

Core Curriculum Oversight Committee

Date: Friday, September 8, 2017

Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Alumni Conference Room, LSC, 14th Floor

Attendance: Ruben Anguiano, Michelle Carpenter, Jeff Franklin, Antwan Jefferson, George Kacenga, Craig Lanning, Christine Martell, Hans Morgenthaler (chair), Brian Schaeffer, Mary Lee Stansifer, Traci Sitzmann, Tammy Stone, Gregory Walker, Mary Baitinger (recorder)

Agenda and Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from May 5, 2017 meeting
These were approved by 4 members of the CCCOC, with 2 abstaining
2. Announcements/Updates
 - Joshua Hill Petition – Hans Morgenthaler approved the student’s class to count for International Perspectives, as this was a straight-forward case and Carol Golemboski (previous chair of the CCOC) had given preliminary approval.
 - Cultural Diversity Syllabi Review – this review will begin in November, after the Undergraduate Experiences Symposium in October.
 - Additional Item – It was requested that if a voting member representing a department is not present at a CCOC meeting, he or she should inform the chair and Mary of their status and forward their electronic vote prior to the actual meeting.
 - Additional Item: Jeff Franklin provided a quick update regarding the CDHE and Pathways courses. Details include:
 - CU Denver accepts all gtPathways (gtP) courses coming into the university; however, out-transferring students could be impacted if CU Denver’s Core courses are not gtP approved. But, this is a relatively small number of students.
 - CU Denver does not want to put all gtP learning outcomes (2+ pages) in front of all their syllabi. But, if this does not happen, our syllabi will not be in compliance with gtP.
 - The CCOC may decide, in the future, to obtain 2 composition and 3 gateway math course approvals with the CDHE.
 - According to the Board of Regents, faculty control the curriculum and not the state (CDHE).
3. Review of student petition for Elisheba Fay
The student requested that courses from a previous bachelor’s degree 11 years ago count towards the CU Denver Core requirements. CCOC members reviewed the petition and indicated that St. Johns College is a rigorous institution that incorporates Great Books as part of their curriculum.

Vote: The petition was approved by the present 9 voting members.

4. Revisit Review of Student Petition for Sean Adams

This petition was discussed in Spring, 2017, and the CCOC voted to deny the request. Since that time and until this meeting, Jeff Franklin has spoken with the parent of the student, who challenged the vote, and has done additional research. Details include:

- Conversations with 2 faculty members in CAM and 2 faculty members in Engineering regarding the type of dual program/focus of study that Sean Adams was pursuing.
- Program set up by Joann Brennan, but she then left for a position in CU South Denver.
- Faculty in the Engineering Department hadn't interacted with faculty/advisors in CAM and did not provide Sean any guidance.
- Brian DeLevie, chair and advisor, believes that Sean received misguidance and therefore should not be held accountable. Brian's focus has been on the certificate requirements only but not the Core itself.
- The certificate program emphasis that Sean was pursuing never went through CAM approval, and it is no longer an official program.

From this background information, the following points were discussed by the CCOC:

- The student should have known that he needed to take a fine arts core class, even though he is a CAM student.
- Sean has had the opportunity to take a core arts course and has not yet done so.
- Given the miscommunication between the two departments about the certificate program and not having a set advisor, this has caused confusion for the student, and he should not be held accountable.
- More information/notes are needed from any advisor in CAM and Engineering that Sean has seen, so that the decision earlier made could possibly be modified.
- CAM classes Sean has already taken do not equal the university list of approved core arts courses, as department courses are not vetted and reviewed for rigor by the CCOC.

Action: Hans Morgenthaler and Jeff Franklin will request additional information, specifically any advising notes from CAM and Engineer, and bring this to the CCOC to discuss this topic further. Sean will also be asked to provide any documentation that he was misadvised.

5. Advice for new CCOC members

Hans and Jeff welcomed new and returning members and provided the following advice for all participants:

- Review, in advance, any syllabi or petitions that will be discussed in CCOC meetings.
- Adhere to deadlines for reviewing any groups of syllabi during syllabi reviews each semester.
- Hone in on the right issues during group discussions and don't get distracted with other issues.
- The CCOC Core Curriculum website is a good resource to utilize.
- The goal of the CCOC is to assist and help professors with their syllabi.
- The CCOC Committee is one of the gold standards of CU Denver committees.