

Core Curriculum Oversight Committee

Date: Friday, December 14, 2018

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Chancellor's Conference Room, LSC, 14th Floor

Attendance: Ruben Anguiano, Sondra Bland, Michelle Carpenter, Andrea Falcone, Jeff Franklin, Bassem Hassan, Antwan Jefferson (chair), Craig Lanning, Christine Martell, Sandra Quinn, Kim Regier, Brian Schaeffer, Mary Lee Stansifer, Gregory Walker, Mary Baitinger (recorder). Not Present: Nimol Hen, Alana Jones, Traci Sitzmann, Kat Vlahos.

Agenda and Minutes

1. Announcements

- Minutes of 11/9/18

Vote: 11 voting members approved (including an electronic vote by Kat Vlahos).

2. New Business

- Student Petition: Hyunwoo Hong – This international SPA student requested an exception to the core science and lab combination, as he took mismatching courses by accident in separate semesters. His advisor believed it was an honest mistake. The class and lab are both physics courses, and Craig Lanning informed the CCOC that the physics class and lab both have the same content, even though the numbers are different. Sandra Quinn also reported the course descriptions do not indicate which lecture goes with a specific lab. Finally, the student took a harder lab course than was actually needed. CLAS is aware of the situation and will be adding clearer verbiage to the physics courses.

Vote: 11 voting members approved the exception (including an electronic vote by Kat Vlahos).

- Student Petition: Matthew Bunner – The student, represented by his CEAS academic advisor, requested waiving his core course requirements (five total) without comparability of courses on the basis that he already had been advised that he would be allowed to do this. Jeff Franklin provided CEAS's past history of this type of request that effectively overrides the core requirements then claims immunity. The Registrar's Office and Jeff have had conversations with the CEAS advisors and associate dean, but the pattern continues regardless. The CCOC discussed how the student should not be punished for an ongoing department situation. But, in further review of his transcript, the student has not fully yet matriculated into CU Denver (only one class in Fall 2018). Therefore, the student has ample time to finish his core courses and complete his engineering degree.

Vote: 11 voting members did not approve the request to waive the CU Denver core (including an electronic vote by Kat Vlahos).

- FYE Program and Proposal for PHIL 1111 – Jeff Franklin and Christy Heaton, Director of First Year Experiences, provided the history of the program, the role of the CCOC in approving new FYE core courses, and the CCOC’s role in providing annual re-approval of already existing FYE courses that will be reoffered. The approval process is between January to March. FYE has been in existence for a decade and has the continued support of upper administration. FYE courses are approved for temporary, one-time (but renewable) core status. They do not appear on the permanent core-course list.
- Those proposed, along with instructors, are discussed with the chairs of each department, and every attempt is made to have a balance of FYE classes from all the core areas. FYE courses are run under department prefixes (ex. SOCY 1111-001), which receive the revenue generated by students taking the course. The current course before the CCOC, PHIL 1111, has been reviewed carefully by Christy for core learning outcomes and is the first of 10-15 FYE syllabi the CCOC will be receiving for electronic review in January/early February. Comments of the PHIL syllabus include reducing or modifying the title’s length, and both the topic and theme seem very engaging.

Vote: 11 voting members approved PHIL 1111 for Fall 2018, with a request to modify the title (including an electronic vote by Kat Vlahos).

- Stretch College Algebra Core Course Submissions–
Math 1108 – Stretch College Algebra Part I (3 hours)
Math 1109 – Stretch College Algebra Part II (3 hours)

The following two courses, if approved, will first be offered during CU Denver’s summer bridge program. Math 1108 was proposed to fulfil the non-lab Natural and Physical Sciences (NPS) core requirement, as permitted by current CCOC policy, and Math 1109 to count towards fulfilling the Mathematics competency requirement. Background and a lengthy discussion surrounding both courses included:

- There are no limitations for the number of math courses on the core list.
- Both courses work together in sequence. The 1108 course is needed in order to achieve 1109 course math requirements. Together they are 6 credit hours.
- Two-section “stretch” courses like these work well and have good success rates at the community college level.
- College algebra has one of the highest failure rates nationally (up to approx. 40%)
- Students are prepared for math at different levels, and the availability of stretch algebra is intended to help less-well-prepared students who want to be STEM majors to succeed in that goal.
- Two science core courses are required for all students, and 1108 could cover only the non-lab science requirement, not affecting the lab science requirement.
- The question arose: does 1108 meet the NPS learning objectives, and, if not, why should it be approved to fulfil that requirement?

- The answer appears in the CCOC *Policies & Procedures* (point G.ii.): The non-lab NPS course “may be a mathematics course, excluding the course used to satisfy the Intellectual Competencies mathematics proficiency.” This option was designed intentionally in the 2004-2005 reform of the CU Denver core. Thus, there is no need to approve Math 1108 as a NPS Core course; rather, this can happen automatically, as sanctioned by existing policy, but Math 1108 would not appear in the official core-course list under NPS.
- No current math course at CU Denver would meet learning objectives in the sciences core.
- How does this course work with Math 1110? If a student fails 1110, should they take 1108 and 1109? Should everyone just take 1108 and 1109 instead?
- The current plan is to require the ALEKS exam for math placement for all incoming STEM majors, starting in fall 2019. This will identify which students would benefit from a stretch algebra course.
- Could Gary Olson (math department) visit the CCOC to discuss the sequence and thinking behind these courses in more depth?
- The CCOC could approve Math 1109 (in effect, the sequence) for the math core but continue the conversation regarding the non-lab NPS portion.

Vote: 10 voting members approved, and 1 member abstained, to approve MATH 1109 as a core Mathematics competency course (including an electronic vote by Kat Vlahos).

Vote: 1 voting member approved, 1 abstained, and 8 voted against approving MATH 1108 as a Natural and Physical Sciences core course (including an electronic vote by Kat Vlahos). This vote was conditioned by the shared assumption that, according to CCOC policy, the course will count toward the non-lab NPS requirement, without needing to be an official, listed NPS core course.

Action: Gary Olson will be invited to the February 2019 CCOC meeting to further discuss the rationale and thinking behind MATH 1108 and 1109 sequencing.