Core Curriculum Oversight Committee

Date: Friday, September 11, 2015
Time: 1:30-3:00 p.m.
Meeting Location: Alumni Conference Room, LSC, 14th Floor
Attendance: Frederick Chambers, Sheryl Coffey, Yiming Deng, Manuel Espinoza, Andrea Falcone, Jeff Franklin, Phillip Gallegos, Carol Golemboski, Kent Homchick, Craig Lanning, Christine Martell, Hans Morgenthaler, Gwen Persons, Candice Shelby, Mary Stansifer, Tammy Stone, Mary Baitinger (recorder)

Agenda and Minutes

1. Introduction of new CCOC members and overview of CCOC duties
   The group introduced themselves and the purpose/background of the CCOC.

2. Approval of minutes from May meeting
   These were approved by seven members, with six abstaining.

3. Next round of syllabus review – Biological and Natural Sciences
   The group reviewed the core courses handout sheet and went over the guidelines to review syllabi—a minimum of two reads, with a third read, if needed, should there be a split decision. A thorough read is needed on all these documents due to a greater emphasis on general education learning outcomes. Jeff Franklin shared the feedback from chairs and departments about the recent 2014-2015 syllabi results and view of the CCOC in general by departments/chairs of the university. Current CCOC faculty members are expected to read the Biological and Natural Science syllabi and make comments on their content, once they are collected by Mary Baitinger and forwarded to them. Letters will be sent out to chairs, and syllabi are due to the CCOC by October, 2015. The second part of the process involves Jeff Franklin and Carol Golemboski communicating the results to the academic units. A learning outcome grant, written by Kenny Wolf and Jeff Franklin, will allow all nine academic units to receive feedback about core courses based on information collected by the CCOC. Kenny and Jeff will be visiting each group, and they anticipate 20-30 faculty members will attend each session. These will occur throughout the academic year 2015-2016.

   Action Item: Letter to chairs of Biological and Natural Sciences
   Action Item: Franklin/Wolf meetings with nine academic units

4. Update by Jeff Franklin and Manuel Espinoza on Core Composition Reform
   Jeff Franklin provided the CCOC with two documents – 1) Proposal to Reform Writing Requirements at CU Denver (5/15) and 2) Addendum to Reform Writing Requirements, Draft 7/15 from Engineering. Jeff explained that the first document was approved by the CCOC based on the feedback and support from associate deans and deans throughout the university and chose Option 1 from the first document. Engineering had reservations, however, and based on subsequent conversations with Jeff and Manuel, the second document was created which is more aligned with Engineering's credit availability. The CCOC weighed the positives and challenges of all three options in the two documents. Topics and ideas discussed included: Upper division writing intensive courses, tapping the Department of English to provide guidelines for writing (teaching and application), opening writing across disciplines, requiring CU students to take an upper division writing course, wording from the university

of how to fulfill this requirement (if it is one), does the CCOC determine how writing should be taught, perhaps implement department by department and see how it goes, the Registrar's Office role, the involvement of the Colorado Department of Higher Education, writing intensive classes versus teaching writing versus writing in one's discipline, and department prerogative of who decides who teaches writing and how it is done. A lively debate ensued over the definition and semantics of writing, terminology and the merits of an upper division course. Jeff Franklin will mail further documentation that he has collected so the CCOC can revisit this topic at a later date.

Action Item: Jeff Franklin to provide materials about the definition of writing and writing in the disciplines
Action Item: Reform Option 1, 2, or 3 to be selected by the CCOC with further vetting/discussion as needed