**Mason Core Committee**

February 16, 2017

12:00 – 1:30 p.m., Merten Hall, 3300

**Attending**: Bethany Usher (Chair), Cheryl Druehl, Becky Ericson, Doug Eyman, Shelly Reid, Mara Schoeny, Krista Shires, Peter Winant

**Out**: Dominique Banville, Kelly Dunne, Stephanie Foster, Matt Scherer, Andrea Weeks

Agenda

• Announcements

• Ethics Across the Curriculum/Faculty Senate

• Course Proposals: ARTH 382 and RELI 333

**Announcements**

No new announcements

**Ethics**

James Steele from the Academic Policies Committee was in attendance to address the concerns that were raised at the Faculty Senate regarding the Ethics Across the Curriculum proposal. Dr. Steele pointed out that IT and Ethics seemed to go together and that there were already several approved courses in existence. He voiced his committees concern that the average length of time spent on ethics in an IT course is about 1 week whereas the Mason Core Committee was proposing that classes contain around 5 weeks of ethics related content. He asked what would happen to the existing courses- if they did not disappear would they be required to increase the weight of the ethics portion?

The Mason Core Committee members clarified that departments would have discretion as to whether or not they wanted to offer any new courses to meet the new requirements, and that they could keep electing to use the existing courses if they prefer. They continued to explain that all courses approved for Core classes cycle through an assessment process, and that yes, eventually the courses would have to be looked at from a quality control perspective to see if they meet the new learning outcomes. It was also mentioned that this change would be phased in, and that no course would simply cease to exist. Students in previous catalog years would still need to have access to courses they need to graduate (for example), therefore this would be a gradual change.

Dr. Steele agreed that his questions had been answered and that he felt comfortable reporting this to his committee. He stated that representatives from our committee would be welcome to come back to Faculty Senate and attempt to present the proposal again so that the change would be published in the upcoming catalog. This would allow units (such as IT) who are waiting to submit proposals for classes under these new outcomes to proceed with their submissions.

**Course Proposals**

*ANTH 382 (Urban Anthropology)*- RETURNED/DENIED

This course was received with enthusiasm but two main problems were identified: 1) the course is mapped to the old category learning outcomes and 2) this is an existing course and the catalog description of this course does not indicate that this course has a global focus. Actually, its description gives the impression that this course focuses on local cities and the committee is concerned that this would leave room for another person to teach another section of this course that did not meet the learning outcomes. Therefore, the proposal will be handed back to the department so they can map to the current outcomes. In addition, the committee would like the department to contact relevant parties to discuss the catalog description issue before a revised proposal is considered.

*RELI 333* (Spiritual Autobiography)-APPROVED

This proposal was originally discussed at the previous meeting but tabled due to verification issues. It was verified that this course received approval at the 2/8/17 Undergraduate Council Meeting. The course was approved by the Mason Core Committee.

**Next Meeting:**

March 7th 2017 10:00 am Merten Hall 1202

Items on the agenda: Discussion of Mason Impact, ENCORE, faculty development and funding, suggestions for future committee business, and ideas for summer workshop.