

Mason Core Meeting

Thursday, January 15, 2026, from 1:30-3:00pm via Zoom

In attendance: Keith Renshaw (Associate Provost, Co-Chair), Courtney Wooten (Faculty Co-Chair), Laura Poms (Mason Core Director), Liz White, Andrea Zach, Don Starr, Megan Erb, Michael Hunzeker, Shun Ye, Minjoo Kim, Deb Stroiney, Lauren Cattaneo, Alessaundra Shallal (student rep), Chris Lee (ex-officio), Tricia Wilson

Guests: Tiffany Crossgrove, Liz Bartles, Bobbi Nelson

- **Welcome**
- **Announcements**
 - AVT 385 removed Mason Apex effective Spring 2026
- **Proposals**

Proposals

Category	Title	Notes
Social and Behavioral Science	GEOC 290: The Global Career Accelerator	The committee was concerned that the content on which most of the SBS assignments are based is only 20% of the overall coursework with the remaining 80% taught by a third party on topics unrelated to SBS. As a result, the course does not clearly meet the requirements for the category. Vote: Rollback, without encouragement to resubmit
Global Contexts	HIST 306: The Reformation	The committee remains supportive of this course for Mason Core, but additional clarifications are needed on how the assignment for LO3 covers problems and solutions. Additionally, the assessment for that assignment should better communicate how all students can meet the LO regardless of which option of technology they select. Vote: Rollback
Social and Behavioral Science	WMST 200: Introduction to Women and Gender Studies	The committee is supportive of this course for the category, but the Written Thought Experiment prompts need to explicitly address the learning

		<p>outcome, particularly the social and cultural construction of gender and sexuality which is currently assessed in the rubric but missing from the assignment instructions. Additionally, clarification and examples are needed to show whether all six experiments focus on gender and sexuality or if topics vary throughout the semester.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback</p>
Oral Communications	MUSI 251: Musical/Oral Communication	<p>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. The course is restricted to music majors, and the course material does not adequately center around the principles of oral communication that the committee has determined are necessary through its learning outcomes. As such, the course is not approved for the category, and revisions or resubmission are not recommended.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback without encouragement to resubmit</p>
Arts	MUSI 380: Wind Symphony	<p>After careful discussion, the committee determined this course does not meet the requirements for the Arts category due to the restricted nature of the course. While the course is not limited to music majors, it involves a restrictive auditioning process, which limits who is able to participate. Additionally, the course is only one credit and there does not seem to be any instruction around the Arts learning outcomes. As such, the course is not approved for the category, and revisions or resubmission are not recommended.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback without encouragement to resubmit</p>
Arts	MUSI 383: Symphonic Band	<p>After careful discussion, the committee determined this course does not meet the</p>

		<p>requirements for the Arts category due to the restricted nature of the course. While the course is not limited to music majors, it involves a restrictive auditioning process, which limits who is able to participate. Additionally, the course is only one credit and there does not seem to be any instruction around the Arts learning outcomes. As such, the course is not approved for the category, and revisions or resubmission are not recommended.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback without encouragement to resubmit</p>
Global Contexts	<p>RELI 240: Death and the Afterlife in Religion</p>	<p>The committee appreciates the work that has gone into this course, but it remains unclear as to whether it is an appropriate fit for the Global Contexts category. Specifically, the committee questions the connection between the interesting and cohesive content of the course as it is presented in the syllabus and the assignments that seem to be reaching for the Mason Core outcomes. Consequently, the assignments come across as a bit disconnected from the course.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback</p>
Writing Intensive	<p>SEED 477: Studying Teacher Impact on Student Learning</p>	<p>Approved</p>
Mason Apex	<p>BIOL 410: Biology and Society</p>	<p>The committee remains supportive of this course for Mason Core, but the movie assignment needs clearer prompts and rubrics that explicitly require students to integrate theories, skills, and perspectives from multiple disciplines, which would also allow it to serve as an individual artifact for both SLO1 and SLO2 and eliminate reliance on the group-based debate activity. Additionally, the syllabus description of the movie assignment should be updated to match the prompt, since the debate assignment cannot provide individually assessable evidence.</p>

		Vote: Rollback
Social and Behavioral Science	GOVT 204: Lies, Misinformation, and Statistics	Held for next meeting