

Mason Core Committee
December 2, 2014
12:00 – 1:30 p.m., Merten Hall, D3300

Attending: Janette Muir (Chair), Dominique Banville, Melissa Broeckelman-Post, Rick Diecchio, Kim Eby, Becky Ericson, Doug Eyman, Marcy Glover, Tamara Maddox, Nathan Pittman, (student rep.) Mara Schoeny

Out: Kelly Dunne, Stephanie Hazel, Frank Allen Philpot, Hugh Sockett, Peter Winant, Carol Urban

Agenda:

1. General discussion
2. MIS 301

Check In

- Janette introduced Nathan Pittman our new student representative. Nathan is a freshmen who is majoring in Government and International Politics and is a Student Senator.
- We attempted to cancel the meeting shortly before the schedule start time, however, more than half of the committee arrived so we had a brief discussion about MIS 301 and our agenda for the spring.

Faculty Senate meeting on November 5

- Our proposal was approved and is now official. We will be working with the departments to verify their course offerings.

Course Proposals

MIS 301 – IT, all - RETURNED

There was not an official vote on this course due to the “cancellation” of the meeting, however, the subcommittee did present their report and they did not recommend approval at this time. Carol’s notes are included below on their concerns with this course:

- Learning Outcomes 1 and 2 are met through the assignments provided.
- It is much less clear how Learning Outcomes #3, 4, or 5 are met (and they state that the course meets all 5, even though they are not required to meet #4). They were unable to see from either the course outlines or the readings how this was met either.
- The course description needs to match the catalog's course description. What is currently in the syllabus is the instructor's course introduction, not the description.
- The syllabus states that there are no prerequisites to the course, but the Mason catalog lists a “C or higher in MIS 102 and sophomore standing” as prerequisites.
- I think the section labeled "IT Goals of this Course" should make clear that these are the SLOs.
- There currently are no objectives for the course, only "IT Goals" and "Business and IT Goals."
- I am concerned with the grading scale. Course grading "will approximate the table below..." but grade categories may change "depending on how the class performs." That seems too subjective to me. If the grades are curved, say so, and how, otherwise, why list a grading scale if it's not going to be followed?
- For an IT course, I find it interesting that there is no support for students who choose to use a MAC, only PCs (see page 3 of syllabus).

Announcements/Agenda for spring

- Melissa recently attended the national Communication conference where there was a great deal of discussion about tying learning outcomes more closely to core competencies that employers are looking for. It was recommended that we review learning outcomes in the spring.
- We will review the learning outcomes for the Information Technology and Global Understanding categories.
- Janette shared information about the CourseLeaf demonstration she attended with Marcy. The software handles curriculum management and would be a useful tool if we move to an Undergraduate Council. Tamara recommended that the CS department we invited to review the software.
- There was general discussion about when students should take their classes and it was recommended that we create a “sequencing” document that could be shared on our web site and with advisors on the ideal timing for certain categories.
- The issue of problems with the degree audit and second bachelor’s degrees was brought up. Marcy will work with Tamara on this issue.
- There are multiple groups on campus working on “global.” Should we consider transitioning the requirement to a competency based one or just get rid of it as duplicative? We should also confer with these groups to avoid duplication of effort.
- Agenda items for spring:
 - Pathways
 - Review outcomes (comm)
 - Re-evaluate global understanding
 - Clean up the IT requirement to a single list of courses
 - Competency discussions (more organized way to approach)
 - Create an advisory statement on the ideal sequencing of requirements