

Mason Core Meeting

Thursday, October 9, 2025, from 1:30-3:00pm via Zoom

In attendance: Laura Poms (Mason Core Director), Keith Renshaw (Associate Provost, Co-Chair), Courtney Wooten (Faculty Co-Chair), Abena Aidoo Hewton, Andrea Zach, Megan Erb, Ana Stoehr, Lauren Cattaneo, Liz White, Chris Lee (ex-officio), Margaret Calkins (ex-officio), Alessaundra Shallal (student-rep), Tricia Wilson (recording secretary)

Guests: Kelby Gibson

Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Announcements**
 - The committee welcomed two new members, one as an ex officio representative from the University Libraries and the student representative.
- **Proposals**
- **Learning Outcomes Discussion**
 - Keith Renshaw and Courtney Wooten (Mason Core Committee Co-Chairs) introduced the need for a review of Mason Core learning outcomes as a whole. This approach will allow the committee to better identify areas of overlap between categories and key skills that might be lacking in the overall structure of the program. The committee discussed this and plans to further develop this review in future sessions.

Proposals

Category	Title	Notes
Mason Apex	BIOL 410: Biology and Society	Overall the committee is supportive of this course for the category, However, in focusing on the various assignment options provided, the committee noted that while some formats like exams and movie reviews seem suitable, others such as debates pose challenges, particularly for assessment. Concerns were raised about clarity in aligning assignments with learning outcomes. Suggestions included refining the worksheet to better map assignments to learning outcomes and ensuring consistent engagement with instructors. Vote: Rollback, encouragement to resubmit
Global Contexts	DANC 118: Global Dance Perspectives I	The committee felt the changes described in the attached document appropriately responded to their concerns, and the assignments now map to the outcomes as required. However, the committee noticed that the updated attached proposal worksheet did not reflect the changes

		made to the assignments. An updated worksheet updated (with highlights) in CIM so that it accurately reflects the course plan, which helps with course management over time and supports you and your unit when approaching assessment. Vote: Approved, pending admin review of documents
Oral Communication	DANC 454: Methods of Teaching Dance	The committee reviewed the proposal and, while acknowledging the course's prior exception, determined it does not align with the goals of the Oral Communication category. Concerns included misalignment with learning outcomes, inappropriate course level for a Foundation requirement, and limited accessibility due to major restrictions. As such, the course is not approved for the category, and revisions or resubmission are not recommended. Vote: Rollback without encouragement to resubmit