

CAS Core Revision Committee Report

April 28, 2017
Shannon Harding, Chair
Beth Boquet, Johanna Garvey,
& Dennis Keenan

REVIEW OF CHARGE

January 27, 2017 CAS meeting:

The faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences directs the Arts and Sciences Planning Committee to conduct an election of a four-person committee, drawn from the full-time faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences, to bring to completion the proposed revision of the Core Curriculum as it stood in the spring of 2016 (while incorporating the work accomplished by faculty in the summer of 2016 on the writing across the curriculum component, the interdisciplinary component, and the social justice component), and shepherd this proposal through the process of: (1) approval by the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences, (2) approval by the appropriate Faculty Handbook committees, and (3) approval by the General Faculty. The committee will consist of one former member of the Fairfield 2020 Core Curriculum Task Force, and one former member of each of the Summer 2016 Working Groups (the Writing Across the Curriculum Component, the Interdisciplinary Component, and the Social Justice Component). The four-person committee will aim to bring a proposal to the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences for a vote.

BACKGROUND

- Fairfield 2020 Core Revision Task Force
- April 2016: Core Proposal passed UCC
- Summer Working Groups
 - Multicultural Competency: to move USD and WD courses into the core
 - Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC)
 - Interdisciplinary Experience
- Fall Working Groups
 - Distribution of courses across the Tiers
 - Sample student schedules
- December 2016: Revised Core Proposal passed UCC
- December 2016 / January 2017: Changes shared with the faculty

MAJOR ISSUES

1. Distribution of courses within the Tiers
 - Comparing Spring 2016 with December 2016
2. Governance and the approval of courses offered in Tier 2 based on learning outcomes
3. Integration of the summer work
 - Social Justice
 - Writing Across the Curriculum
 - Interdisciplinary Experience
4. Proposed change to the language requirement for the SOE

PROCESS

- Weekly meetings: 8 full working meetings
- Met with some stakeholders
 - SOE and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures (DMLL)
 - Nancy Dallavalle, VP, Office of Mission and Identity
 - Melissa Quan, Director, Office of Service Learning
- Gathered information
 - Core proposal (November 28th)
 - Materials provided by stake holders
 - Update to the Faculty on April 7th
 - Small informational meetings with SON and DSOB

ISSUE #1: DISTRIBUTION

CORE PROPOSAL: APRIL 2016

TIER ONE: ORIENTATION (8 courses)

- 1 English writing course
- 1 Religious Studies course*
- 1 Philosophy course*
- 1 History course*
- 1 Mathematics course
- 1 Arts and Literature course
- 2 Foreign Language courses, at any level

*Writing Across the Curriculum component in these three courses

ISSUE #1: DISTRIBUTION

CORE PROPOSAL: APRIL 2016

TIER TWO: EXPLORATION & INTEGRATION (7 courses)

Humanities: 3 courses in 4 different areas (PH; RS; HI; **Arts & Lit**)

Natural Sciences and Mathematics: 2 courses in 2 different depts.
(MA; BI; PS; CH)

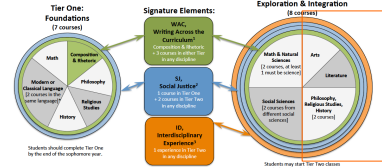
Social and Behavioral Sciences: 2 courses in 2 different departments
(SO & AY; EC; PO; PY; CO)

Integration: 1 pair of cluster courses, or 1 team-taught or individually taught interdisciplinary course

ISSUE #1: DISTRIBUTION

CORE PROPOSAL: DECEMBER 2016

1. Proposed University Core



Changes:

- o New graphic
- o 7 courses in Tier 1 and 8 Courses in Tier 2
- o Arts & Literature removed as a "choice" in Tier 1
- o Moved into Tier 2 as required separate elements
- o PH, RS, HI become "choose 2 out of 3"

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Major Issue #1: The distribution of courses into tiers: comparing the Core Proposal from April 2016 with December 2016.

• **Recommendation 1:**

The committee endorses the course distribution from the December Core proposal. For simplicity, we recommend returning to the original listing of courses (as "orientation" and "exploration") and moving away from potentially confusing graphics.

CORE PROPOSAL 2017

ORIENTATION Components

- 1 Composition and Rhetoric course
- 1 Religious Studies course
- 1 Philosophy course
- 1 History course
- 1 Math course
- 2 courses in the same Language, at any level

CORE PROPOSAL 2017

EXPLORATION Components

- **Humanities**
 - 2 courses* in Religious Studies/Philosophy/History
 - 2 courses* in Visual and Performing Arts/Literature
- **Natural Sciences and Mathematics**
 - 2 courses* in Math/Biology/Physics/Chemistry
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences**
 - 2 courses* in Sociology & Anthropology/Psychology/Economics /Politics/Communication

*indicates that courses should be taken in two different departments.

ISSUE #2: GOVERNANCE

Currently, Core courses are determined by Core Reviewing Units

CORE PROPOSAL: DECEMBER 2016

Course approval for the Core determined by learning outcomes:

- "Tier Two features 8 courses, defined by learning outcomes. For example, a course in Art History or Music History might count as a History course." (p.3 and p.10)
- "Approval of courses for curricular areas of Tier Two follow learning outcomes developed by subcommittees from those curricular areas" (p.15)

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Currently, Core courses are determined by Core Reviewing Units

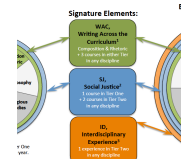
Major Issue #2: Governance and the approval of courses offered in the Core (Tier 2) based on learning outcomes.

- **Recommendation 2:**
 - (a) To remove language in the Core proposal about courses meeting learning objectives to be offered in a particular area and
 - (b) To direct the UCC to form a subcommittee to review appropriate disciplinary based processes for the approval of core courses, especially an appeals process.

ISSUE #3: SUMMER WORK

CORE PROPOSAL: DECEMBER 2016

Proposed University Core



- WAC: Composition & Rhetoric + 3 Courses
- Social Justice: 1SJ1 at Tier 1; 2SJ2 at Tier 2; at least one SJ2A designation
- ID: 1 cluster, team-taught, or individually taught interdisciplinary course

Writing Across the Curriculum Details:

- All students must take the two Composition and Rhetoric courses in their first year.
- All students must take three additional WAC courses.

Social Justice Details:

- All students must take three SJ courses:
 - One SJ course in Tier One, AND
 - Two SJ courses in Tier Two, at least one of which must have SJ2A designation.
- Students must complete the SJ2 courses before they do any SJ1 courses.

Interdisciplinary Experience Details:

- This interdisciplinary experience can happen in one of three ways:
 - 1 team-taught course (ID)
 - 1 set of cluster courses in two different disciplines, one of which is a Core Curriculum Area (ID)
 - 1 interdisciplinary course in a Core Curriculum Area taught by two faculty members.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Major Issue #3: The integration of summer work, including the signature elements of Social Justice, Writing Across the Curriculum, and the Interdisciplinary experience.

- **Recommendation 3:**
 - (a) To rename the signature elements “MAGIS components” to increase visibility of our Catholic and Jesuit mission; and
 - (b) To endorse the MAGIS components as a central feature of the revised Core.

CORE PROPOSAL 2017

MAGIS Components

- Interdisciplinary Seminar (1 interdisciplinary experience)
- Social Justice (3 courses: Orientation to SJ + at least one course that considers race, class, and gender)
- Writing Across the Core* (3 courses)

*Changed the name.

ISSUE #4: SOE and Language

CORE PROPOSAL: DECEMBER 2016

- * Engineering students take:
- 2 semesters of Computer Programming and
 - Study a non-English-speaking culture in at least 2 of their Core classes.

SOE ISSUE:

- No / limited language requirements at comparable engineering programs
- Recruitment
- Accreditation
- No current language requirement

REVIEWED

- Correspondence and other materials from SOE and DMLL

ISSUE #4: SOE and Language

Possible options:

- No language requirement for the SOE.
- Placement (place out) testing for the SOE or everyone.
- Allowing Computer Programming courses to count in the block of language courses for all students.
- Keeping the core requirement the same for all schools (2 Language courses), and allowing all students to have a 2-course exemption of their choice from the core.
- Keeping the core requirement the same for all schools (2 Language courses).

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Major Issue #4:

Proposed change to the language requirement for the SOE

- **Recommendation 4a:** To expand the "Language" category in the Core Requirement and to allow Computer programming courses to fulfill the language requirement. This option would be available to all students.
- **Recommendation 4b:** To allow all students to place out of the language requirement.
- **Recommendation 4c:** To require a 2-course sequence in Modern/Classical Languages and to give all students a 2-course exemption of their choice from the core.

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS

- Listen to the opinions of faculty from CAS on core revision
- Especially #4
- Propose: to bring specific motions to this body at the first Fall meeting
- Distributed in advance