

**General Education Curriculum Committee
Meeting of March 2, 2018, 2:30**

Minutes

Attending: Barrow, Baumgartner, Beattie, Boehm, Carden (staff), Dietrich, Desoky, Faircloth, French, Futrell, Howarth, Land, Libe, McClellan, K. Partin, W. Partin, Patton, Perry, Roebuck, Seif, Shanahan, Singleton, Willey

Absent: Bertacco, Depp, Fernandez, Fuller, Pack, Riedel, Wiggins-Romesburg

Introduction of New Member

Professor Roebuck was welcomed as the representative for the A&S Curriculum Committee, replacing Ross during the remaining portion of the academic year.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of December 8, 2017, were approved.

Update on CD Petitions

Shanahan reported that four CD petitions were approved in February. Twice as many late petitions were reviewed this year as compared to last year. The issue of late petitions will be addressed.

Update on Assessment

Shanahan reported that training for the OC assessment went well. Participants commented that the AAC&U Value rubric for the sample speech was user friendly and offered good reliability. The Spring 2018 Mathematics assessment will conclude the final assessment cycle under the current General Education Program.

Update on Website

Shanahan welcomed feedback on the revised website and will let the GECC know when it goes live for Cardinal Core. Some sections will remain the same until the end of the spring semester. In the meantime, the crosswalk of old requirements to new requirements and the FAQs will guide students and advisors.

Cardinal Core Transition and Policy Discussion

Willey announced that the Provost has proposed a policy to the deans that the transition to Cardinal Core be uniform for all students. That is, beginning in summer 2018, all students will be required to meet the requirements of the Cardinal Core program. Students who matriculated to the university before summer 2018 would consult with their advisors about the transition from the previous general education program to Cardinal Core. If the deans respond affirmatively, the policy will be published in the catalog and on the web site. Willey has been talking with advisors and transfer services, moving forward as if the proposal will pass.

Regarding the re-thinking of procedures for evaluating QR courses in relation to this transition, Willey explained that under the new Cardinal Core there are courses outside of the Mathematics

Department, such as CJ 326 and PSYC 205, that were approved for QR credit. The GECC was asked to grant permission to Transfer Services to evaluate equivalences for QR courses, and the steps in the process were explained by W. Partin. Discussion included concerns raised by Seif. *ACTION: In line with past practices, a motion was made to extend authority to the Office of Transfer Services to evaluate QR courses for Cardinal Core credit, working with respective departments and consulting them as needed. All members except Seif, who abstained during the vote, were in favor of this motion.

Discussion about AP scores and diversity credit resulted in a decision not to give diversity credit automatically since the AP courses may not demonstrate the same commitment to diversity as the university standard. One specific course that commonly transfers in is American History. If a transfer course does not satisfy the D1 or D2 criteria, SBH credit still could be given. W. Partin explained that there are five exams that need to be reviewed for history courses. Boehm recommended that the syllabus be included. Willey reported that the English Department changed the way in which they award credit for AP courses several years ago. In response to Futrell's proposal that the GECC, rather than the History Department, review these courses to determine if it meets a D1 or D2 requirement, a subcommittee was formed to work with Partin. Volunteers include Futrell, Singleton, Willey, and Beattie.

Variances

Under the new Cardinal Core policy, a provision for variances was discussed and an on-line variance request form was designed, similar to what is used for the graduate program. The variance would be reviewed by the academic advisor, Faculty Fellow for Undergraduate Affairs and the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs after its initiation by the student. Libe voiced concern based on feedback from advisors, about the student initiating the request, rather than the student's advisor. Advisors sometimes have to be proactive rather than waiting on a student to address an issue. Boehm gave reasons why she and the Provost want to see the student taking action, stating their rationale for the request in their own words. The student would not need to sign the form, as the reviewers would, but would provide necessary information in the student section of the form. Variances are considered only in situations in which a student is caught in a dilemma due to the implementation of Cardinal Core requirements for all students.

Although most students are not being disadvantaged, Willey reported on two blanket variances that have been discussed:

- 1) Nursing – losing a diversity credit
- 2) Education – 60 students now in MATH 151 are affected

Perry commented that students who had planned to take SW 304 (previously designated for diversity credit) may be affected by the change. Boehm reported that they are trying to make it as simple for students as possible, removing roadblocks. For example, the Graduate School has blanket variances for Social Work. Individual variance requests may be necessary if a student was badly advised or not badly advised but did it anyway. Willey does not envision the variance requests lasting more than one year if advisors are guiding students in the right direction. Also, as stated in the crosswalk, CD1 and CD2 courses will automatically fulfill the D1 and D2 requirements for Cardinal Core. Students who took two CD1 courses (6 hrs.) under the previous General Education Program will not be required to take additional diversity courses.

Libe asked about the timeframe for processing variances to which Boehm responded that approvals take no more than one week unless more information or feedback is required.

Spring 2018 Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for April 27 at 2:30 in the SRB, room 139. There may not be a need for a May meeting.

Prepared by Kathy Carden