Mason Core Committee
February 4, 2016
12:00 – 1:30 p.m., Merten Hall, 3300

Attending: Janette Muir (Chair), Dominique Banville, Cheryl Druehl, Kelly Dunne, Kim Eby, Doug Eyman, Marcy Glover, Becky Ericson, Tamara Maddox, Matt Scherer, Mara Schoeny, Peter Winant

Out: Melissa Broeckelman-Post (on study leave), Stephanie Hazel, Nathan Pittman, Carol Urban, Andrea Weeks

Agenda

- Undergraduate Council
- Courses to approve
- IT, ethics

Undergraduate Council
Janette presented this proposal to Academic Council this morning and it was well-received. A copy of the by-laws was distributed. She briefly discussed the reason for the creation of the Undergraduate Council (new budget model, new software that provides curriculum management and integration) and the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of programs at Mason. If you have any comments or suggestions, please send them directly to Janette.

PHIL 251 – Social and Behavioral Science – RETURN

- There was discussion about the content of the course and the difficulty in determining if learning outcome #2 was being adequately met. They committee is requesting more information on the experience papers and on the social science aspects of the course. As currently written, the course if more focused on the humanities.

CHIN 475 – Synthesis – RETURN

- The committee was concerned that the course having a high level prerequisite – should this really be a capstone? If they want it for Synthesis, then the proposal needs to show disciplinary depth – currently just explores genres rather than deep analysis. While the readings are liked to various disciplines, they are not in depth.

SOCI 313 – Quantitative Reasoning – APPROVED

- There was considerable discussion regarding whether or not this course should be considered because it was not offered by the Mathematics department as this will open the door for proposals from other departments. It was decided that as long as the courses met the Learning Outcomes, they would be considered; no department owns a category.

IT, ethics – discussion continued
The decision to remove it from IT has been made, but where does it go now? Could we add it to Global (note: this category might add a multi-cultural or cultural competency aspect) or add ethics as a LO to every category and completion of Mason Core fulfills the requirement? What about transfer students who only take Synthesis and ENGH 302?