

SFASU
Core Curriculum Assessment Committee
Meeting Summary Notes
Fall 2018
October 5th, 3:00-5:00
McKibben 281

Attendees: Ellen Caplan, Marc Guidry, Jared Barnes, Morgan Sosebee, Karyn Hall, Clint Richardson, John Calahan, Chris Turner, Mikhail Kouliavtsev, Steven Galatas, Christina Sinclair

Unable to Attend: Haley Jameson, Paul Henley

Meeting was called to order at 3:01 am by Dr. Sinclair.

Introductions:

- Dr. Sinclair reviewed the membership: Appointed by the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, one faculty representative from the six academic colleges, and as ex officio members an Associate Provost, Director of Institutional Research, a member of Steen Library and chair-elect of Faculty Senate.
- Members of the committee introduced themselves to the group.

Overview of Committee Function:

- Dr. Sinclair reviewed the purpose of the committee: To consult widely and recommend designs and timelines for an assessment process of the Core Curriculum and to provide reports as needed.

Summary of current SFASU Core Curriculum Assessment Plan/Process/Timeline

- Office of Student Learning and Institutional Assessment (OSLIA) Director, John Calahan, provided an overview of the current Core Curriculum Assessment Plan that included the core objectives, assessments, and timelines for collection of work at both the core and upper-levels.

Updates

- Mr. Calahan noted that he, John Henley, Christina Sinclair and faculty representative members met with each college academic dean and their perspective leadership teams last spring (2018).
- The purpose of these meetings was to have each academic program identify existing additional upper-level student work that could be collected to assess the core objectives.
- A second purpose of these meetings was to have academic deans identify three faculty members to serve a two-year term on the core assessment scoring team.
- Mr. Calahan indicated additional upper-level work needed to be collected and noted that work submitted needed to include assignment description details.
- Student work collected to date included: 72 artifacts for teamwork, 17 for social responsibility.
- Mr. Calahan also indicated core assessments on teamwork and social responsibility needed to be scored.

- The extent to which the core curriculum objectives are being met needs to be included in the September 2020 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) reaffirmation process.
- Mr. Calahan reviewed data collected and analyzed on the critical thinking core objective. See attached handouts.
- Mr. Calahan reminded everyone that D2L Bright Space and Nuventive are being used to collect core assessments and that he is working with Anthony Espinoza to identify a sample of students.

Reinvigorating the Identification and Collection of Upper-Level Student Work

- It was noted that upper-level work to be collected for Fall 2018 includes the following core objectives: Critical Thinking, Communication, and Social Responsibility.
- Committee members agreed to share this information with their academic areas.
- Christina Sinclair and John Calahan agreed to revisit with academic deans and their leadership teams to reinforce the need for upper-level student work.

Streamlining Assignments Collected in Core Courses

- Feedback from academic programs indicates that the current practice of requiring courses in the core to include assessment of all core objectives has led to the use of assessments that are not authentic and/or meaningful to students or programs.
- Mr. Calahan recommended the core courses only be required to assess the one core objective they are best able to assess as a means to enhance the authenticity and meaningfulness of core assessments and data collected.
- The committee agreed that the table titled “Core courses mapped to objectives for which they will collect student work beginning fall 2016” will be used to determine the single core objective each core course will be required to assess fall 2018 and beyond.
- Discussion took place related to whether or not the rubrics currently being used need to be changed.
- The committee agreed the rubrics were something they would discuss moving forward.

Guiding Principles of the University Assessment Steering Council

- As member of the University Assessment Steering Council, Christina Sinclair shared and summarized a handout that included the Guiding Principles of the University Assessment Steering Council.

Determine Next Steps

- The committee agreed to communicate back to their own academic areas the need for additional upper-level student work and the streamlining of the core assessment.
- Mr. Calahan asked for input on ways to incentivize faculty to allow class time for students to complete the ETS Proficiency Profile because this is one of the core objective assessments.
- The committee agreed this would be on the agenda for the next meeting.
- The next meeting date set was November 2nd, 2018.