**Mason Core Committee Agenda  
January 30, 2020  
Merten 3300, 1:00-2:30pm**

1. **Discussion about history and purposes of higher education** (1:00pm)

Melissa leads discussion; Samaine not in attendance.

From the reading: Where are students grappling with “big questions”?   
What do we think the goals of Mason undergraduate education should be?

Mission statement (Global citizens who are prepared to act).

Learn from industry questions.

Author’s view of “vocational” colored by personal background. Author also underplays role of land-grant universities.

What are the skillsets that will make graduates employable?

Interdisciplinary approaches.

Traditional constructs of professional hierarchy blurred and no longer applicable.

Where does the university intersect with the community through the curriculum?

How does access to excellence marry to the university goals of expansion, gaining status, R1 designation?

Currently, synthesis and capstone are the same; origins were different (big question “putting it all together” versus “summary of work in your field”)

It is important to articulate to students and parents why the Mason Core is important.

Current Core professors may not show clearly how the learning outcomes will be useful in the future regardless of the field.

How, where, when, and why do students “act” once they are “prepared”?

From the reading, author argued that students need competency in skills in order for the skills to be useful.

How does that intersect with our Mason Core outcomes?

1. **Online updates**

From Bethany: Probably going to have online programs in partnership with Wylie or some other way. We will not have a separate Online university; online undergraduate degrees will be fully integrated into GMU.

Is there an alternative Mason Core for just online students? NO. For several reasons, but most of all accreditation.

Do not need to offer every Mason Core course online. Currently evaluating programs going online to prioritize what online courses satisfy Mason Core.

Portfolio of online MC courses pinch points: natural science with lab; literature.

How do students get MI projects projects if online exclusively?

How do we ensure students can transfer from one VA university to another without loss of credits?

Going to have to be modular due to student body academic composition (transfers, adult learners, etc).

No idea the estimate or goal of online students.

What’s the success rate for online courses?

Expectation is that 100% online students will have lower tuition than hybrid or 100% in-person students.

Why do we need Wylie? Data has shown that public universities that built their own infrastructure have not grown as fast as those that partner with existing online school.

We should have a conversation about how the limited Mason Core online offerings can be expanded to still provide a broad set of options to build the well-rounded scholar.

1. **Review proposals** (1:45pm)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Proposal** | **Survey Link** | **New?** |
| IT | [AVT 377: Cyberpunk](https://workingcatalog.gmu.edu/courseleaf/courseleaf.cgi?page=/courseadmin/1076/index.html&step=showfullrecord) | [https://gmuchss.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\_39pts0iqQbnpXjn](https://secure-web.cisco.com/1jsORP07C7nE0NWwpeZ4F1LGeY9jPRJ96ua2ucQYjm57oom_bCzev1k5VsZxTutiCiru7nHhU0FbxeZAFF-D2-g-Bf42avoibN-xGOzu9V5isuUA-JpQGOWZv6jbwgW6asXum_4HUClzsyaFFEZZFIfdVV4QjbgsCXmN_P3TIJeBTzoijks86XYzbB33YNoA5EKnYNBfEmwRfrrZaYL-cNVr6yWIyJTXzB2fnC4IhhMeI2LJ9uebG46j9TeJsJhdthHXRX0JfVs5f8U2ZgeaJqp1SeKtkztSJ58y8qK984ez-Q1bc3yjBtCjoXXTY75GBuIrHN0EnqVRmy0HVwZ48MCtX7ddoQ5apJmxh-A1-8epJiZdXfjtFARU5ViffIu7m/https%3A%2F%2Fgmuchss.az1.qualtrics.com%2Fjfe%2Fform%2FSV_39pts0iqQbnpXjn) | yes |
| GU | [BENG 475: Intellectual Property, Regulatory Concepts and Product Development](https://workingcatalog.gmu.edu/courseleaf/courseleaf.cgi?page=/courseadmin/16193/index.html&step=showfullrecord) | [https://gmuchss.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\_eQCDdNpXcOWAJqB](https://secure-web.cisco.com/14YIgtFYkNU6Mld07mkjGgo3_2YVT1KQOnNIITXCUzvaqmXYDAW4OlqDaFVtXxqnkNUEemdA4uZJOYVwPR1xizzNE4pWK1yFfngj1G_6S0caOyB-agagsaR1emSyrVCu6h0EH6yaKJsgac3rui-r4v4gl9jhvPkqoXAFYFe_g4l_7VVraIRnLw9GYFaSzBrsgahT4mJM7u_uqyU4sdOEUckR3eBGLPQYRh6hTYhGB54Pu4RMYW_EqNdBqhAYJyd-97AoN3kd5q9F6TFQnzqj7hCW1ScNT9znqf8PxmHJV2PJrUUq8paU3H7xBK1sPnkfpmKYeTIIV2Lv9B5wCWaYBjcb771hHkFgII6D0JtdL33czphcWxnMJMRpVGrUWw9BH/https%3A%2F%2Fgmuchss.az1.qualtrics.com%2Fjfe%2Fform%2FSV_eQCDdNpXcOWAJqB) | yes |

AVT 377: (School of Art professor in attendance, gave brief overview) Vocal comments mirrored survey comments. 9 in the room voted for Major Revisions.

BENG 475: (Mike Buschman in attendance, gave brief overview) Course is too specialized to the BENG field to satisfy Mason Core. Course schedule very focused on regulatory issues, needs explicit class time devoted to placing one’s personal values in the context of global values. Worried about such a high-level course being Mason Core; how can it serve all of our students? The plan will be for this to be a required course; concern about BENG majors not having opportunity to explore Mason Core outside the major. Prereqs for the course mentioned several times, guest indicated they should be removed. Justification of the proposal much clearer about the “Understanding” portion than in the syllabus. 9 in the room voted for Major Revisions.

Once guest left, Laura informed committee she did meet with Mike prior to submission for an hour and mentioned all of the issues that were brought up in the meeting. Committee members asked about a “Reject” or “Not approved, don’t resubmit” option when voting.

1. **Preview plans for remainder of semester** (2:15pm)
   1. February 20: catalog deadline, preliminary conversations about Samaine’s findings
   2. March 26: in-meeting retreat to look at assessment and conversation summaries, propose a plan of action. **FOR KRISTA:** send out a calendar invite for a longer meeting and ensure we have a space for a longer meeting for this date.
   3. April Faculty Senate meeting (likely April 1, could be pushed to April 22 or 29): present findings and proposal to Senate
   4. April 23: TBA