

1. Announcements, updates, and old business

- Jordan Glassman (SLU SGA: Academic Affairs) joined us and will be our student representative for 2018-19 academic year.
- Stipends: all faculty members (9 / 11 / 12-month) are in process (if not June 30 then July 31st pay check).
- Dr. Paul Hanstedt (<https://directory.roanoke.edu/faculty/112>) will kick off our FA18 community outreach with a presentation on 21st Century Curricular Design Trends (9/7/18 @ 2-3:15pm).
- Sub-group outreach: still waiting to hear back from Santa Clara on a few group questions on staffing models and assessment compensation. We will have to revisit these questions when the responses come back.
- Provost has asked Core Director / UUC to come up with a DRAFT university-wide team-teaching policy that would allow the delivery of an integrative learning Core. This is forthcoming for the consideration of the UUC.

2. Discussion of chps. 5-6 of THE UNDERGRADUATE EXPERIENCE: “Improvement Matters” and “Alignment Matters”

- UUC spent the bulk of its discussion time here on matters of “alignment.” Discussed current **Advising** challenges because of different “core” curricula both between and within colleges and schools. Discussed how a true common UG core would allow advising to do that it cannot do with a fractured core experience: core as a thru line that will simplify advising.
- Discussed an “advising app” that is in the works for SLU – again, could be a more seamless experience with a common core. Other universities have clearer ways for students to get answers to questions—a clearing house website or phone number that would connect students to the resources they need to answer questions. Sort of a “3-1-1” (NYC) for SLU. An Office of the Core could be this thru line.
- This idea of a common core as a curricular / experiential “thru line” came up a lot in this conversation—a way to help students see connections between and among core / co-curriculars / major.
- General concern emerged in this conversation that we don’t have what *The UG Experience* identifies as crucial to success: a vocal upper

administration committed to getting the whole campus behind major structural change. Discussed the importance of getting this backing asap—even with change at the top.

3. Presentation of 2018 AACU Gen Ed/Assessment Institute: 2018-19 University Community Engagement plan (draft)

- Team from the UUCC attended the AACU “General Education and Assessment” summer institute at the University of Utah (June 4-8, 2018) [Jenny Agnew, Gary Barker, Ellen Crowell, Emily Lutenski, Steve Sanchez, Kathleen Thatcher]. Developed draft 3-stage plan for orienting the wider university community to the self-education work the UUCC undertook this summer (in particular on High Impact learning practices (HIPs), General Education Maps and Models (GEMs), trends in 21st century curricular design (Hanstedt and Peer Core Curriculum sub group).
- Talked through three stages (orientation [Sept/Oct]; HIP / Core component workshops [Oct/Nov]; call for architectural proposals [Dec / due Feb 2019]).
- UUCC members expressed some concern that we will need to do a lot of legwork to make sure that the university community is even ready to engage in this work in FA18, because since the passing of the SLOs in April, everyone may have forgotten or chosen to ignore that this work is moving forward.
- Discussed creating a sort of roadmap “vision document” that would link up the SLU Baccalaureate Vision statement, the SLU learning outcomes (non-core—the 4/21), to the newly-passed Core SLOs. Such a document would seek to couch the work of the UUCC to date within this broader campus-wide work on defining what a student should leave SLU with upon graduation.
- In a sense, what we will be doing in engaging the wider university community in this process will be to ask people to continue this important work of INSTITUTIONAL DISCERNMENT. A reimagined core CAN AND SHOULD ask us to reimagine how we articulate our SLU mission.

4. Presentation: Bryan Sokol, Ctr. for Service and Community Engagement

- Bryan oriented the UUCC to the work of the Center, now in its tenth year.
- Center offers some compelling models for a new SLU Core / Office of the Core: It has always been a center that blurs boundaries between academic and community life / service. A hub for integrating academic affairs, student development, mission and ministry.
- Center maintains a database of service learning opportunities for students (individuals) and groups.
- Moving away from “Make a Difference Day” to make a difference for a whole year: Students / faculty are encouraged to apply for “1818 seed grants” intended to promote sustained community service relationships more geared towards group projects. Starting FA18. An interesting model for the core.

5. Guest: Chris Collins, Mission and Identity

- Chris Collins joined the UUCC to offer some updates on what is happening in his division, and to think through ways to merge work on the Core with work currently happening in M&I. He began by sharing SLU’s “Catholic, Jesuit Higher Ed” promotional materials (booklet) and also a new book he is finding useful: Healing Polarization in the Classroom (2018)
- Alerted the UUCC to SLU’s upcoming 2018-19 participation in a “Mission Priority Examen” – a process being undertaken by multiple Jesuit colleges and universities at the request of the Superior General of the Society of Jesus. This work has the support of the Jesuit Provincials in the United States and the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities. The Examen asks the SLU community to engage in institutional reflection on the mission to creatively move forward in ways true to our Catholic, Jesuit, and SLU identity.
- Members of the UUCC asked whether there could be collaboration between the work of the SLU Mission Examen and our own efforts to foster a shared, campus-wide vision and vocabulary for a common undergraduate core?
- We observed that there is a danger of “mission fatigue” here unless we work thoughtfully to dovetail some of our efforts. For instance, is there a way to use conversations about the core to more pointedly and creatively link SLU’s approach to Catholic, Jesuit higher education to

region / place / geography? This is not very strong in our recruitment, curriculum, alumni relations, etc. UUCC / Core work might think about working with M&I to foreground history of SLU as first American Jesuit university to purposefully combine humanistic inquiry and professional programs. Are there older documents we can access that record the specifics of this decision, and otherwise give us better grounding in telling the story of SLU's distinctive approach to Catholic intellectual tradition?

- Some members of the UUCC are already committed to participating in the upcoming Mission Priority Examen, so they will be liaisons between two groups / efforts.
- UUCC posed question of how to get higher administration—ideally President Pestello—to publicly and forcefully advocate for the importance of Core work – perhaps linked to Bicentennial year AND Mission Priority Examen. This relates back to earlier conversation about “Alignment” and our commitment to working hard to get our whole SLU community on the same page to give our work the best chance of success moving forward.

6. Presentation of Peer Core Operationalization by sub-group [Justin Daffron (chair), Kim Druschel, Judy Geczi, Jay Haugen, Amber Johnson]

- Justin and Kim presented a comparative powerpoint highlighting how other universities (University of Nevada-Reno, Santa Clara, others).
- University of Nevada-Reno has a gen-ed blog that records all of the work in real time, and invites members of the university community to post comments. These can be anonymous. Offers a way for people to give feedback without feeling exposed. Might be a model for us—for a page on our outward-facing UUCC website.
- Subgroup proposed that it create a draft spreadsheet of a SLU “relationship map” – comprised of official and unofficial organizational flowcharts identifying those key individuals who must be consulted on specific questions / concerns / conceptualizations as we move forward. If the O&I subgroup gets this going, we will draw on the shared wisdom of the UUCC as a whole to build out our “Relationship Map,” validate it, and then use it as we consult with the university community moving forward.