

Minutes

UCA Core Council

Tuesday, October 7th, 2025

1:40 pm, CoB Room 100

- I. Approval of Minutes from September 2nd 2025
 - a. Watson makes the motion to approve, Demers seconds. No discussion. Approved unanimously with one abstention.
- II. Memorandum from the Provost
 - a. Action: Competency area label change for the “Diversity “ pillar
 - b. Business: Dr. Held distributed a memo from the Provost that , in part, included a request that the UCA Core Council consider and propose a name change for the “Diversity” competency area of the UCA Core. The sub-committee already constituted to consider this area in response to the external review of the UCA Core took up this issue and after deliberation came up with three possible alternative names (Perspectives, Global Learning, Global Perspectives.) The Core Council was presented these names and was given the opportunity to participate in a ranked choice vote to determine the Council’s priority ranking of the items. The result was the following ranking: 1) Global Learning, 2) Perspectives, 3) Global Perspectives. Held will communicate these results to the Council of Deans.
 - c. Context: During the above process there was significant discussion. Provost Hargis made himself available at the beginning of the meeting, before the vote, to answer questions or address concerns. Few were expressed during this time. During the voting period, the Council addressed various issues including the nature of the process, the timing of the process, and concerns regarding shared governance. The general tenor of the conversation seemed to revolve around the issue that the Council was not making this decision as the result of its own deliberative processes but was instead being instructed to make this change in an expedited manner by the Provost. This process appeared to some to violate norms of shared governance or undercut the independence of the Council. Some opted to abstain from voting as a symbolic protest to the situation. Others, recognizing the nature of the options before the Council, noted that this was the Council’s opportunity to weigh in. After a great deal of conversation, Held offered to express the Council’s concerns about this process along with the results of the vote.
- III. FYS exemption from Moratorium (Proposal from Dr. Amy Baldwin)
 - a. Dr. Baldwin requested that the UCA Core Council consider exempting FYS course proposals from the universal moratorium on all new Core course proposals. The rationale expressed had to do with capacity concerns (adequate numbers of sections in the fall.)
 - i. Watson moves to approve the request, O’Connell seconds the motion.
 - ii. In discussion it is recognized that Held will have to reconstitute a curriculum review sub-committee should this pass.

- iii. The motions passes unanimously with one abstention. (Held will reconstitute the curriculum review sub-committee.)

IV. Updates on the Sub-Committees

- a. Held opens up discussion so the subcommittees can catch each other up on where they are in their current deliberations. Some conversation occurs. Discussion seems to focus on course design versus current assessment practices, what rubrics are for, combining rubrics....
- V. Adjourn: Our next meeting will be November 4th.