

## **Mason Core Committee**

April 04, 2017

11:00am – 12:30 p.m., Merten Hall, 3300

**Attending:** Bethany Usher (Chair), Dominique Banville, Melissa Brockelman-Post, Cheryl Druehl, Kelly Dunne, Becky Ericson, Doug Eyman, Stephanie Foster, Tamara Maddox, Mara Schoeny, Krista Shires

**Student Guests:** Jimez Ashby, Justin Kelly, Emily Sexauer, Clement Lupton, Katlyn Weiser

**Out:** Shelly Reid, Matt Scherer, Carol Urban, Andrea Weeks, Peter Winant

### **Agenda**

- Student visitors discussing African American History course offerings
- Committee communication strategies
- Summer Workshop discussion
- Course Proposals: RELI/HIST 384

### **Student Guests**

Representatives of the Student Senate (listed above) were in attendance today. They presented the committee with a request that AFAM 200 be considered for the Western Civ/World History category. They highlighted Mason's history of valuing diversity and the sparse offerings for this category. The committee acknowledged their concerns and commended their enthusiasm. They proceeded to explain the function of the committee and how a proposal works and recommended that the students contact the chair of History and African American Studies and ask that they submit this course (or create a new one) for this category. They also noted that this course is currently approved under the category of Social and Behavioral Studies. The students had prepared ideas for syllabus mapping which were lauded and recommended for follow-up with the relevant departments. The students were invited to stay for the remainder of the meeting and encouraged to attend further meetings.

### **Communication Strategies**

Dr. Usher and Dr. Schoeny summarized their visit to the Mason Academic Advisors Network lunch group last week. MAAN has valuable communication resources such as a newsletter, listserv, and learn-over-lunch groups. They can also provide valuable feedback to the committee regarding which kinds of issues they are commonly having with Mason Core when advising. It was suggested that minutes might go to their listserv.

It was also proposed that having deans and chairs be part of the communication plan was essential to success. It was further recommended that the committee give summaries of changes or updates to student newsletters. In this way, the committee hopes to both disseminate information, but also receive feedback from multiple channels.

It was generally agreed upon that an announcement once a semester during Undergraduate Council or Faculty Senate (+/-APAC) should be part of our strategy.

### **Summer Workshop Discussion**

The Doodle Poll results from last week showed that only about half of the committee would be available at any given time during the offered dates (June). Therefore, it was suggested that perhaps a second date should be selected. A second poll will be sent out, including the first dates, but with the addition of a two-day window in May. It is the general plan to meet in September, once the committee membership selection for the academic year has occurred.

### **Course Proposals**

RELI/HIST 384 (Global History of Christianity) This proposal was resubmitted after being revised to meet the current Global Understanding learning outcomes. After a brief discussion regarding concern over learning outcome 4, the proposal was tabled until the May 04 meeting so proper evaluation and consideration could be given.

### **Next Meeting:**

May 4, 2017 12:00-1:30pm JC Room E

*Items on the agenda:* Assignments for summer meeting groups, Committee strategy for the Ethics/IT proposal, Re-visiting RELI/HIST 384 proposal