Mason Core Committee

November 1, 2016

10:00 – 11:30 p.m., Merten Hall, 3300

Attending: Stephanie Foster (leading today), Dominique Banville, Melissa Brockelman-Post, Cheryl Druehl, Doug Eyman, Marcy Glover, Becky Ericson, Tamara Maddox, Matt Scherer, Mara Schoeny, Krista Shires.

Out: Marcy Glover, Janette Muir (Chair), Kelly Dunne, Becky Ericson, Susan Ecis, Carol Urban, Andrea Weaks, Peter Winant

**Agenda**

• Announcements

• Action Items:

 -IT learning outcomes

 -Ethics learning outcomes

• History requirements update

**Announcements**

Janette was out today due to a scheduling conflict, and Stephanie Foster lead the meeting. Janette was in attendance for the last portion of the meeting, in which the votes were collected for IT and Ethics outcomes.

***Action Items***

**IT Learning Outcomes**

The learning outcomes discussed at the October 18 meeting were revisited. Another revision was done to the outcome. The order was changed to be more in line with Blooms Taxonomy. A lengthy discussion was had in which faculty revisited the original concerns over the definition of “algorithmic problem solving” and other verbiage. The introductory paragraph was changed to clarify that these outcomes are not restrictive to IT (i.e. this language does not refer to programming) rather they are meant to illustrate that other disciplines may apply.

VOTE: Pass. No objections or abstentions. The new outcomes will be posted to the discussion board.

**Ethics Learning Outcomes**

Cheryl Druehl presented the committee with concerns from the School of Business regarding these outcomes. It was mentioned that the outcomes appeared to be redundant, and it was suggested that a level of thinking should be assigned to each outcome. It was agreed upon that the second objective be removed, leaving only two carefully worded objectives to fulfill. This way, the objectives are more user-friendly for one credit courses or when used as part of another course.

Discussion ensued to ensure room was left to acknowledge that some ethical problems are addressed, rather than “solved.” Additionally, it was determined that there would not be a specified course level for the ethics requirement. This leaves room for a variety of options within courses which could facilitate discussions within the individual departments. No header has been developed for this category yet, as the outcomes need to be presented to the faculty senate. A workshop for faculty teaching courses in this category was suggested, but the idea will likely not move forward.

VOTE: Pass. All in favor. No objections or abstentions. A list of the approved requirements will be posted to the discussion board.

**History Category Requirements**

This category had been tabled as of Spring ’16. Matt Scherer presented the committee with his notes and suggested revised learning outcomes.

There are two history courses that meet the current CORE learning objective requirements: (100, 125). Previously, transfer students were getting credit for a number of other history courses (the remainder of the courses listed on the CORE webpage under history). It was brought up that transfer students need to know that these courses count for them, and perhaps they should count for all students as well. For the latter to happen, professors teaching those courses would need to resubmit and meet the learning objectives.

The committee looked at the learning outcomes proposed. Wordsmithing was done to ensure that Western Civilization was not given too much weight, and World History was given equal footing. The category was changed to “Historical Perspectives” to reflect that this category was inclusive. No time limit requirement was set, giving room for the instructors to focus on any time period they chose, as long as the course met the learning objectives.

A revised list of outcomes was crafted and Janette will be presenting it to History Chair Brian Platt for input. The list will be posted in the discussion board and the topic will be revisited at a later date.

Next Meeting:

 November 15, 2016 10:00-11:30 am Merton Hall 3300