**Mason Core Committee**

November 15, 2016

10:00 – 11:30 p.m., Merten Hall, 3300

**Attending**: Janette Muir (Chair), Dominique Banville, Melissa Brockelman-Post, Kelly Dunne, Stephanie Foster, Marcy Glover, Shelley Reid, Matt Scherer, Mara Schoeny, Krista Shires, Andrea Weeks

**Out**: Becky Ericson, Doug Eyman, Tamara Maddox, Carol Urban, Peter Winant

**Agenda**

• Announcements

• Action Items:

 History requirements update
 Rough Proposal from Honors College

**Announcements**

Congratulations were given to Melissa Brockelman-Post on her Communication Award for Excellence.

It was announced that the final CORE meeting this semester will be on November 29, 2016 at 10am. Proposals have been light this semester, which could be, in part, due to the development of the Undergraduate Council, which perhaps adds an additional component to the timeline of proposing a new course. It is possible we will see more courses coming to us this spring.

Krista Shires will be sending out a Doodle Poll to determine what days will be best for everyone for the Spring 2017 Mason CORE Committee meetings.

**Action Items**

History Category Requirements

Janette consulted with History Chair Brian Platt regarding the proposed change of the category from “Western Civilization/World History” to “Historical Perspectives.” Dr. Platt supported the idea of having more courses that focus on World History rather than Western Civilization. As Chair, he was concerned that the “Historical Perspectives” label might be too broad, presenting a number of potential logistical issues that may arise in the future (i.e. any course with the word history in the title may be proposed) and suggested that “World History” be the category title. He may be attending the 11/29 meeting via Skype to discuss the matter further.

A lengthy discussion was had regarding Dr. Platt’s input and the overall definition/guidelines of general educational requirements for the liberal arts. The committee analyzed the learning objectives from the 11/1 meeting and discussed possible solutions for apparent redundancies. We will revisit these outcomes next meeting.

The revised learning outcomes are posted along with today’s minutes under the heading: Minutes and Documents, 11-15-16 Minutes and Documents, Historical Perspectives.

Honors College

Dr. Zofia Burr submitted a request that would give permission for the Honors College core requirements automatically fulfill the Mason CORE requirements. The aim is to reduce the amount of confusion during advising sessions and among both advisors and students. Marcy provided the committee with a spreadsheet of the Honors requirements, as well as the 2016-2017 catalog.

A lengthy discussion ensued about the nature and content of honors courses versus regular courses as well as the role of AP and IB credits that students could transfer in. This spurred a discussion about the application process for honors, including transfer students. Some were concerned that the system did not appear to be egalitarian in that traditional Mason students typically take ~40 CORE credits, whereas it appears Honors students only take ~20.

It was agreed that the presentation with models of maybe 3-4 students/scenarios would be helpful for clarification purposes. It was the general opinion that the proposal was rather large and the committee could not reach a decision on it today.

Janette with discuss today’s meeting with Zofia and report back afterwards.

**Items for Next Meeting:**

* Western Civilization/World History revisit outcomes
* Honors College discussion

Next Meeting: (this will be the last meeting of the semester)

 November 29, 2016

10:00am Merten Hall, 3300