

# Core Curriculum Oversight Committee

**Date:** Friday, December 13, 2019

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Meeting Location:** Chancellor's Conference Room, LSC, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor

**Attendance:** Ruben Anguiano, Jody Beck, Sondra Bland, Joann Brennan, Michelle Carpenter, Bassem Hassan, Antwan Jefferson (chair), Craig Lanning, Christine Martell, Sandra Quinn, Kim Regier, Kodi Saylor, Kari Shafenberg, Gregory Walker, Mary Baitinger (recorder). Not Present: Jeff Franklin, Nimol Hen, Alana Jones, Mary Lee Stansifer

## Agenda and Minutes

### 1. Opening and Minutes

- Introductions of members present, plus Joann Brennan (see below)
- Minutes for the November 8, 2019 meeting were approved by 9 attending members.

### 2. New Business/Action Items

- Core Course Proposals PHYS 2351 and PHYS 2361 – these were provided to the CCOC committee, and the following comments were generated:
  - Language in the syllabus says majors only.
  - On the core list, 2351 and 2361 courses are listed for science and non-science majors, meaning accessible to all. If students aren't a major or minor, they have to get permission from the instructor. Having that restriction seems like a barrier.
  - Can physics add a note that it is designed for majors?
  - These courses could be like a math course requirement and be indicated on the core list as part of the major.
  - Are there mismatches between classes and labs?
  - Instead of stating level 1 lab and level 2 lab, it should be indicated one lab is the same for both
  - Engineering students need a calculus-based, more rigorous lab.
  - If the courses are opened up to all students and listed as a core course, there needs to be a specific disclaimer listed, with alternatives to pick the right class. Advisors across campus and different departments would need to be trained on this.

**Action:** Antwan will provide all comments and suggestions to the Physics department and report back at the February 2020 meeting.

Related to the two PHYS courses themselves, Sandra Quinn discussed the grandfathering of students who have taken either PHYS 2351 or PHYS 2361 and have mismatches of lectures and labs. This includes current and past semesters, as well as

the upcoming spring 2020. Concern was raised of students having to jump through potential extra hoops of misadvising, not having good enough info in the catalog, etc. By March 2020, the catalog will be active for fall 2020, and the old numbers will expire. The CCOC will revisit this topic, as needed.

**Action:** Sandra Quinn will create a list of potential mismatches of PHYS 2351 and PHYS 2361 and provide this information to the CCOC.

**Vote:** The CCOC voted in 10 in favor of the discussed items listed above.

- **Student Petition:** Sucharita Das – this student provided international transcripts for bachelor and masters degrees she obtained in India and requested a wavier of core classes at CU Denver. The CCOC usually approves a petition with an obtained U.S. bachelor or masters degree. In this case, the Registrar’s Office sent the transcripts to the International Admissions Office, as the CCOC does not have a policy for degrees outside the U.S. The International Office was unable to make a determination on the transcript. The question rose if the location where the international degree is obtained might influence the CCOC’s decision (example – if the student obtained the degree in Europe instead of India). A review of the transcript by Sandra Quinn indicated the masters degree was potentially missing competencies the areas of arts, humanities, behavioral sciences and cultural diversity. Since the transcript did not reflect this in a manner the CCOC could assess, the question was asked if it was the responsibility of the student to collect this additional information, so that a determination could be made by the Registrar’s Office and the CCOC.

The student’s CU academic record was accessed online by the CCOC, and it was determined that the student is actually admitted as a graduate student and currently taking three graduate courses. She is currently not listed as an undergraduate student, as of 8/13/19. Her degree from India was used for acceptance into the masters program. None of her transfer courses taken at Arapahoe Community College were accepted at CU Denver.

**Action:** Antwan will ask the student about the type of degree she is pursuing (bachelors or masters) and request English descriptions of her courses from India. The goal is to see general education courses on the transcripts. The student indicated she will graduate with a in May 2020, and in order to take the correct classes for spring, a decision would need to be rendered before the CCOC meets again in February 2020. Antwan will communicate any findings to the group and a vote online will occur, if necessary.

- **Student Petition:** Samuel Cordova – this student would like a CU Boulder course, Religious Studies 2612, (lower than 3000), to count towards the CU Denver Cultural Diversity core requirement. The CCOC reviewed his petition and syllabus and determined the content of the class itself does not match the Cultural Diversity Learning Outcomes. The course itself, if the student wanted to transfer it as elective

towards the Business School's curriculum and credit count, would be need to be decided by their department.

**Vote:** The CCOC voted 10 against the student's petition of CU Boulder's Religious Studies 2612 to count towards his CU Denver Cultural Diversity core requirement.

### 3. New Business/Action Items

- Organizational Changes – Jeff Franklin, AVC for Undergraduate Experiences, is leaving the CCOC December 2019. Joann Brennan, interim AVC for Faculty Affairs, will be stepping into Jeff's role to guide the CCOC in January 2020. In addition to the CCOC, Joann will also serve as academic Liaison to the GE Council and provide support around policies and the CDHE. It was discussed where the CCOC will be housed, as Undergraduate Experiences is being dissolved, and it does not fall under the new Office of Academic Achievement. Further conversations will occur about its placement. Mary Baitinger will be moving to the Office of Academic Achievement and therefore leaving her administrative duties for the CCOC.
- Spring 2020 CCOC meeting schedule – meetings will continue on the second Friday of each month, from 10:30-12:00 on February 14, 2020, March 13, 2020, April 10, 2020 and May 8, 2020.
- Core Arts & Humanities Review – Mary gave a quick overview of the review process during Fall 2019 by the CCOC and indicated the next review by the CCOC for spring 2020 will be the Social Sciences. A CCOC member asked Antwan to remind the chairs, who receive feedback on their department courses, to provide this to their instructors directly so they can improve the quality of their courses.
- Core List – this will be updated on March 15, 2020. Any proposed courses for the list, will be reviewed by the CCOC at the February 14, 2020 meeting.
- Fall 2019 Informal Review – tabled for a later meeting.
- Additional Item Not On the Agenda – Antwan will be stepping down as chair of the CCOC at the end of spring, 2020. He encouraged other members to consider the role and would like a smooth handover and transition to the new chair. This will be an agenda item for the February 14, 2020 meeting.