

Minutes for the **Carolina Core Committee Meeting**
November 11, 2014, 12:30 – 2:00 pm
Thomas Cooper Library, Room 204

Members Present:

Pam Bowers (ex-officio), Karen Brown, Mary Ann Byrnes, Kenneth Campbell, Ron Cox, Helen Doerpinghaus (Administrative Co-Chair), Kris Finnigan (ex-officio), Andy Gillentine, Kimberly Glenn, Allison Jacques, Carolyn Jones, Manton Matthews (ex-officio), Chris Nesmith, Joe Rackers (Faculty Co-Chair), Christine Sixta Rinehart, Kimberly Simmons, Nicole Spensley (ex-officio), Jerry Wallulis

Members Absent:

Sara Corwin, Daniel Freedman, Brian Habing (ex-officio), Stuart Hunter, James Kellogg, James Knapp (ex-officio), Gene Luna, Mary Robinson

Specialty Team Chairs Present:

Alexander Beecroft, Saskia Coenen-Snyder, Erik Doxtader, Sam Hastings, George Khushf, Camelia Knapp, Shelley Smith

Specialty Team Chairs Absent:

Chris Holcomb, Douglas Meade

Guests:

Clayton Armstrong (Student Government)
Loren Knapp

Joe Rackers called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Members introduced themselves and approved the September minutes without change

Sam Hastings reported on the Information Literacy rubric revision. This team has led the way in piloting review of student work and they recommended adjusting the rubric to be more effective in reviewing student learning. She presented the revised rubric with clarifying language for approval; Jerry Wallulis moved for approval, Mary Ann Byrnes seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Nicole Spensley indicated that she would adjust student work documents to conform with the revised language. The Committee thanked Sam Hastings, the Information Literacy Specialty Team, and Karen Brown for her work.

Nicole then reported on the Core component review schedule for the coming year. She thanked faculty for their work with assessment and noted that a strong cohort of faculty leaders has emerged as faculty direct review of the Carolina Core curriculum. Each semester more faculty members participate on the review teams and build expertise together. She noted that Information Literacy (INF) and Written Communication (CMW) are both scheduled for review again in Spring 2015, and we will be piloting work with Social Sciences (GSS) soon.

A discussion ensued of student advising for the Carolina Core. Kris Finnigan reported on Carolina Core course approvals. She indicated that 181 foundational courses are fully approved now (which is a dramatic increase from the original number of 31 approved in the Fall 2012 launch semester); when integrated Core courses are included from the program majors the number of total Carolina Core courses is 312.

With respect to advising in the colleges, some colleges indicated that they find their students to have a good understanding of Core requirements and advising for the Core is going very well. Advisers understand the structure of the curriculum and handle it fairly easily. Other colleges are still struggling to get advisers (both staff and faculty advisers) on board. All colleges provide educational information to advisers but some advisers avail themselves of these resources more than others. It appears that the colleges that are able to explain what the university Carolina Core requirements are for all university students as distinct from their individual college general education requirements—these colleges are more successful with advising in the Carolina Core. We discussed simplifying college requirements to the extent possible might be helpful. Several of the colleges have adviser meetings just before the start of each semester to remind all advisers of curricular requirements and any new Carolina Core course offerings.

The Committee indicated that some dissatisfaction with advising for the Carolina Core likely reflects other concerns that also affect advisers, namely adjusting to the new Banner system, handling transfer-in credits, and learning how to use DegreeWorks. The Committee agreed that all of these issues reflect the need for better communication and website tools to make advising in all of its dimensions more effective and efficient.

Kris Finnigan agreed to look at the Carolina Core website and see if the linkage to relevant information could be improved. She will coordinate efforts to target specific areas of Carolina Core work so that visitors to the website can find what they need, whether it be advising, proposing a new course, or assessing student learning. We agreed to continue to look for ways to make online resources more helpful in advising for the Core.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by H. Doeringhaus