**Report to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee**

**Mid-year report Year-end report**

**Date: 5/14/2018**

**Committee Name**: Oversight Committee of the Core Curriculum

**Chair or Co-Chairs: Karen Harker (faculty co-chair), Wendy Watson (admin co-chair)**

**Meetings for the term/year**:

* September 8, 2017
* October 13, 2017
* November 10, 2017
* December 8, 2017
* January 12, 2018 (virtual)
* (no meeting held in February)
* March 9, 2018
* April 13, 2018
* May 11, 2018

**Membership and Attendance** (year-to-date attendance record):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Group Represented, committee office, if applicable** | **Name** | **Department or administrative unit affiliation** | **Term End**  **(if applicable)** | **Meetings Attended** | **Meetings Absent (# Excused)** |
| Chair | Karen Harker | LIBR | FY2018 | 7 | 0 |
| Co-chair | Wendy Watson | PSCI | N/A | 7 | 0 |
| Secretary | N/A |  |  |  |  |
| Group I | Kathryn Raign | L&TC | FY2018 | 6 | 1 (1) |
| Group II | Karen Harker | LIBR | FY2018 | 7 | 0 |
| Group III | Robert Renka | CSCE | FY2018 | 7 | 0 |
| Group IV | Thomas Miles | HONR | FY2020 | 7 | 0 |
| Group V | Robert Insley | MGMT | FY2019\* | 2 | 5 (3) |
| Group VI | Judith Braeditich | HDFS | FY2019 | 6 | 1 (1) |
| Group VII | Rebecca Weber | CHEM | FY2019 | 6 | 1 (1) |
| Group VIII | Teresa Cooper | DANC | FY2021\* | 5 | 2 (2) |
| At-large 1 | Lou Pelton | MKTG | FY2020\* | 2 | 5 (4) |
| At-large 2 | Daniel Alemneh | LIBR | FY2020\* | 6 | 1 (1) |
| At-large 3 | Ana Krahmer (Faculty Senate Representative) | LIBR | FY2020 | 2 (appointed in October) | 2 (2) |

Red: Term ending this academic year, not renewable.

\* Second term

**Accomplishments (including items submitted for review or approval to the Executive Committee or Faculty Senate):**

The committee reviewed 22 proposals for new Core courses or changes to Core courses and approved 13 proposals. There are 8 proposals currently under review; the committee will be expected to dispose of these before the end of May, 2018. The Director of the Core attempted to work with the course developer for one course not approved by the committee, but was unable to get a response. After consultation with the committee, the Director of the Core will prepare to have this course removed from the Core curriculum.

The committee discussed issues related to implementing the Core with the Director of the Core and provided input on decisions to be made, notably, a change in the Component Area Option for Foundational Component Area courses (FCA). The committee also provided input regarding conducting communal assessments of student work. Of particular concern was the difficulties associated with selecting appropriate signature assignments, gathering authentic student work, and recruiting sufficient numbers of faculty to serve on the communal assessment committee.

The members of the OCCC initiated a subcommittee to examine how well the communal assessment rubrics work for assessing student work from the signature assignments used in courses for which the course developer had opted for individual assessment. Our goal is to develop new sets of rubrics that we could use for different kinds of assignments (versus a one-size-fits-all set of rubrics). The final report of the subcommittee is included in the appendix of this report.

Due to term limits, the current faculty co-chair of the OCCC will end her service. In preparation for this change in leadership, she recruited a continuing member, Thomas Miles, to potentially serve as chair of the committee in the next academic year, pending approval by the sitting committee. During this year, Dr. Miles has been included in discussions of management of the committee and has been briefed on standard procedures and logistics of committee leadership.

**Ongoing/future projects:**

At the final meeting of the committee, the members were briefed on the pending change in membership and leadership. There will be three vacancies on the committee for AY2018-19: Groups I, II and III (Dr. Renka is retiring). The faculty co-chair informed the Faculty Senate of these vacancies in April, 2018.

The continuing members were encouraged to continue their work on review of the rubrics, as well as addressing issues of assessment. Regarding assessment, the Director of the Core asserted that plans were underway for assessing student work from AY2017-18 of the four objectives to be assessed this current academic year: Critical Thinking, Communication, Teamwork and Personal Responsibility. The plan is conduct communal assessment in the fall of 2018.

The Director of the Core also communicated two developments that could potentially affect the committee’s workload in the next academic year: the university’s involvement in “Dual Credit”, and new degree programs offered through The New College in Frisco. Either or both of these programs could result in proposals for courses added to the core curriculum.

# Appendix I

Rubric Sub-committee, Spring 2018

Members:

Rebecca Weber  
Thomas Miles  
Judith Bradetich  
Wendy Watson

The subcommittee on rubrics met several times through the spring semester in order to evaluate the current rubrics that are used for communal assessment. There is some concern that the UNT value rubrics are not appropriate for every course in the core, especially for STEM disciplines. The current rubrics are possibly too ambiguous for instructors across the university to use. Although this was done on purpose, the subcommittee feels that if there were more “user-friendly” assessment rubrics, more departments could be convinced to either use those rubrics, or join in communal assessment.

The purpose of the subcommittee was to see if another set of rubrics could be created that would be more appropriate to STEM disciplines. Several examples were mentioned as a template of sorts, including ones from Stephen F. Austin University and the University of Rhode Island. Work was begun on changing the rubrics, but paused when there was a question about collaborating with Career Connect.

Possible revision of the assessment rubrics will continue in the fall semester.