

Minutes from 9/8/2023 Meeting of True Blue Core Committee:

Voting members in attendance: Ann McCullough, Janet Colson, Teresa Davis, Rebecca Fisher, Keith Gamble, Sungyoon Lee, Scott McDaniel, Nita Brooks, Stephen Salter, Natalie Griffin, Yi Gu, Jorge Vargas , Suzanne Mangrum, Laura Cochrane

Voting members absent: Leon Alligood, Keely O'Brien, Angela Hooser, Amy Sayward

Ex officio members in attendance: Amy Aldridge-Sanford, Susan Myers-Shirk, Amy Atchison

Ex officio members absent: Chris Brewer, Jeff Gibson

Guests: Christina Cobb, Christabel Devadoss, Tammy Melton, Kristen West, Elizabeth Wright, Kari Neely, Angela Parrish, Thomas Hudson

Introductions: The controversial topics of pizza folding and “would you rather be reincarnated as a cat or dog” were discussed as an icebreaker.

Vice-chair election: Laura Cochrane was nominated and elected unanimously.

Recording secretary: The committee decided to amend normal procedures to let a non-committee member act as recording secretary. That person, dear reader, is me – Kari Neely, Faculty Senate, President.

April 14th minutes: approved with a vote of 13 yes, 1 abstention

Implementation update: Susan Myers-Shirk

1. Thanks for attending the retreat for those who did. For those who missed the retreat, you can reach out to Susan to do a one-on-one orientation.
2. Fall semester: Main charge is approving courses that are proposed.
3. Need to review assessment reports. Not sure on the timing of those reports. They will circulate the reports for review after they are put on the schedule.
4. Gearing up the marketing plan. Susan and Christina will be heading out on the True Blue Tour.
5. Tricia Farrell's class is developing a marketing plan to get students interested and informed about True Blue Core.
6. Faculty and advisors are going to have some sessions that will inform them about the Core.
7. Wordpress is coming and will allow us to do more in terms of advertising for the True Blue Core.
8. Assessment is starting to gear up. Piloting in courses that are part of the Foundational Skills (Written Communication, Information Literacy, Non-written Communication, and Quantitative Literacy) begins this academic year. They are doing some sampling and trying to work that out so we'll be ready to go when we launch in 2024.

9. Association of General and Liberal Studies Conference: Susan, Christina, and Ann will attend, Susan and Christina will be presenting on: How we used a departmental liaison system to establish changes to General Education
10. Susan attending: THEC's session on Transfers. She's presenting on a panel discussion about redesign and transfer.
11. Working on implementing study abroad in the core. Meeting with Paige Brake, new director of study abroad. FLC about issues involved in study abroad in the core is running this semester. If you are interested, you should apply.

Proposed committee procedures discussion:

These are procedures that are intended to make discussions run smoother and provide a rationale for why we do the things that we do in the meeting. Most are based on Roberts/Roberta's Rules of Order.

1. Ann submitted the proposed procedures.
2. Keith supported them.
3. Scott said they looked good and similar to what was in place last year.
4. Discussion about why proxy voting is prohibited: discussion of a proposal often stretches across two or more meetings. A proxy might not be fully informed on the issue and not vote with all the information that a full committee would. This was an issue that was difficult to decide because there were pros and cons on both sides.

Vote: 14/14 yes votes, unanimously

3 Legacy course proposals

1. AST 2100 Introduction to Africana Studies

Discussion:

Keith (with Susan's assistance): Clarified that this is a legacy course. Was this fast-tracked? Yes. This means that it is staying in the same category (Discovery section of Human Society and Social Relationships). There is a shorter process for legacy courses. It is possible for a legacy course to decide to align with a different category in which case they have to go through the longer process. But this is not the case with these 3 courses.

Terri: Disciplinary knowledge is now Discovery? Yes.

And Exploration is still Exploration? Yes.

Curriculog has not been corrected for this yet, so in curriculog it is still "Disciplinary Knowledge", but soon it will be changed to "Discovery".

Two big parts of the program are now:

- I. Foundational Skills
- II. Knowledge Domains

The PowerPoint for Farrell's marketing students has all of this information which will be shared out to the committee [place link in the minutes for this powerpoint].

Keith: Is a representative from the department here? No. I'm okay with it because it is a legacy course. New course proposals: Usually there are more questions for the new courses.

Susan will send out a separate reminder to departments that have new courses before the committee about the meetings and the importance of attending.

Note: October 7th's agenda will be all new courses.

AST 2100 vote: 14/14 yes

2. Physics 1110:

Discussion:

Keith: This is a science course which is 4 hours. We are approving both courses even though we are looking at it as just one number.

Discussion about double-checking the course numbers and whether or not the lab has a second number. Sometimes the lab is the one tied to the credit and not the lecture. The course is listed as 4 hours and doesn't have lab listed separately. This one is bundled – lecture and lab.

PHYS 1110: 13 yes, 1 no

Stephen voted no, because of the way that they are bundled together which is not like the other science courses.

Keith: This is a reason to have someone from the department.

Tammy: The lecture and the lab happen during the same time period and in the same classroom space. The class is capped to probably 28 and they don't have multiple sections.

Stephen: He would like it to be clearer for the students when they look at the catalog

Susan: The original course proposal that goes through UCC might have this specificity. The requirement for the form for Gen Ed does not require the same specificity that UCC has. Proposers only have to address if the proposed course has the components necessary to address the True Blue Outcomes. As you are reading the proposals, you will have courses that are new to the catalog. But when it gets to us, it will already have been approved by the UCC and so we are only thinking about if it aligns with the True Blue Core outcomes.

Amy Aldridge Sanford: The registrar sits on the UCC to make sure that these kinds of issues are addressed prior to being put in the catalog. These issues are taken care of prior to getting to this committee.

3. SOC 2010

Natalie: Some of the language in the primary assessment section: What does "controlling images" mean? It's a whole section at the very bottom of the primary outcomes assessment. It talks about students discussing racism and the students pick a "controlling Image" etc.

Susan: This is probably discipline-specific language.

Ann: We can table if anyone thinks we need more information about that.

No motion for tabling.

SOC 2010 vote: 13/13 (Scott had to leave the meeting prior to the vote)

New business:

Terri: These were easy because they are legacy courses going into the Discovery category. During the exploration category, will there be more information about how to evaluate them? The criteria are so broad?

Susan: The big questions are: 1) it can't be too narrowly focused or career specific and 2) is the assignment assessable? How well does it align with the outcomes? Is it a gen ed class? Does it contribute to breadth of knowledge?

Stephen: is this available in a checklist form?

Susan: If you go to Teams, there is glossary for the TBC, and there is a definition document. We will send all of that out in an email so that you have these before you when you come to a meeting with new courses.

Ann: Do we need a motion to adjourn? No, she declared us adjourned.

Note: Make sure that you sign in when you attend the meetings.