

Mason Core Committee
November 17, 1015
1:00 – 2:30 p.m., Merten Hall, 3300

Attending: Janette Muir (Chair), Doug Eyman, Marcy Glover, Cheryl Druehl, Kim Eby, Becky Ericson, Stephanie Hazel, Tamara Maddox, Matt Scherer, Peter Winant

Out: Dominique Banville, Melissa Broeckelman-Post, Kelly Dunne, Nathan Pittman, Mara Schoeny, Carol Urban, Andrea Weeks

Agenda

- Introductions
- Assessment – Stephanie Hazel
- New courses

Assessment – Stephanie Hazel

Now that all categories of the Mason Core have been assessed we need to discuss next steps. The presentations by the higher education doctoral students in December will focus on three areas: Integrated General Education (programs that meet multiple learning outcomes, NCC, Honors); Co-curricular outcomes assessment (where else could learning outcomes be met and how to measure those outcomes); and Global and International Learning.

Stephanie shared a handout that shows how we currently handle assessment at Mason (use course embedded work to evaluate; 6 year cycle). We have a best practice of working with faculty to set up the process but follow up is uneven (how to improve the course). We have completed the assessment of Natural Science and Oral Communication and the reports need to be written.

Our next assessment review to SACS is due in spring 2017; we have begun the process of preparation. We set the learning outcomes for our program, but SCHEV creates the competency areas and how we assess via data requests. They are hiring a new person to handle assessment, so we expect more scrutiny in the future.

Stephanie wants/needs to know: what do we like about our process? What has been beneficial? How can we improve it? It is very labor intensive, but it is a wonderful tool for faculty development. The one issue that she has is, that it is very difficult with our process to ask, “How well do our students do in X?” Another complicating factor is our large transfer population. It is also hard to determine the value added of the Mason Core.

BIOL 140 – Natural Science, non lab – APPROVED

wonderful example of this category – author to be asked for permission to share on website as example on how to write a successful proposal in this category.

EDUC 203 – Social and Behavioral Sciences – APPROVED

Yes = 8, Abstain – 3

IT Ethics

At a previous meeting, the committee voted to decouple ethics from the IT requirement. Tamara has spoken to various departments in VSE and they have no objections to this decision. The next decision needs to be, where does it go?

- Treat like ENGH 302 and create specific sections based upon field or discipline. 1 credit course?
- At the departmental level
- Embed in research intensive courses
- Do we need to define what it means first?
If information technology based, we address in the many ways it can be met
If general – embedded across the categories and need to give examples.