

**Core Curriculum Review Committee**  
**Wednesday, April 20, 2005 3-5 PM AMU 163**  
**Approved Minutes**

Members Present: Drs. Block, Hathaway, Eckman, Hay, Snow, Vater, Laatsch, Deahl, Ramey, Ropella, Rev. Laurance, SJ; Dr. Bloom.

Members Excused: Drs. Ksobiech, Lueger, Moyer, Steinmetz, Quade; Mr. Lowrey.

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 P.M.

1. Dr. Deahl offered the opening prayer.
2. Dr. Snow turned to approval of the minutes of 4.6.05. Drs. Block and Hathaway asked that their names be included in the list of those present. Dr. Hay moved to approve the minutes as amended; Fr. Laurance seconded. The minutes were approved by all present.
3. Dr. Snow updated the Committee on focus group input on the suggested revisions to Core learning outcomes. At the time of the meeting, no input had been received on Histories of Cultures, Rhetoric, or Science and Nature outcomes. Dr. Hay reported that the History Department is happy with the outcomes. Dr. Snow then reported that the Mathematical Reasoning outcomes had been revised slightly, then approved by the Executive Committee of the Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science. Dr. Snow had also heard from focus group members that the Psychology Department and the College of Professional Studies are satisfied with the outcomes. She further reported that e-mail exchanges had clarified the questions the CCRC had posed to the Theology focus group about their outcomes. The issues had centered on assessment and have been adequately addressed. Only one comment – supportive – has so far been received on Human Nature and Ethics outcomes. Though there has been commentary on Literature/Performing Arts outcomes, Dr. Snow reported that the focus groups from Literature and Performing Arts have decided to reconvene together with Dr. Snow and Dr. Bloom at a time after graduation to continue the conversation in a face to face format. Dr. Snow distributed focus group input on the Individual and Social Behavior and Diverse Cultures outcomes and asked the CCRC to make revisions to selected outcomes based on the commentary. In light of this input, the CCRC proposed to omit one of the Individual and Social Behavior outcomes and to reword all three Diverse Cultures outcomes. Dr. Snow will send the revisions back to the focus groups for one more round of input. In response to a question about the extent of the present revisions to the Core, Dr. Bloom informed the group that she had just met with the Provost and could state that neither the nine knowledge areas nor the 36 credit hour requirement would be changed before at least one or two groups of students had gone through four years of the Core and been assessed.

4. Dr. Snow distributed copies of the revised Core course proposal template and a copy of a form that Dr. Bloom had distributed to CCRC members at a previous meeting. She opened the floor for discussion of revisions of the form and of the course approval process. After some discussion, members decided they like Dr. Bloom's form better than the shortened version of the original course proposal template. They suggested changing the format of Dr. Bloom's form, as well as rewording the text of the form to incorporate familiar language. In addition, they suggested that administrative questions be included somewhere on the form. Drs. Bloom and Snow offered to prepare a mock-up for the Committee to consider at its next meeting. Possible changes in the core course approval process were also discussed. The possibility of empowering the Core Director to approve special topics courses in Diverse Cultures was suggested. Dr. Snow remarked that this represents a change in the Committee's thinking on this topic. She noted that if this process were to be followed in the case of Diverse Cultures, surely faculty teaching similar courses in other knowledge areas could legitimately expect the same treatment.
5. The final half hour of the meeting was, at Dr. Hay's request, devoted to discussion of the proposed changes in Committee membership that had been brought before the Academic Senate at its meeting on April 18, 2005. Dr. Snow had forwarded an e-mail from Dr. Hay on this issue to CCRC members in preparation for the discussion. Dr. Hay did not object to the description of the Committee's responsibilities that had been presented at the Academic Senate. However, she found the proposed Committee membership of three Arts and Sciences members and seven members from other Colleges insufficient to ensure the expertise in the knowledge areas needed to adequately review proposed courses. After some deliberation, Dr. Hathaway offered to draft a proposal from the CCRC to be forwarded by Dr. Hay to the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate. The proposal would combine the need to ensure that CCRC members have sufficient expertise in the knowledge areas with the need to have all undergraduate colleges represented on the Committee. Procedures for nominating faculty to the CCRC were also discussed.
6. Dr. Bloom reminded the CCRC that Dr. Barbara Walvoord will be conducting an assessment workshop on campus from May 17-18. The CCRC is invited to a working lunch with Dr. Walvoord on May 18.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy E. Snow, Ph.D.  
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Director of Core Curriculum

