

Minutes

UCA Core Council

Tuesday, December 5th, 2023

1:40 pm, CoB Room 100 (Zoom option available)

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

Chairs: Stephanie Watson (p), Wendy Lucas (p), Stephen O’Connell (p), Kim Eskola (ex), Debbie Dailey (p)

College Representatives: Doug Voss (p), Jacob Bundrick (p), Leigh Snead (p), Kathryn Carroll (a), Jen Talbot (p), Sharon Mason (p), Ron Novy (a), Brandy Walthall (p), Marsha Massey (p), Yaqian He (p), Patricia Smith (a)

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

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Held calls the meeting to order at approximately 1:40 pm.
- II. Consideration of Minutes from November 7th meeting
 - a. Lucas moves to approve the minutes, O’Connell seconds. One minor correction.
Approved unanimously.
- III. Action items before the Council
 - a. Lab science requirement change.
 - i. O’Connell moves to approve. Lucas seconds. No discussion. Approved unanimously.
 - b. Definition of Laboratory Science for the UCA Core Handbook
 - i. Watson moves to accept the definition under consideration. O’Connell seconds.
 - ii. Discussion: Some raise the concern that the definition as presented does not clearly articulate a demand that these courses contain a laboratory component. In addition, the concern is raised about distinguishing these courses from social science courses, which theoretically could have a lab component. Is the language “natural phenomena” clear enough? Are human behaviors or cultures “natural’ phenomena? Perhaps we could explicitly state that they deal with the material universe, as opposed to those sciences, like parapsychology, that deal with immaterial phenomena. Wait...that’s what “natural phenomena” already does. So let’s just operate under a standard interpretive framework wherein words will be taken to mean what a general English language user would understand them to mean in this context, and any further construction of the definition will remain faithful to this textualist reading of the definition. But we’ll add some language about “labs.”
 - iii. Held offers a friendly amendment to revise the language thusly: “Laboratory Sciences (8 hours) – A primary goal of these courses is to develop an appreciation of the basic principles that govern natural phenomena and the role

of experiment and observation in revealing these principles. By means of both classroom instruction and laboratory experiences, students should acquire an understanding of the relationship between hypothesis, experiment, and theory, and develop the skills common to scientific inquiry, including the ability to frame hypotheses and defend conclusions based on the analysis of data. These courses are designed to prepare a student for informed citizenship by illustrating the importance of science and technology to the present and future quality of life and the ethical questions raised by scientific and technological advances.

iv. Held makes a motion to adopt, Talbot seconds. Approved unanimously.

IV. Assessment Sub-Committee

a. Update:

- i. The committee has decided on 2 potential reviewers. They will be invited early next year for visits mid spring of 2025.
- ii. Effective Communication report forthcoming, hopefully by the February meeting.

V. Curriculum Review Sub-Committee

a. Report from chair: No report

b. Items distributed: CRWR 4330, MATH 1395

VI. Adjourn: Next meeting is NEXT YEAR: February 6th, 2024