

Minutes

UCA Core Council

Tuesday, March 7th, 2023

1:40 pm, College of Business 100 (Zoom option available)

Attendance (a=absent; p= present; ex=excused)

Chairs: Stephanie Watson (p), Wendy Lucas (p), Stephen O’Connell (p), Dee Lance (p), Debbie Dailey (p)

College Representatives: Steve Nelson (p), Tammy Rogers (p), Sandie Nadelson (p), Kathryn Carroll (p), Jen Talbot (p), Sharon Mason (p), Vincent Price (p), Tracie Rushing (p), Ling Zhang (ex), Rachel Cating (p), Ellen Hostetter (p)

Ex-Officio: Kurt Boniecki (p), Rodney Lippard (p), Vicky Summers (p)

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Held calls the meeting to order around 1:40 pm.
- II. Review minutes from Feb 7th meeting
 - a. W. Lucas moves to approve, T. Rogers seconds. No discussion. Unanimously approved, with one abstention.
- III. Curriculum Review Sub-Committee
 - a. Report from the Chair
 - i. Definitions Revisited: HUM, FA
 - ii. HUM definition proposed. S. Watson moves, D. Dailey seconds. Discussion ensues.
 1. The committee definition is discussed alongside a revised version. The Council decides to consider a revised definition:
“The humanities study human experience and endeavors through the exploration, description, and critical analysis of cultural artifacts and documentation. The methods of the humanities are primarily analytical, interpretive, and/or comparative. Analysis may consider the qualities of the artifacts themselves, the context of their creation, their potential impact, and their cultural significance.”
 2. The vote is called. The new definition is accepted unanimously.
 - iii. The definition for Fine Arts, (FA) is addressed. W. Lucas moves to approve, and S. Watson seconds. Discussion: Given that there is no clear consensus, nor a pressing need to resolve the issue presently, the definition is pushed off until our next meeting. Although this would only affect courses in CAHSS, it has a broader impact in terms of student matriculation through the gen ed curriculum. Held raises the specter of dissolving the FA/HUM distinction in the UCA Core, thus bringing our requirement in line with the state requirement: Require 6 hours of FA or HUM, as opposed to the UCA-centric requirement that students take 3 hours of FA and 3 hours of HUM. If the definitions can’t clearly

articulate a difference between FA and HUM, or if they have to be finessed merely to allow “appreciation” courses to retain a privileged position in the UCA Core, does the distinction speak to an academically justified distinction and can we justify the financial burden it places on students? Dissolving the distinction would assist transfer and concurrent students, as well as current ones. Yet, historically, there has been resistance to this idea due to concerns about prospective losses of student credit hour production in select areas. T Rogers aptly notes that a similar issue surrounds our Physical/Life science distinction. This issue will be raised at the April meeting.

- iv. WRTG 2325 addition to LD Core under Critical Inquiry A, and as an HUM course. W. Lucas moves, T. Rogers seconds. Discussion: With the new HUM definition this can be resolved. The motion is approved unanimously.
- v. COMM 1305 Assurance argument
 1. W. Lucas notes that the committee has requested additional information and is awaiting a response.

IV. Curriculum Attachment A, Form revision

- a. J. Held moves, S. Watson seconds. Consider revised language to the form to clarify expectations. Language is revised to that below. Approved unanimously.

“The rubrics and student learning outcomes for the UCA Core are posted on the UCA Core website at <http://uca.edu/core/assessment>. For further information on UCA Core educational standards and expectations please refer the UCA Core Handbook at: <http://uca.edu/core/for-faculty/>.

REQUIREMENTS FOR LOWER-DIVISION: For a lower-division course, a majority of the course content (greater than 50%) must be dedicated to the UCA Core goal under which the course is being proposed. For each UCA Core Goal listed on the previous page, please provide the following:

- A brief explanation of how the indicated course assignments meet the relevant Core outcomes.
- A mapping of the course coverage to the rubric learning outcomes to demonstrate a minimum of 50%. For example, present a course calendar with each week mapped to relevant learning outcomes.
- Complete an assignment alignment table (below) indicating which assignment(s) align to which outcomes as well as what percentage of the total course grade each assignment comprises. An assignment may address more than one outcome or goal. Ideally, one assignment would allow assessment of ALL the learning outcomes on the relevant rubric.

For existing courses, please also attach a full course syllabus.

REQUIREMENTS FOR UPPER-DIVISION: In the case of an upper-division course, at least 20% of the course work must directly align to the student outcomes of the UCA Core goal under which the course is being proposed. For each UCA Core Goal listed on the previous page, please provide the following:

- A brief explanation of how the indicated course assignments meet the relevant Core outcomes.
- Complete an assignment alignment table (below) indicating which assignment(s) align to which outcomes as well as what percentage of the total course grade each assignment comprises (minimum

of 20% in total). An assignment may address more than one outcome or goal. Ideally, one assignment would allow assessment of ALL the learning outcomes on the relevant rubric. For existing courses, please also attach a full course syllabus.”

- V. Assessment sub-committee
 - a. External review discussion: Main points include,
 - i. Reviewers should be invited to meet with: standing committees (assessment and curricular review), the full Council (with or without Dr. Held present), faculty whom teach in the Core, faulty scorers who’ve done Core assessment, students, members of the staff from advising, CETAL or other auxiliary support services, the registrar or transfer services, and Dr. Boniecki
 - ii. Reviewers should be given a set of goals and our plan for the review and asked whom they’d prefer to meet with.
- VI. Adjourn: Next meeting is April 4, 2023