

Mason Core Committee Meeting

February 24, 2022

In Attendance: Bethany Usher (co-chair), Laura Poms (co-chair), Abena Aidoo, Matt Cronin, Jane Hooper, Ben Steger, Debra Stroiney, Anne Verhoeven, Liz White, Courtney Wooten, Shun Ye, Andrea Zach, Gina Polychronopoulos (ex-officio), Shelley Reid (ex-officio), Krista Shires (coordinator)

Guests: Thomas Polk, Liz Bartles, Susan Bruns, Kelly Dunne, Ben Gatling, Sara Simanski, Sarah Squire, Sheena Serslev, Sherrice Mojgani, Chris DiTeresi

Announcements

- Meeting management
- Extra Mason Core meeting on March 3
- COACHE Presentation:
 - Chris DiTeresi shared a presentation on the Collaboration of Academic Careers in Higher Education. A 2022 version of the COACHE (Faculty satisfaction) survey is now available. A handout will also be shared with the committee.

Course Proposals

#	Category	Title	Comments
1	Oral Communication	THR 401: Professional Presentation	VOTE: 6/10 Rollback without encouragement to resubmit. 3/10 Rollback with encouragement to resubmit. 1/10 Abstention*
2	Global Understanding	FOLK 100: Global Folklore	VOTE: Approved (9 Approved, 1 Abstention)
3	Capstone	HDFS 499: Advanced Internship and Analysis in Human Development and Family Science	VOTE: Rollback with encouragement to resubmit* (9 Rollback with encouragement/1 Abstention)
4	Arts	AVT 105: Three-Dimensional Design and Beyond	VOTE: 1 Abstention, 9 Roll back with encouragement to resubmit.*

***THR 401:**

Can a 400-level class meet a foundational Mason Core requirement? As-is, it appears to be less foundational and more of a culminating experience. The learning outcomes were not clearly mapped to the assignments and it was difficult to tell whether or not they were met given the content in the syllabus. More information in the syllabus and on the curriculum map, in particular the assignments, would be helpful. As-is, the content seems to be more fit as a Capstone than the Oral Communication. This course is relevant for arts majors, but it would be difficult to be applicable to say, a student in BUS if this were the only class they would take in Oral Communication and therefore may be challenging to argue that this is applicable as a core course. The spirit of the core is to have a course that is applicable or open to all students, and not just those from a certain disciplinary background. VOTE: 6/10 Rollback without encouragement to resubmit. 3/10 Rollback with encouragement to resubmit. 1/10 Abstain.

***HDFS 499:**

The committee had trouble seeing how this course met the requirements for Capstone. The progression and the experience need to be tied together to meet the over-all expectations for the Capstone category. More context is needed. The required prerequisites would be helpful to illustrate the progression of studies and how that integrates with this experience. It would be useful for to see (a) some of the directions about setting up the proposals, (b) some of the criteria for midpoint/presentation/final evaluations, and even maybe (c) a short list of recent sample projects. VOTE: 1 Abstention, 9 Rollback with encouragement to resubmit

***AVT 105:**

The course was received with great enthusiasm; however, it is hard to see how the assignments demonstrate *how* students are meeting the learning outcomes. It is unclear what in the assignments/assessments the instructor would be looking for to see that the outcomes are being met. It is also difficult to see which assignments matches which outcomes. More detail would be needed to tease that information out. VOTE: 1 Abstention, 9 Roll back with encouragement to resubmit.

Discussion

The Mason Core Committee is asked to meet next week to review and discuss the results of the Mason Core Enhancements survey.