

Core Curriculum Oversight Committee

Date: Friday, October 12, 2018

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Chancellor's Conference Room, LSC, 14th Floor

Attendance: Ruben Anguiano, Sondra Bland, Michelle Carpenter (via phone), Andrea Falcone, Hassan, Bassem, Antwan Jefferson (chair), Craig Lanning, Christine Martell, Sandra Quinn, Kim Regier, Brian Schaeffer, Mary Lee Stansifer, Kat Vlahos, Gregory Walker, Mary Baitinger (recorder) Not Present: Jeff Franklin, Nimol Hen, Alana Jones, Traci Sitzmann

Agenda and Minutes

1. Announcements

- Larry Speakman – this student was left off last month's agenda. Antwan waived the core requirements for this student, who already has a pair of bachelor degrees dating back to 1971.
- MATH 1080 – this will be removed from the curriculum and core list, as the course will not be operating anymore.
- Math and Composition Core Review – both areas will be reviewed by the CCOC, starting November 9 and due December 3. There will be 15 syllabi, which gives each reviewer 1-2. The process and forms were briefly explained by Antwan and Mary. It was encouraged for everyone to review the listed online definition for critical thinking, as everyone's values may be different. Math is exempted from the writing component on the review form.
- Updated Core List, effective spring 2019 – Mary provided a draft. This will be provided in November to the CCOC for final acceptance and then posted on the UE/CCOC webpage and sent to advisors. The location of the list was briefly discussed again and its accessibility for students. The current version of the catalog will not have these changes, as it is updated annually. The concern is various schools create their own list, and there may be inaccuracies. This topic will be discussed in the future and where the list should reside.

2. Old Business

- Biology Course Renumbering – the CCOC reviewed the following sequence, provided by Kim Regier (from the October 2018 agenda), along with a separate list of pros and cons:

Biology Course Renumbering

- *Proposal is to rename the courses and change the prereqs beginning in Fall 2019:*
- *BIOL 2051 General Biology I (currently no prereq) would become "General Biology: Molecules to Cells" (new prereq: BIOL2061)*
- *BIOL2071 General Biology I Lab (currently no prereq) would become "General Biology: Molecules to Cells Laboratory" (new prereq:*

BIOL2081)

- *BIOL2061 General Biology II (currently prereq 2051) would become*
- *“General Biology: Organisms to Ecosystems” (no prereq for new)*
- *BIOL2081 General Biology II Lab (currently prereq BIOL2071) would become “General Biology: Organisms to Ecosystems Laboratory (no prereq for new)*
- *Honors General Biology courses (BIOL2095, 2096, 2097, 2098) would follow the same name changes.*

The following comments were discussed:

- Courses are being renumbered, due the Howard Hughes Medical Institute award.
- Title and sequence are being considered, but the numbers could remain the same.
- There are no concerns from other departments with the proposed change, except for Psychology (which did not respond to inquiry).
- Macro to micro sequencing.
- What is the ripple effect of this decision?
- There could be confusion among students, outside stakeholders and parents, even if advisors let these individuals know of the new sequencing.
- There would be a lot of work changing the numbering to match the titles, and a plan needed to get the word out to all Colorado schools and other prospective students. The majority of this would need to be done to the rules, catalog, etc. by CLAS and the Registrar’s Office.
- This new sequencing may provide a reduction in the DFW rate.
- Content does not need to be re-reviewed.
- The changes of any decision would be effective Fall 2020.
- Whatever unanticipated issues occur as the process evolves, the CCOC will discuss them as they come up.

Vote: 9 members approved, with 2 abstaining, to reorder the numbering sequence to match the title changes.

Action: Brian (Registrar’s Office) will work on the transfer credit and catalog. Kim (Biology) will develop a communication plan to 4-year and 2-year schools and the GT process.

3. New Business

- PHYS Course Description Revisions – PHYS 2341, PHYS 2321, PHYS 2040, and PHYS 2030 previously did not have descriptions, but now they have been added.

Vote: 11 members approved to add descriptions for the above-listed Physics courses.

- CHEM 1494 Proposal – Marta Maron (instructor) provided the CCOC paperwork to add this course into the core. Comments included:
 - Could this course be called Forensic Chemistry instead of Forensic Science – the latter is too broad.
 - An amazing course and good for non-science majors.
 - Clarify the word “analyze” – too ambiguous.
 - Each department is allowed four courses in a knowledge area. Would this course be one too many for chemistry (see next agenda item regarding CHEM 1575).

Vote: 11 members approved CHEM 1494, pending the name change to Forensic Chemistry.

- CHEM 1575 Core Proposal – From the submitted paperwork, comments included:
 - More information is needed about labs and content overall.
 - This course may overlap with GEOL 1472, Introduction to Environmental Science.
 - Does not indicate this is a core course, and no faculty are listed.
 - This course has been initially taught online; if this is the case, how are students supposed to do the experiments listed?
 - Learning Outcomes do not match to the course itself.
 - Critical thinking is identified but not defined.
 - CU Online has good examples of how syllabi should be set up for online student learning. The Digital Online Skills Mastery course helps instructors build and create online courses.
 - Too many pieces are missing in order to properly assess and make a decision for the class to join the core.

Action: The CCOC requests incorporation of the writing component, faculty members teaching the course, learning outcomes, critical thinking, HIPs, checking with Environmental Sciences for potential overlaps, activities assigned, and indicating this is a core course before submitting CHEM 1575 for a re-review. Note: Currently the Chemistry Department is at their limit for core courses, with the approval of CHEM 1494. Should this course be approved by the CCOC, a petition process may be needed to add this course to the core curriculum.

- PMUS 1101 Resubmitted Proposal – Comments and corrections were provided by Gregory Walker, based on September 2018 recommendations by the CCOC. Updated comments included:
 - Dates for events clarified.

- Broad expression of rhythm is shared with the class as a whole.
- Use correct name, University of Colorado Denver
- Objectives are hashed out and deepened.
- Need more information regarding what will come out of each activity and its learning objectives

Vote: 10 members approved (one abstaining, Gregory Walker) PMUS 1101.

- Math Department Assessment Report – Gary Olson from Mathematics wanted to share this document with the CCOC. Math has been engaged in reviewing courses in their department and how students are faring. This is not a request to make any changes at this time. Discussion by the CCOC of the math assessment report included:
 - Rethinking the Learning Outcomes in Math would be important.
 - Is 60% proficiency in math considered normal, as opposed to other courses being taught on campus?
 - Has the math department gone through Kenny Wolf's office for any assessment on their part? One member of Kenny's team, who is a member of the CCOC, has not seen any items from math being evaluated.
 - Based on the table in the report, how many students need additional assistance?
 - There will be a continuing need to discuss quantitative literacy and how students are faring.
 - Since the math courses will be reviewed by the CCOC in November, it would be helpful to have this document included with their syllabi in the Google Drive. Mary will make sure it is put there for reviewers' use.