Core Curriculum Oversight Committee

Date: Thursday, November 17, 2016
Time: 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Meeting Location: Alumni Conference Room, LSC, 14th Floor
Attendance: Ruben Anguiano, Sheryl Coffey, Carol Golemboski (chair), Antwan Jefferson, George Kacenga Craig Lanning, Christine Martell, Gwen Persons, Candice Shelby, Traci Sitzmann, Tammy Stone, Mary Baitinger (recorder)

Agenda and Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from October, 2016 meeting

   Vote: These were approved by the present 7 voting members.

2. Announcements/Updates
   Carol reviewed and approved the following petitions on behalf of the CCOC, as the requests were straightforward and didn't necessarily need direct CCOC approval:

   *Student petition: Abigail Mutamba (approved)
   - The student is a Psychology major and graduating Fall 2016
   - While at Colorado College, the student took a course which CLAS advisors determined, based on the reviewed syllabus, was the equivalent of PSYC 4485 and fulfilled the Cultural Diversity core requirement. However, the Colorado College course was actually a lower division class. Therefore, the student was mis-advised.
   - The student's petition was supported by Sarah Fields, Associate Dean in CLAS.
   - While this petition was approved since it was a straight-forward situation, the larger issue of transferred lower division cultural diversity courses counting towards the upper division core cultural diversity requirement will be discussed in item #4 (below).

   *Student petition: Brandon Maestas (approved)
   - The student is a Business major and graduating Fall 2016.
   - The student was originally a Mechanical Engineering major who took CHEM 1130, Engineering General Chemistry. A business school advisor counted it toward fulfilling a Natural and Physical Science with lab. However, CHEM 1130 does not have a lab. Therefore, the student was mis-advised.
   - The student's petition was supported by the director of advising and the assistant dean in the Business School.

   *Course title change: SJUS 2000, Foundations in Social Justice (approved)
   - Previous title of course: *Democratic Participation and Social Justice*
   - New title of course: *Foundations in Social Justice*

   *Social Sciences Core syllabi review

- Mary reminded the CCOC of the Friday, November 18, 2016 deadline.
- Carol explained her and Jeff's participation in the process.
- Review decisions and suggestions to improve syllabi will be sent in an e-mail memo to the department chair who will share it with each instructor.

3. "No credit" rule for CHEM 1474

   Carol, along with Vanessa Fishback from the Department of Chemistry, provided the following background regarding the no credit rule request for CHEM 1474:
   - Last year, the CCOC approved no co-credit rules to be added to BIOL 1550 and 1560, as well as CHEM 1000 and CHEM 1130 that will prevent students from receiving credit for those classes if they take them after successfully completing the General Biology or General Chemistry sequences, which are higher level (2000) and have duplication of content, though handled at a lower level of rigor in the 1000 level courses.
   - Chemistry thought they had asked for this rule to apply to CHEM 1474 but apparently did not.
   - Should CHEM 1474 request not be approved, the following scenario might occur: The student (a Chemistry major) takes CHEM 2031 and CHEM 2061, and these courses count toward their University Core requirements. The student might subsequently, though be advised not to, enroll in CHEM 1474. The GPA will still be impacted (usually in a positive way), since the student would not be restricted from registering for the course altogether. However, the 4 credits would not count toward the required 120 credit hours for graduation (as elective or core).

   Vanessa reported that some students are inclined to break the rules, as CHEM 1474 is an easy way to get credits. A challenge that exists for CHEM, as well as BIOL classes, is students not reading the catalog and knowing about the rules, even though advisors are informing students as well. Suggestions were made by the CCOC to have a notation in the Shopping Cart when students register online, place the info on the Canvas Shell, and have this rule listed on the syllabus itself.

   Vote: CHEM 1474 No Credit Rule approved by the present 8 voting members and 2 absentee voting members (solicited via e-mail).

   Action: Carol will follow up with Mary Lovit and request language for no credit added to the catalog/course descriptions, as well as syllabus.

4. Transfer credit for PSYC 4485, *Psychology of Cultural Diversity*

   The CCOC further discussed the challenge of making sure students, advisors and faculty understand that transferred Cultural Diversity classes from other schools cannot be a lower division course, as the core Cultural Diversity requirement must be an upper division course. However, CLAS would like a blanket exception that advisors can count a transferred course deemed the equivalent of PSYC 4485 based on content/syllabus as Core course even if it is lower division. Adding to the confusion are students seeing lower division courses from CU Denver's Sociology, Communication and History departments counting towards the Cultural Diversity requirement, while a transferred lower division course may or may not count. The CCOC is hesitant to issue a blanket exception for Cultural Diversity waivers, and perhaps exceptions could be submitted by each college to the CCOC for consideration on a case-by-case basis. They agreed that a transferred course can fit multiple functions—it could match a major but not match the core requirements. The CCOC also recommends that if a transferred Cultural Diversity course is stated as upper division in the previous institution's catalog, then it would count as CU Denver equivalent and fulfill the core requirement.

Carol will follow up with Gwen and Cheryl and provide more details to include in the CU Denver course catalog.

5. Student petition for Jay Pecenka
   Carol provided the following information regarding the petition:
   - The student is a Biology major who would like to count ANTH 4070, *Culture of Development and Globalization*, taken Fall 2015, as International Perspective Core requirement.
   - The student rationale for taking ANTH 4070 is that it is more rigorous than other IP courses, and the syllabus is provided as evidence.
   - The student's petition is supported by Christopher Beekman, department chair, who confirms that ANTH 4070 is more rigorous than ANTH 3000: *Globalization, Migration and Transnationalism* (a Core IP course). It is also supported by Tiffany Terneny (senior instructor) who is the undergraduate advisor in the department, and Michael Kilman, the lecturer who taught the course itself.
   - Timothy Bond, the student's academic advisor, does NOT support the petition, as the student never received any advising that this course would fulfill a requirement. Based on CLAS records, the student took the course on his own without consulting an advisor. The student was told last fall he needed to take courses on the official Core Course List, but he chose not to do so and decided to petition instead.

   The CCOC discussed how the student has been at CU Denver since 2012 and aware of the rules and choices available on the Core Course list. There also have been many other students in the past seeking to count certain courses taken after the fact. Allowing them to do so takes away from the rigor and vetting process core courses must pass through in order to make the official list. Cultural Diversity and International Perspectives areas of the core are especially susceptible to these types of petitions. In addition, the student's petition lists no special or unusual circumstances that would cause him to take ANTH 4070 in place of a listed International Perspectives course.

    Vote: The petition was not approved by the present 7 voting members and 2 absentee voting members (solicited via e-mail). The student was not misadvised, took this course without checking in with the CLAS advising staff, and did not take ANTH 4070 under any unusual circumstances.