**Mason Core Committee**

March 07, 2017

10:00 – 11:30 a.m., Merten Hall, 1202

**Attending**: Bethany Usher (Chair), Dominique Banville, Melissa Brockelman-Post, Cheryl Druehl, Kelly Dunne, Becky Ericson, Doug Eyman, Stephanie Foster, Shelly Reid, Mara Schoeny, Krista Shires, Peter Winant

**Out**: Matt Scherer, Andrea Weeks

Agenda

* Announcements
* Mason Impact Discussion
* Ethics Across the Curriculum/Faculty Senate
* Global Understanding revision history
* Course Proposals: ARTH 382 and RELI/HIST 384

**Announcements**

Stephanie Foster is no longer with the Office of Institutional Assessment and is now the Associate Director of Undergraduate Education and will be reporting to Bethany at the Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities and Research.

Student-body President Nathaniel Pittman has contacted Dr. Usher raising some previously addressed concerns regarding minority representation in general education curriculum. He was invited by Dr. Usher and Krista Shires to attend Mason Core meetings-he is a student committee member-to bring these issues to the committee’s attention. He did not respond; however, the committee discussed the positive aspects of having a student representative on the committee.

**Global Understanding recap**

A brief discussion was held about the history of the Global Understanding learning outcome revision. It was the committee’s recollection that the revision was initially brought about to discuss whether or not Study Abroad and other “global” experiences (such as military experience) would count towards fulfillment of the learning outcomes for this category. Additionally, there was state-level concern about the amount of general education requirements held by universities. A question was also brought to light by a student that was concerned with the lack of minority-focused core course options. The committee then reviewed the learning outcomes for a significant amount of time (over an academic year or two) and finally reached the current learning outcomes. This was aimed at addressing the students’ concerns as well as encouraging more cultural competency and ensuring that this category could not be used as a “catch all” category rather, addressed learning outcomes more appropriately.

**Mason Impact**

Dr. Usher discussed how she would like to bring Mason Core into the Mason Impact plan. She suggested that the Mason Impact is essentially a way to utilize resources to help us form students into the Mason Scholar. She proposed an event on May 22, 2017 to discuss a Curriculum Impact Grant initiative. This event would serve as a way for faculty to integrate ideas from areas of the Mason Impact into their courses they would like to develop and present to Mason Core or OSCAR.

**Ethics**

The resubmission of Ethics Across the Curriculum was returned by the Faculty Senate with additional questions. The email containing the questions from Suzanne Slayden is posted to the Blackboard Org. Any additional revisions will not make the publication of the next catalog, therefore, IT/Ethics will remain coupled for now. The committee will discuss how to proceed during the summer group workshop.

Stephanie and Melissa will be collaborating to discuss assessment and communication related plans, which will help address the issues surrounding the learning outcome changes as well as the Ethics proposal, and any further changes the committee makes to the general education curriculum. They will present this plan next meeting.

**Course Proposals**

*ANTH 382 (Urban Anthropology)*- This course was resubmitted after being revised to meet the current Global Understanding outcomes. The committee agreed that the submitter sufficiently met the learning outcomes, and the proposal was approved (6 to 1). A request will be made that the submitter add to the syllabus that this course is a Mason Core course, and list which learning outcomes it will meet.

*RELI/HIST 384 (Global History of Christianity)* This proposal was resubmitted after being revised to meet the current Global Understanding learning outcomes. The committee expressed concern that the syllabus did not map sufficiently to learning outcomes 3 or 4. The committee suggested that revising the four short assignments to illustrate how they will demonstrate intercultural competency. In regards to learning outcome 4, the syllabus mentioned that students will be able to interact with individuals from diverse backgrounds, but does not show how, nor does it demonstrate how they will do so in a global society. Finally, the syllabus needs to mention that this course will be a Mason Core course and list which learning outcomes it will meet.

**Next Meeting:**

March 21st 2017 11:00 am Merten Hall 3300

Items on the agenda: Mason Core Assessment presentation by Stephanie Foster and Melissa Brockleman-Post, ideas for summer workshop, committee communication strategies and any updates from MAAN, if any.