courses to replace the approved core courses. The student has time available to complete the core requirement before his graduation. The

student was not misadvised, and even though the chair of a department may support the student petition, it does not allow the student a waiver of the core requirements.

**Vote:** Sean Adams's petition was denied by the present 8 voting members, with 2 voting members abstaining.

6. Review of Core Course Proposal for HDFR 3020

Antwan Jefferson's School of Education and Human Development proposal would fulfill the Cultural Diversity Area of the core curriculum. Both Antwan and Ruben Anguiano explained that the SPA Learning Outcomes table was used as a model for the proposal, and an emphasis was placed on respecting cultural content. Black and Latino families are included in the proposal, along with an intersectionality of diversity and a social justice perspective. One textbook will be used, along with 11-12 PDFs of additional journal articles. The CCOC found the proposal presented was very thorough and detailed.

**Vote:** The proposed HDFR 3020 course was approved by the present 9 voting members and 1 voting member recused.

7. Discussion: Update on GtPathways

Jeff Franklin, along with other CCOC members, provided information and comments regarding the background and latest activities of GtPathways. Highlights included:

- GtPathways is a state system by which groups of courses transfer from community colleges to universities. Its purpose is not to have students repeat courses already taken at the community college level and be accepted into the university system automatically. In previous years, John Lanning has gotten CU core courses approved for Pathways.
- In the last few years the CDHE has been rethinking Pathways and have held a series of faculty conferences on the subject, in addition to their crafting of Learning Outcome statements.
- The CDHE would like Learning Outcome statements at the beginning of each approved Pathways syllabi that is taught, but the length of material (upwards to two pages verbatim) is perceived as intrusive to instructors and campus institutions. Learning Outcomes are seen as being helpful to instructors as they are planning curriculum but do not necessarily need to be there in such length for students.
- Currently there is a stalemate regarding this requirement. Since community college courses are usually transferred to universities and used towards graduation, their stake in this process is much higher, while universities may have more wiggle room on the requirement.
- At this time, the CDHE would like the CU provost to sign off on the Learning Outcomes requirement. The CCOC could possibly be a part of this decision process – will instructors be asked to include the LOs or perhaps a link to them in their syllabi? John Lanning recommends waiting until the CU Denver provost makes a decision before proceeding.
- If a core course has recently been approved by the CCOC, Carol has asked those instructors/departments to wait before submitting to GtPathways and review the CDPHE Guidelines in the meantime.
- At this time, CU Denver is most compliant and has a greater quantity (and quality) of core and learning outcomes, since the CCOC carefully reviews these syllabi on a rotating basis each semester.

**Action:** Jeff Franklin will report back to the CCOC the status of GtPathways/CDHE updates as needed (he will be attending a meeting regarding this within the next few weeks).