

Minutes
University of Central Arkansas UCA Core Council
Tuesday, September 4th, 2018
1:40 p.m. – Library Conference Room, LIB 206

- I. Call to Order
- II. Assessment update: J. Held updates the Council on various issues
 - a. Diversity scoring and report
 - a. Report will be ready within a month and then the assessment sub-committee can begin its review. Drs. Held and Combs will offer campus wide forums to discuss the report as they did last year.
 - b. Communication survey and collection
 - a. The surveys will be coming out in a day or two. Effective Communication will be the most difficult area to assess due to the need to collect recordings of oral presentations and the unique nature of the collaboration rubric. Dr. Held emphasized that this will stress the system more so than previous years, but that part of assessment is also assessing the process itself. We will learn and adapt.
 - c. LD Core Lock Down and Audit/Review
 - a. Over the summer Dr. Held collected syllabi from courses offered in the LD Core Responsible Living category. The assessment sub-committee will begin its review by looking at these and ensuring that our course offerings exemplify high standards in terms of addressing UCA Core outcomes. Dr. Held reiterates that the process is about high standards and student learning and so this is an opportunity to have conversations with those that offer Core courses to ensure our students are getting the best we have to offer.
 - d. UD Core audit/review
 - a. Dr. Held continues to review the chair questionnaires and have conversations where necessary in terms of offering an accessible and valuable UD Core experience in all major programs.
- III. Assessment Sub-Committee
 - a. Charge and Staff
 - a. The Committee was staffed. An additional student rep was added at the recommendation of SGA rep Sophie Barnes. The Core Council recognized the merit of having a student present, and the Alpha Chi rep, Ms. Marley Cash-Powell was appointed.

Assessment sub-committee 2018-19

Membership:

Bernard Chen (CNSM)

Zach Smith (CLA)

Donna Wake (CoE)

Laura Bowles (CFAC)

Laura Hall (CHBS)

Stephanie Watson (CoB)
Ellen Hostetter (Honors)
Marley Cash-Powell (Student rep/Alpha Chi)
Director of Assessment, Brandon Combs (ex officio)
Jacob Held (Chair)

Charge: To review Core assessment data, provide a cogent interpretation of the data to the Core Council, develop an improvement team and plan as per the Core Assessment plan, and implement improvements. The chair of the sub-committee will be responsible for all meetings of the sub-committee and for providing a monthly report to the Core Council.

1. Review Core assessment data on "Diversity."
2. Oversee implementation of "Responsible Living" improvement measures.
3. Oversee/Implement the audit/review process for the Lower Division "Responsible Living" category.

IV. Curriculum Committee

a. Charge and Staff

a. The committee was staffed:

Curriculum sub-committee 2018-19

Membership:

Matthew Connolly (CNSM)
Amy Thomapson (CoE)
Carey Clark (CFAC)
Steven Tucker (CHBS)
Mike Ellis (CoB)
Ron Novy (UC)
Wendy Lucas (Chair)

Charge: To review applications to add or remove courses to the UCA Core (Lower and Upper Division) and bring a recommendation to the Core Council, following the guidelines as articulated in the UCA Core Handbook. The chair of the sub-committee will be responsible for organizing sub-committee meetings and providing timely recommendations to the Core Council.

V. FYS Sub-Committee

a. Charge and Staff

a. After a brief update wherein Dr. Held noted that Institutional Research had accumulated the requested data, and he was meeting with them shortly to receive a brief on how to interpret/understand that data, the committee was staffed.

FYS sub-committee 2018-19

Membership:

Jacob Held, Chair
Ron Novy (UC)
Sophie Barnes (SGA)
Steve Nelson (CoB)
Jennifer Parrack? (CLA)
Zach Smith (CLA)
Stephen O'Connell (CNSM)

Charge: To reevaluate FYS courses at UCA and determine if UCA should continue to require FYS Courses of first year students and if so how ought these courses be designed and delivered. Points to be addressed/resolved over AY 18-19:

- 1: Review data from institutional research and:
 - a. Make the effective case for the continuation of the FYS program or
 - b. Determine FYS courses are of limited to no value.
 - c. If A see 2. If B, stop: recommend discontinuation of FYS program
- 2: Construct/Compile outcomes for FYS courses
- 3: Determine structure of FYS courses
- 4: Determine Delivery of FYS courses including:
 - a. Distribution: Where will the courses be delivered and by whom?
 - b. Training: What training/certification should FYS instructors have?
- 5: Make recommendation to Core Council by Spring 2019 with fully articulated plan regarding FYS redesign.

- VI. Proposals distributed
 - a. Action Items
 - a. Philosophy and Religion packet (UD Core proposals: PHIL 3331; RELG 3342; RELG 3332 (UD Core and Level Change); RELG 3300 (UD Core and Level Change); RELG 3333)
- VI. Questions and Concerns
- VII. Adjournment: Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 2nd, 2018