

CORE CURRICULUM ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Lowman Student Center, Room 306
Meeting of April 9, 2007

Members Present: Muehsam (Chair), Caso, Green, Henderson, Krienke, Lynch, Morris, and Tayebi

Members Absent: Edmonson, Garner, and Hebert

1. Minutes of April 2, 2007 meeting
Action: Motion for approval by Green, second by Caso; passed pending minor modifications.
2. Dr. Green announced that Dr. Leroy Ashorn might have documentation from the 1998 core curriculum review. He will be looking into it.
3. Dr. Muehsam informed the committee that he had spoken with Catherine Parsonneault at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to inquire about a vision for the core curriculum. He was informed that the Assumptions and Defining Characteristics document provided the guidance and purpose for the core curriculum. Dr. Muehsam was informed further that the document addresses the core as a composite, rather than on an individual course basis. Dr. Parsonneault agreed that the document was somewhat disjointed and that the core does not exist within a vacuum. She pointed out that it may not be 100% possible to evaluate the core on a course by course basis. The THECB would have no objection to the core being evaluated after the student's completion of a component area or even at the culmination of their undergraduate course work.
4. The committee discussed the idea of creating a University vision or philosophy for the core curriculum. After much discussion, the committee decided not to pursue this option.
5. The committee discussed the possibility of getting faculty perceptions of student learning as a component of the core evaluation. The committee agreed that this information would be valuable; however, members felt that the embedded assessment should be pursued first.
6. The committee discussed how to proceed with the embedded assessment measures. A sub-committee consisting of Drs. Sharon Lynch and Kandi Tayebi will develop a report proposing a process and timeline for moving forward. The following comments, suggestions, and questions were raised.
 - What is our budget for the embedded assessment? Dr. Muehsam explained that the committee should approximate a range for expenses associated with the proposed assessment measures. The approximated amounts would then be used in the request for approval and funding to Dr. Payne. There was concern about designing an embedded assessment without first having an approximate budget.
 - A suggestion was made to have a representative from each department assist in the design of the embedded measure for their respective courses. Some members felt that the department should be responsible for designing the assessment measure. In both cases, it was agreed that the committee would assist in the final approval and implementation of the embedded assessment.
 - A discussion was held about the necessary sample size for embedded assessment. This issue will be address again at a later date.
 - It was suggested that Dr. Muehsam send an e-mail to departmental chairs to let them know that in the near future, the committee would be contacting faculty members to assist in the design of the embedded assessments.
 - What are other universities using to evaluate the core? Dr. Muehsam informed the committee that many other universities are utilizing standardized exams. Dr. Muehsam will contact Catherine Parsonneault to ascertain what other Texas institutions are doing.

- How should the committee proceed? It was suggested that the committee start with Component Areas I and II.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

7. Next meeting: To be determined.

Somer Smith