**MCC Committee Agenda**

**September 20, 2021**

**11:00 AM – 12:30 PM**

In attendance: Conor Kelly, Susan Breakwell, Cedric Burrows, Melisa Gibson, Stephen Hudson-Mairet, Khadijah Makky, Doug Smith, Jessica Wolfendale, Amelia Zurcher, and Gary Klump.

1. Review of May minutes for Approval
   1. Approved
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Updates
   1. NEH Grant
      1. Last week a humanities connections implementations program grant was submitted, following up on the planning grant which funded a summer institute for faculty for the Foundations Tier. This grant focusses on the Discovery Tier and helping the courses connect to themes. Groups, based on the themes, will be made up of Humanities theme leader and one person from each of the other two disciples. The goal is to produced guiding questions that connect courses to themes and therefore to other courses in the same theme. The hope is to launch it next fall and continue for the next three years.
   2. Call for Proposals
      1. The call for course proposals for WRIT, Disco, and ESSV2 went out.
      2. Any bottlenecks that committee is aware of?
         1. Health sciences, among other programs, seems to gravitate toward a few themes. In other colleges, like Comm, students have broader distribution among the themes.
         2. Some Discovery Tier courses are filled with majors, so others can’t get in.
         3. Students sometimes select a theme based on AP credits earned, so distributing common classes for which students have AP credits among the themes would help spread students out.
4. Items for Discussion and Input
   1. Program Review
      1. Program review begins this year. Suggestions for strategic initiatives or issues?
         1. Staffing the MOI & MCC resourcing in general are issues.
         2. The number of themes, along with the distribution of students among the themes, is a problem. (See below.) Questions were raised about how well classes connect to the themes and fulfill the learning outcomes. (See grant proposal above.)
         3. Are students and staff satisfied with the MOI?
         4. Is ESSV1/2 meeting its outcomes? Questions were raised about the necessity of ESSV2 for all students.
   2. Discovery Themes
      1. Some themes are more popular than others. Do we phase out any themes?
         1. Concerns were raised about simply eliminating themes. Less popular themes should be collapsed into more popular, because themes aren’t always very distinct. This will also honor the time and effort of faculty who got courses into the Disco Tier.
         2. Collapsing too many themes may create too much overlap between major-required courses and the Disco Tier. Concern was raised that the MCC would become an extension of the major, thus defeating its purpose. The question was asked: Can we make other themes more enticing by spreading courses from majors/colleges across the themes? Many students don’t want to take extra math or science classes.
5. Assessment Overview and Working Time
   1. Students are asked to provide a portfolio of three artifacts that speak to a specific outcome.
   2. Tried to tie it to a class (CORE 4929). Student response rate was lower when the portfolio was not tied to a class.
   3. Each committee member evaluated responses according to the rubric.