

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 7, 2016, MEETING OF THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Location: Gardiner Hall 230

Present: Matt Church, William Cunningham, Christine Ehrick, Paul Himes, Changbing Hu, Dwain Pruitt, Edna Ross

Absent: Elaine Wise

Guests: Shelby Bosi, Julia Dietrich, Kimberly Kempf-Leonard

The meeting was convened at 2:02 PM.

The committee approved the minutes of the September 20, 2016, meeting as written.

OLD BUSINESS:

17-16F: The Career Development Center and A&S Advising mutually agreed to withdraw the proposed revision to GEN 202, which will retain its current description and focus. A new course featuring the content sought by the CDC will be proposed at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS:

New business began with discussion of the penultimate item on the agenda.

23-16F: Dean Kimberly Kempf-Leonard and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education Julia Dietrich presented the draft proposal of the Cardinal Core Program (CCP), the new general education curriculum. Dean Leonard offered some background and context on the Cardinal Core Program's development. The CCP proposes to incorporate innovations in general education practiced at other campus and, perhaps most importantly, to "change the climate and culture of general education" by insuring that students, faculty, and advisors understand and embrace the CCP's philosophy and guiding principles. Dr. Dietrich added that, while the CCP is "not startlingly different" in requirement distribution from the current general education curriculum, it does represent a "seismic change" in focus from content mastery to skills mastery:

Students will develop skills and acquire knowledge in the following content areas: Arts and Humanities, Diversity in the United States and Globally, Historical Perspectives, Oral Communication, Quantitative Reasoning, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Written Communication (2).

Quoting further from the proposal:

The Cardinal Core Program requires a minimum of 31 credit hours from approved course categories as outlined in the table below. Students must complete a minimum of 9 hours in the Skills courses, a minimum of 19 hours in the Disciplinary Perspectives courses, 6 hours in Diversity courses, and are allotted one elective from any of the general education courses. Academic advisors can guide students in the selection of courses.

		Minimum Number of Credit Hours
Skills	Written Communication (WC)	3
	Oral Communication (OC)	3
	Quantitative Reasoning (QR)	3
Disciplinary Perspectives	Arts & Humanities (AH)	6
	Social & Behavioral Sciences (SB)	6 (3 hrs. must be in Historical Perspective)
	Natural Sciences (NS)	7 (including 1 hr. lab)
Diversity	<i>US Diversity (D1)</i>	*3
	<i>Global Diversity (D2)</i>	*3
Cardinal Core Elective	<i>Select from any approved General Education Course</i>	3
TOTAL:		31

***Diversity**

The Diversity requirements will be met by taking courses in other Cardinal Core categories that also carry the D1 or D2 designation. This requirement, therefore, does not add hours to the total Cardinal Core Program.

Cardinal Core Elective

3 hrs. in a Cardinal Core course of the student's choosing from any approved Cardinal Core course in either the Skills or Disciplinary Perspectives categories.

The current general education program requires 6 hours in Written Communication, so the CCP proposes that ENGL 101 no longer be required. When questioned about this, Dr. Dietrich expressed that the CCP would require that each approved general education reinforce the skills mastery areas that it can. An approved Biology course, for example, could have a written and oral communication component. Such refinements will be left to the departments to propose.

Dr. Leonard and Dr. Dietrich both mentioned that the CCP envisions offering enough options that sizes of general education courses could be reduced if departments wish to do so. Those departments that wish to retain large lecture sections would be able to do so, too.

During its general discussion of the proposal, the committee raised a number of concerns:

- **Room availability:** Reducing enrollment caps is pedagogically desirable in many cases, but scheduling more sections and/or recitation sections may prove difficult.
- **Historical Perspectives requirement:** Dr. Ehrick voiced concerns about the appropriateness of language used to describe the Historical Perspective requirement. As written, the requirement defines Historical Perspectives courses as “[c]ourses addressing this requirement cover a broad body of historical knowledge and compare Western and non-Western cultures.” Dr. Ehrick noted that this language is reflective of an older instructional approach and that the insistence on

comparing western and non-western cultures does not reflect how the Department of History teaches its current general education courses. After discussion of this point, the committee recommended that language referring to such comparisons be stricken and replaced with language indicating that these courses will “consider a range of global cultures.” In its discussions of this requirement, the committee sought clarification about whether courses outside of the Department of History would be approved for Historical Perspectives. Dean Leonard and Dr. Dietrich confirmed that it will be open to courses from other departments. The committee also discussed whether survey courses in American history would be appropriate general education options under the CCP.

- **Diversity requirement:** The CCP proposes that students take 6 hours in cultural diversity coursework, 3 hours in US diversity and 3 hours in global diversity. Part of this requirement’s proposed language reads as follows: “Courses in US Diversity (D1) will broaden students’ understanding of the experiences of individuals and groups in the United States who, because of race and gender, have been marginalized by various historical, cultural and social processes.” Dr. Pruitt noted that this language for US Diversity seemed to limit diversity in the American experience to race and gender, which excludes a number of perspectives and avenues to explore lived experiences in the United States acknowledged elsewhere in the proposal. The committee recommended that “because of race and gender” be stricken to allow for a more expansive definition of diversity in the American context.
- **Arts and Humanities requirement:** Matt Church asked if students would be able to take, say, 6 hours in the humanities to satisfy the six-hour requirement instead of being required to take 3 hours in each discipline. The proposal will allow students to take all of their hours in this requirement in the same division if they so choose.
- **Tracking student progress:** The committee briefly discussed how advisors might be able to develop means of tracking to guarantee that students are on track to complete the CCP within its prescribed guidelines.

19-16F: The committee **APPROVED** Criminal Justice’s request to change the title of CJ 602 to “Criminal Justice History” from “History of Police in the United States.”

20-16F: The committee **APPROVED** Criminal Justice’s request to change the title of CJ 605 to “Police and Society” from “Police in Our Political and Social Systems.”

21-16F: The committee **APPROVED** the designation of HIST 547 as a CUE course. During its discussion of this item, the committee again noted that specific language about CUE content and expectations is needed. Dr. Ross noted that Drs. Gilchrist and Goldstein have indicated that they will provide language to be incorporated into syllabi.

22-16F: The committee **APPROVED** the creation of ENGL 677, “Graduate Writing in the Disciplines.”

23-16F: The committee **DEFERRED** on the creation of ENGL 605 pending the submission of a grading scale for inclusion in the submitted syllabus.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Assistant Dean for Curriculum and Governance
Prepared September 23, 2016

College of Arts and Sciences
Curriculum Committee
October 7, 2016
230 Gardiner

AGENDA

- 1) Approval of Minutes of September 30, 2016, Meeting
- 2) Old Business
 - 17-16F: Proposed Changes to GEN 202 withdrawn
- 3) New Business (available on the Curriculum Committee's Sharepoint site)
 - 19-16F: Change to CJ 602 (title)
 - 20-16F: Change to CJ 605 (title)
 - 21-16F: Change to HIST 547 (title, CUE designation)
 - 22-16F: Addition of ENGL 677, "Graduate Writing in the Disciplines"
 - 23-16F: Discussion of Cardinal Core Program, Proposed General Education Revision
 - 24-16F: Addition of ENGL 605, "Teaching Literature"