

University Undergraduate Core Committee

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

VH room 219

11am – 1pm

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Ellen Crowell, Judy Geczi, Jordan Glassman, Bryan Sokol, Gary Barker, Steve Sanchez, Anne McCabe, Bill Rehg, Jennifer Rust, Ness Sandoval, Ellen Carnaghan, Kim Druschel, Ryan McCulla, Filippo Marsili, Christopher Thomas, Michael Swartwout, Kyle Crews, Lauren Arnold, Margaret Bultas, Ginge Kettenbach, Peggy Dotson, Louise Neiman, Laura Rettig

1. Call to Order and Announcements
 - 12/11 Core Holiday Thank You Gathering @ Boileau Hall (for food, drink and fellowship). It will be attached to an email that will be sent out today. We want to thank SLU community members for the time and effort that they've put into the process, and make sure they have additional ways to ask questions and talk together about the Core Proposal.
 - Annual Conference on the First Year Experience February 21-24 in Washington DC. : we'll send three UUCG members to gather strategies for faculty development around the First Year Experience
2. Approval of 11/12 minutes.
3. Discussion of Proposed Core in relation to AJCU self-assessment instrument p. 8-10
UUCG was joined by Fr. Chris Collins, SLU Mission and Identity, to discuss where our proposed Core is aligned with the AJCU self-assessment tool, and where the tensions lie.
Questions discussed included:
 - How do you balance the student needs of large professional programs with SLU's desire to remain committed to the Liberal Arts?
 - Where are students encountering Catholic or world religions now? Will the new Core still deliver on these areas
 - What does the Core curriculum offer students? In it, will every graduate achieve a basic understanding of the Jesuit tradition?
 - Fr. Collins mentioned that the AJCU will likely be revising its self-assessment tool in light of the new Universal Apostolic Preferences for the Society of Jesus—it might be helpful to think about how the new Core would align with those four preferences as well.
 - These are: 1) Showing the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises and discernment; 2) Walking with the Excluded in a mission of reconciliation and justice; 3) Journeying with youth in the creation of a hope-filled future; and 4) caring for our common home for the protection and renewal of God's creation.
 - Discussed that focus on discernment and care in "Cura Personalis" seems to have a great deal of potential for aligning with these preferences, as does the focus on care for the dignity of individuals and groups in the "Equity and Global Identities" attributes. T
 - Core and faculty formation: is there room here and willingness to bring our SLU Jesuit community more richly into curricular design / faculty development / formation?
 - UUCG discussed the potential to more explicitly link the "Eloquentia Perfecta" sequence to the Jesuit intellectual tradition—the links are richly there, but could get lost.
 - In general, discussion focused on how to make explicit the places where the UUCG sees this Core intersecting with and delivering content from the Jesuit intellectual tradition---and how to ensure that faculty have the development they need to keep this central guiding tradition visible as the Core moves forward.

4. Initial review: Core responses spreadsheet and individual colleges/schools breakdown. UJCC discussed how to proceed with our review of all colleges and schools' responses to the Core proposal. Decision: we will put all questions / requests for clarification and modification into two categories: those that are easily accommodated and won't break the structure, and those that are sticky and might force structural alterations. We'll take the easy first, make those changes to the Core document, and then move forward with the more challenging requests second.
5. Adjourn