**Mason Core Committee**

January 31, 2017

11:00 – 12:30 p.m., Merten Hall, 1203

**Attending**: Bethany Usher (Chair), Dominique Banville, Cheryl Druehl, Kelly Dunne, Becky Ericson, Doug Eyman, Stephanie Foster, Marcy Glover, Hermione Pickett, Matt Scherer, Mara Schoeny, Krista Shires, Andrea Weeks, Peter Winant, Carol Urban

**Out**: Tamara Maddox

Agenda

• Announcements

• Course Proposals: ARTH 206, ARTH 318, MATH 401, PHIL 371, PHIL 377, RELI 333, RELI/HIST 384

• Ethics Across the Curriculum/Faculty Senate

**Announcements**

Janette introduced Bethany as the new Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education. She announced that Marcy Glover will be joining her (Janette) in her new role, and introduced Krista Shires and Hermione Pickett as Bethany’s team members who will be assisting her with the management of Mason Core and Undergrad Council.

Bethany summarized the Mason Impact and the Provost’s initiatives. The committee reviewed the Mason Core proposal process and the purpose of the subcommittees so that Bethany would feel more familiar with the proposals prior to discussing them. The committee then proceeded to review eight course proposals.

**Course Proposals**

*ARTH 206* (Survey of African Art) Approved with no abstentions or objections.

*ARTH 318* (Art and Archeology of Ancient Egypt) was not approved; however, the committee decided that It may be resubmitted with revisions. The concern was that the course was not balanced in content and did not emphasize art enough to be considered an Arts core course. The committee requested that examples of how the learning outcomes would be met should be submitted (i.e. if an essay question test is administered, provide some sample questions). The committee desired to see more art content demonstrated, rather than simply listed. The rationale being, if this course was the only course a student took in the Arts category, would it be sufficient exposure to the university’s goal for the Arts category?

*MATH 401* (Math Through 3D Printing) Not approved; however the committee agreed enthusiastically that this seemed to be a wonderful course and it may be resubmitted with some minor revisions. The committee was concerned that the three learning outcomes were not demonstrably met. They suggested a section in the syllabus that maps the methods of assessment to specific learning outcomes for clarification. Particularly, the committee wanted to know how writing would be evaluated, what the readings might be, and what the standards for code would be.

PHIL 371 (Philosophy of Natural Science)- Not approved. It was agreed that the learning outcomes were met; however, there was concern over the amount of science content. The general opinion was that there was not a great deal of scientific content. It was brought up that in Art History, one learns about paintings but does not, in those courses, learn to paint. The conclusion was that if the professor could address learning outcome 4 in particular, and demonstrate how he/she intended to meet it, the course would be approved.

PHIL 377- (Darwin: Biology and Beyond)- Not approved. Committee agreed that it was a very interesting history of science class, but that it did not demonstrate that it fit the Natural Science category and did not meet the learning outcomes. It is also already approved as a Synthesis class, and as there is a no double-dipping rule for Synthesis, it would not be approved.

*RELI/HIST 384* (Global History of Christianity) – Was not discussed as the proposal was written to meet the old Global Understanding category. Marcy and Krista will advise the unit accordingly.

*RELI 333* (Spiritual Autobiography)- Tabled until 2/16/17 meeting

**Ethics**

Janette and Bethany announced that the proposal to uncouple Ethics from IT was not received well at the Faculty Senate. While concerns were not necessarily itemized, it was noted that the proposal needed to first be reviewed by the Academic Policies Committee. Strategies for re-submitting a successful proposal were discussed briefly. The topic will be revisited at the next Mason Core meeting.

**Next Meeting:**

February 16th 2017 12:00 pm Merten Hall 1204

Items on the agenda: Revisiting RELI 333 discussion, Ethics Across the Curriculum re-proposal approach