

Oversight Committee for the Core Curriculum

End of Year Report, AY2016-17

This is a report of the activities of the Oversight Committee for the Core Curriculum during the course of the 2016-17 academic year.

Membership

The Faculty Senate confirmed Dr. Rebecca Weber, from Chemistry, to fill the vacancy for Group VI in February. Dr. Weber, however, has been on medical leave since March. She is expected to return for the 2017/18 academic year.

Current membership roster:

Group I: Kathryn Raign (L&TC) – Term Ends 2018*

Group II: Karen Harker (LIBR) - Term Ends 2018*

Group III: Robert Renka (CSCE) - Term Ends 2018*

Group IV: Steven Forde (PSCI) - Term Ends 2017

Group V: Robert Insley (MGMT) - Term Ends 2019*

Group VI: Judith Braeditich (HDFS) - Term Ends 2019

Group VII: Rebecca Weber (CHEM) - Term Ends 2019 (approved by Faculty Senate in February 2017)

Group VIII: Teresa Cooper (DANC) - Term Ends 2018

Group A-L 1: Lou Pelton (MKTG) - Term Ends 2017

Group A-L 2: Daniel Alemneh (LIBR) - Term Ends 2017

Group A-L 3: Phil Sweany (CSCE) - Term Ends 2018

* Second term

Renewals and vacant appointments for AY2017/18

The following members are up for renewal:

- IV: Steven Forde (PSCI) - declined offer to renew. Will seek nominations for FS October meeting.
- AL1: Lou Pelton (MKTG) - accepted offer to renew; will forward nomination for FS June meeting.
- AL2: Daniel Alemeneh, LIBR - nominated for renewal and approved at FS May 2017 meeting.

The current faculty co-chair, Karen Harker, will continue to serve through the end of the next academic year, AY2017-18. Because this is the final year of her second term, the committee will plan for smooth succession over the next year.

Core Curriculum Reviews

The key function charged to the committee is review of changes to the Core Curriculum, notably requests for courses to be added to the Core, changes to existing Core courses, changes to the assessment of Core courses, and removals from the Core. The committee dispensed with a total of 28 proposals during the academic year of 2016-17. The average turnaround time was 41 calendar days. There were 5 proposals that were made in less than one week. There were 2 proposals that

exceeded the six weeks (excluding breaks) that the committee agreed would be the maximum response time, both of which were eventually approved.

Meetings

The OCCC held 8 meetings in AY2016/17:

- September 2, 2016
- October 7, 2016
- November 4, 2016
- December 2, 2016
- *January (no meeting)*
- February 3, 2017
- March 3, 2017*
- April 7, 2017*
- May 5, 2017*

* Quorum not met

Attendance and Participation

The OCCC is a working committee, with much of the work being conducted online and outside of meetings. The committee members are requested to review proposals to new courses for or changes to courses in the core curriculum, recording their votes in the online curriculum system, Curriculog.

Like many faculty committees, meeting attendance is often the most difficult task. With all seats filled on the committee, the benchmark for a quorum was raised to 6 attendees, a standard that was not met for the last three meetings. Because so much of our work is conducted online, between email discussion, email votes, and votes on the curriculum system, Curriculog, this standard is becoming of lesser importance.

Because of these issues, we are including reviews in report of attendance and participation.

Rep. Group	Name	Attended	Missed	# Reviews*	Notes
Admin	Jeanne Tunks	6	2	N/A	Admin is non-voting member.
AL1	Lou Pelton	2	6	16	On faculty development leave for AY2017. Participated in course reviews & email discussions.
AL2	Daniel Alemneh	8	0	19	
AL3	Phil Sweany	2	6	5	
I	Kathryn Raign	4	4	10	
II	Karen Harker	8	0	20	
III	Robert Renka	8	0	20	
IV	Steven Forde	1	7	20	
V	Robert Insley	2	6	7	
VI	Judith Bradetich	8	0	13	
VII	Rebecca Weber	0	0	N/A	Approved by FS in February 2017; Is officially on medical leave through end of AY2017.
VIII	Teresa Cooper	4	4	13	
Average		4.42	2.92	14.3	

* Data from only 20 of the 28 proposals were available from Curriculog.

Objectives and Outcomes

The following objectives were agreed upon by the committee at the October 2016 meeting. Also included here are the outcomes of these objectives for the year.

- Lead the campus-wide discussion on the potential revision of UNT's Component Area Option requirement.
 - Six meetings were held at varying locations on the campus.
 - An online forum was made available to collect anonymous responses.
 - Emails sent directly to the Director of the Core were posted to the online forum
 - The Director of the Core compiled all responses and made a recommendation to the OCCC based solely on the content of the messages received and comments made. This recommendation was to apply all courses in the Core Curriculum to both Component Area Options.
 - This recommendation was approved by the OCCC by email vote (5-2, 3 abstained), and forwarded to UUC.

- UUCC discussed this recommendation and approved it by voice vote at the April meeting.
 - Director of the Core submitted this change to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in May 2017.
- Implement communal assessments for fall and spring semesters.
 - Two sets of communal assessment sessions were held in the Fall and the Spring semesters.
 - Evaluated signature assignments for both sessions for their appropriateness for inclusion in each assessment.
 - The critical thinking objective was assessed in the fall.
 - The teamwork and empirical and quantitative skills objectives were assessed in the spring.
- Research the impact of the 2016 Summer Signature Assignment Institute on the student outcomes on Teamwork signature assignments.
 - One member of the OCCC worked with the Director of the Core to develop a plan to analyze data from participants in the 2016 institute.
 - Unfortunately, few participants carried through on the agreed-upon work, so there was no data to be collected or analyzed.
- Develop and host the 2017 Texas Statewide Summer Signature Assignment Institute which will focus on the Social Responsibility objective.
 - Two members of the OCCC worked with the Director of the Core to develop the resources and apply for IRB approval of the assessment instruments for both signature assignment institutes.
 - The statewide institute will be held in June, 2017.