

Mason Core Meeting

Thursday, September 14, 2023 from 1:30-3:30pm via Zoom

In Attendance: Laura Poms – Mason Core Director, Deb Stroiney – Mason Core co-chair, Keith Renshaw, Abena Aidoo Hewton, Jason Kinser, Liz White, Shun Ye, Samaine Lockwood, Courtney Wooten, Jamie Clark, Andrea Zach, Anne Verhoeven, Matthew Dievendorf, Aarush Jambunathan (Student Rep), Shelley Reid (ex officio), Gina Polychronopoulos (ex officio), Tom Polk (ex officio), Tricia Wilson (recording secretary)

Guests: Ginny Blair, Kim Redelsheimer, Shayna Maskell, Ryan Braun, Liz Bartles, Holly Badra, Bobbi Nelson, Tom Owens, Rachel Lewis, Wayne Adams

Welcome

Announcements

- Meeting management

New Business

- Elect Chair
 - The Committee was given the opportunity to nominate a co-chair for AY 2023-2024. Debra Stroiney was nominated for Co-chair. No other nominations were brought forward. Voice vote was called, and Deb was elected without issue.

Proposals

Category	Title	Notes
Mason Apex	HAP 498: Health Administration Internship	Positive responses from the committee overall. There were a few concerns surrounding the sustainability plan and the syllabus. Faculty present representing the course responded to those concerns and clarified for the Committee. Vote: Approve as is
Global Contexts	WMST 100: Global Representations of Women	While met with great enthusiasm, there were questions surrounding the sustainability plan. Dr. Poms clarified for the faculty present and the Committee that the plan should be more developed to show course management over time, not just for new instructors.

		Vote: Approve as is
IT	MUSI 358: Music Programming	<p>Overall the Committee felt this is a great option for the IT area, but there were concerns about how the assignments map to the LOs. For example, LO#2 was not clearly seen in the assignments provided. Suggestions were also made to ensure that for assessment purposes, assignments should be documentable (not class discussion, etc.). Additional discussion about the recommended prerequisites and whether students will be able to successfully complete the course without the prior coursework. Concerns were raised about students choosing a 300-level IT course when there are 100-level courses available (and considering it is a Foundation course). Dr. Poms recommended the program use the new proposal worksheet and set up a meeting to discuss.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions</p>
SBS	INTS 434: Research for Social Change	<p>While the Committee felt the course would fit well in the categories intended, the overall proposal was lacking clear evidence. Although assignment sheets were provided, the Committee would appreciate a more intentional description of how each SBS Learning Outcome will be addressed and assessed. Additionally, this course seems to cover high levels of material specific to those within the major (especially as a 400-level course), and there was concern expressed for how it relates as a general education course open to any student. Dr. Poms recommended requesting a meeting with her to assist as needed.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions</p>
Just Societies	INTS 434: Research for Social Change	<p>While the Committee felt the course would fit well in the categories intended, the overall proposal was lacking clear evidence. Although assignment sheets were provided, the Committee would appreciate a more intentional description of how each JS Learning Outcome will be addressed and assessed. It's also important that assignments for the LOs are documentable for assessment purposes. Suggestion to select one assignment for each of the LOs and focusing on how that illustrates that the LO is met on</p>

		<p>the worksheet. Dr. Poms recommended requesting a meeting with her to assist as needed.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions</p>
Arts	INTS 344: Youth, Music, & Social Change	<p>The course was met with enthusiasm for this category, but there were concerns about the sustainability plan and how it will account for new instructors. The course rep clarified that she works directly with all instructors who will take on the course. Additional suggestion made to only list the Arts outcomes that are being most clearly addressed, and not all 5. Discussion over whether 4 credits is accessible to all students, but due to the outside coursework (ethnographic component) the faculty member believes it's important to keep it at 4 credits.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions</p>
Just Societies	INTS 344: Youth, Music, & Social Change	<p>In addition to Arts comments, there were concerns around whether all JS outcomes are being met, and what the deliverables are for assessment, as not all assignments listed have documented deliverables. Suggestion to try and capture student response post-discussion to help illustrate students meeting those LOs. Dr. Poms available to meet as needed.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions</p>
Just Societies	INTS 304: Social Movements and Community Activism	<p>Committee agrees the course is a great fit for JS, but there needs to be more clarifications on the outcomes. Consider using the new worksheet that breaks down the two points of LO #1, and focus on how your assignments will be both assessable and effective for showing the outcomes are met. Administrative issue of Arts LOs to be addressed as well.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions</p>
Just Societies	INTS 346: Art as Social Action	<p>Committee agrees the course is a great fit for JS, but there needs to be more clarifications on the outcomes. Consider using the new worksheet that breaks down the two points of LO #1, and focus on how your assignments will be both assessable and effective for showing the outcomes are met. As this proposal is written, the peer-to-peer element is not clearly addressed.</p>

		Vote: Rollback with revisions
Just Societies	INTS 347: Gender Representation in Popular Culture	Committee agrees the course is a great fit for JS, but there needs to be more clarifications on the outcomes. Consider using the new worksheet that breaks down the two points of LO #1, and focus on how your assignments will be both assessable and effective for showing the outcomes are met. Administrative issue of Arts LOs to be addressed as well. Vote: Rollback with revisions

Old Business

- Post Retreat Follow up
 - Working Groups
 - The committee reviewed the discussion from the Mason Core Retreat surrounding strategic planning and working groups. Four working groups were proposed, and discussion ensued. Ultimately, the committee expressed concern around the size of some of the proposed projects, and the group decided that timing would need to be considered for what groups take precedence. A suggestion was made to reach out for volunteers to see what the interest level is from faculty outside of the committee (including involvement with Faculty Senate), using that to help prioritize. Decision to further think on that and revisit working groups at next meeting.

Policies

- Dr Poms presented the possibility the Mason Core team send back proposals that are clearly missing important elements. Concerns were brought forward that without strict parameters, it could lead to inconsistency. Discussion ensued. A motion was made to at least require all proposals moving forward to utilize the new proposal worksheets, granting Dr. Poms and the Mason Core Curriculum Specialist the authority to send back incomplete or outdated proposal materials. The committee also decided to continue the discussion at a future meeting.
- A vote was taken to determine if Dr. Poms and Dr. Renshaw would be granted authority to adjudicate approvals for Mason Core substitutions and waivers. The Committee approved the vote and this authority was granted.