

Mason Core Meeting

Thursday, September 28, 2023, from 1:30-3:30pm via [Zoom](#)

Attendees: Laura Poms (Mason Core Director), Debra Stroiney (Co-Chair), Keith Renshaw (Associate Provost), Anne Verhoeven, Matthew Dievendorf, Andrea Zach, Jamie Clark, Liz White, Shun Ye, Courtney Wooten, Lauren Cattaneo, Gina Polychronopoulos (ex-officio), Shelley Reid (ex-officio), Tom Polk (ex-officio), Tricia Wilson (recording secretary)

Guests: Vanessa Schulman, Liz Bartles, Kristen Wright, Christina Brady, Bobbi Nelson

Welcome and Introductions

Announcements

- **Meeting management**
- **Administrative Announcement**
 - Announcement that HAP 489 requested removal of Mason Core Capstone designation. HAP 498, which was approved for Mason Apex, will be the culminating experience course for this major going forward.

Proposals

Category	Title	Notes
		Overall, the course was met with enthusiasm and would make a great addition to Mason Core. Discussion on the importance of hitting analysis in LO2 and LO3 so that the assignment map is clear and direct for assessment. Additional comments suggesting there is a clear differentiation between analysis of an art piece's context and analysis of the artwork itself. Arts LO5 does not seem as applicable to this course, and the instructor agreed to remove that from the syllabus.
Arts	ARTH 382: Arts of India	Vote: Rollback with minor revisions
Arts	ARTH 383: Arts of Southeast Asia	Similar comments as on the previous ARTH course: concerns revolved around how the assignments mapped to the LOs and specifically how those will be

		<p>assessed. Concern raised again about LO 5 not being applicable, so LO5 should be removed.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with minor revisions</p>
Arts	ARTH 384: Arts of China	<p>Similar comments as on the previous ARTH course: concerns revolved around how the assignments mapped to the LOs and specifically how those will be assessed. Concern raised again about LO 5 not being applicable, so LO5 should be removed.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with minor revisions</p>
Global Contexts	INYO 261: Mentoring Multilingual Learners	<p>Overall, the course was met with enthusiasm. The Committee expressed concern over how the assignments are mapped. The assignments could be more focused on positionality and how to extend individual experience into a global perspective. Additional concerns over the sustainability plan as it is complex. Department rep admitted to the complex nature of this level of instruction, but they have ideas for how to further develop those supports. Strong proponent for these categories, but there does need to be stronger connections to the categories requested.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with major revisions and resubmit</p>
Just Societies	INYO 261: Mentoring Multilingual Learners	<p>Similar feedback as provided for GC. This is a strong candidate for the JS flag but needs refinement on how the LOs will be met and mapped, especially for assessment. Suggestion to better relate mentor experience to cross-cultural contexts and to explore natural discussion opportunities within cross-culture mentoring.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with major revisions and resubmit</p>

Old Business

- **Revisit Working Groups**
- Deb Stroiney explained the plan to recruit volunteers for working groups. Committee members volunteered for the working groups available. Discussion on how to reach out to external members of the committee to participate in the working groups.
 - **Recertification process for Mason Core**
 - Determine appropriate guidelines and processes for existing courses to remain in Mason Core, in keeping with the Committee's Senate charge.
 - **Humanities v. Literature**
 - Evaluate whether current literature category should be broadened to focus on humanities-based outcomes, weigh advantages and challenges of revision, provide preliminary description, outcomes, rationale.
 - **SLOs and syllabus statements**
 - Develop a common syllabus statement for Mason Core courses so students see value of general education and are able to articulate what they've learned to future employers.

New Business

- **Just Societies expansion**
 - The Committee was asked to examine the possibility of letting JS flags sit on courses outside of the Core. Discussion ensued. No decision made; the Committee will continue reflecting on this possibility and discuss again in future meetings.
 - **Courses with two categories can also get the JS flag**
 - According to the current policies, courses within Mason Core can only have two designations, but with the addition of the Just Societies flag, faculty wondered if that could be places on a course that was already approved for two Exploratory categories. Discussion ensued, and a vote was called. The Committee successfully voted to allow courses with two Mason Core Exploration categories to also carry the JS flag.
- **Mason Apex concerns**
 - Jamie Clark brought forward concerns about the Mason Apex requirements. As written, students must have 85 credits in order to enroll in a Mason Apex course. Because many courses currently in Synthesis and Capstone are not senior-only (and do not have a hard-coded credit requirement), this could create problems for departments that might not be able to offer that kind of course at the senior level every year. Suggestion to change the language to "suggest" the 85-credit level instead of require it. Vote was called, and committee voted to change the

language to “suggest” that students have 85 credits. Laura Poms will look into the process to update that language.

- **Meaning of survey options**

- The Committee discussed the possibility of approving courses that were deemed “Approve as is” in the pre-meeting Committee surveys. Discussion ensued. Decision not to change normal discussion protocols and that all courses should be discussed in meeting, regardless of positive reviews in the survey.