Mason Core Committee Meeting
September 24, 2020
1:00-2:30pm, Zoom meeting

Opening remarks: What is the Mason Core?

The chairs reviewed how Mason curriculum is structured for students overall (Major, Minor or electives, Mason Core). Slides were shared showing how the Mason Core is structured (Foundation, Exploration, Integration) and how they relate credit-wise. In addition, credits and Guaranteed Admissions Agreement vs native student status and requirements were mentioned. It may be important to note that due to the high transfer rate, that many of the Mason Core courses we will be responsible for are upper level. A discussion regarding clarification between the Passport Program and ADVANCE ensued.
The Committee Handbook was reviewed. The Handbook includes: the bylaws of the committee and the committee structure, the committee schedule and deadlines, the CIM approval processes, and committee list. Committee responsibilities and expectations were reviewed.

Attendance/Introductions: Bethany Usher (Chair), K Shires (recording secretary), Beth Johnson, Jason Kinser, Sheena Serslev (ex officio), Moses Hunsaker (student senate committee on academics), Melissa Broeckelman-Post, Deb Stroiney, Ben Steger, Ellen Rodgers (guest CEHD), JP Singh, Quentin Alexander (guest, UGE), Laura Poms, Courtney Wooten, Mara Schoeny, Shelley Reid (ex-officio), Jane Hooper, Thomas Polk (guest), Sarah Squire (guest, UGE), Anamaria Berrea (guest-COS), Audra Parker (guest-CEHD), Debra Sprague (guest-CEHD), Krystal Dains (guest-BAS), Francien Markx (guest-CHSS), Lorelai Crerar

Nomination for chair: Melissa Broeckelman-Post was nominated as the co-chair
Move to vote: Motion to nominate Melissa Broeckelman-Post as the co-chair **passed** unanimously

Priorities for the Year:

- Anti-racism/Inclusive excellence course in the Mason Core
- Adopting a new submission/assessment plan
- Determining essential Mason learning outcomes, in cooperation with an effort by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning
- Looking at the data for the Global Understanding courses and determining how to address the discrepancies
- Discussing a resolution of the Capstone/Synthesis duality
- Perhaps trying to make clearer the goals of the Natural Science requirement

The committee asked for clarification on how we might address these goals within the larger context of current events at Mason. Are we looking at any fundamental changes to the Mason Core in the near future? Discussion ensued.

Elect assessment task force: moved to next meeting

Proposals :

Category	Title	Vote:
Capstone	BAS 491: Applied Sciences Capstone	APPROVED unanimously
SBS	CDS 301: Scientific Information and Data Visualization	Rollback without encouragement to resubmit -unanimous
IT	ELED 257: Integrating Technology in PreK-6	1 approve, 5 approve with revisions 5 approve with major revisions APPROVED
GU	FRLN 331: Topics in World Cinema	Tabled for next meeting
Capstone	NUTR 495: Nutrition and Food Studies Capstone	Tabled for next meeting

Comments:

CDS 301: Missing the foundational piece of the Social and behavioral Sciences. Seems more like a class that uses Social Science Data rather than a SBS core course. If a student were only taking on SBS course, this does not provide them with the foundational knowledge required for this category (specifically outcome 1). Several people have concerns about the number of prerequisites required for this course, although permission of the instructor does provide alternate avenue for this. Many were concerned that this is more of a great tool, but is missing the influence of society on people (key to this category). Summary: While it may instruct on data visualization and analysis that can be useful in the field of Social and Behavioral Sciences, I don't see how it engages in the study of society and human behavior. To me, allowing this course to qualify in the SBS core would leave students that only take this one course in SBS with a critical gap in the liberal educations that our bachelor degrees should provide.

ELED 257:   Previously submitted under ELED 357 and was not approved-needing revision. The course numbering was changed for internal reasons. Please edit "Mason Course" to "Mason Core" and correct the title in CIM to match the syllabus. Comments include: This course is intended to help teachers understand how to teach their K-6 students about IT/computing rather than a course intended to help college students learn about IT/computing. Class *discussions* in the map seem to anchor the course's argument for having students meet the Core learning outcomes; these discussions don't seem to be *assessed*. So students' *mastery* of core concepts (as opposed to their ability to build

items) is left implicit. Do they do any reflective writing about their projects? Could a rubric be provided to clarify how it will be determined whether students meet the learning outcomes?

NUTR 495: There is no longer an undergraduate program in Nutrition. We need more information from the college. Tabled until next Meeting.

FRLN 331: Saved until next meeting due to time and lack of Qualtrics Survey results.