

University Senate Committee Annual Report

Due Date: Submit in MSWord or pdf format to senate@gcsu.edu

no later than April 24, 2013.

Committee Name: Subcommittee on Core Curriculum

Academic Year: 2012-2013

Committee Charge:

The Subcommittee on the Core Curriculum shall be concerned with matters relating to the University Core Curriculum (Core), which include, but are not limited to, reviewing proposals for courses to be offered in the Core and assessing the Core. This subcommittee also provides advice, as appropriate, on procedural matters relating to the Core and its assessment.

Committee Calendar:

8/29/12
9/5/12
9/12/12
9/19/12
9/26/12
10/3/12
10/10/12
10/17/12
10/24/12
10/31/12
11/7/12
11/14/12
11/28/12
1/9/13
1/23/13
1/30/13
2/6/13
2/13/13
2/30/13
2/27/13
3/6/13
3/13/13
3/20/13
4/3/13
4/10/14
4/17/13
4/23/13

Executive Summary:

SoCC focused on three things:

Review: new sections of the GC1Y and GC2Y courses, Global Perspective overlay proposals, and courses to be added to the core.

Assessment: Assist in the assessment of core courses and to make recommendations to the GCSU assessment team.

Recommend: Recommend changes to policy and procedures to both the University Senate and the Provost's office regarding the core.

While the bulk of the Subcommittee meetings have been consumed by the constant review of new proposals for new GC1Y and GC2y Sections, there has been some time to assess progress and to discuss how best to ensure our students are meeting the intended goals of a liberal arts education. Our interaction with the University Assessment team had been most fruitful. In the fall we assisted in presenting forums for faculty members interested in proposing new GC1Y and GC2Y sections.

GC1Y Sections Approved:

The Uncanny: Monsters and Machines (9/19/12)
 SciFi and Philosophy (1/9/13)
 Baseball in American Culture (2/27/13)
 Public and Collective Memory (3/13/13)
 Concepts of Imagination, Conceptions of Learning (4/10/13)

GC2Y Sections Approved:

Politics, Comics, and the Graphic Novel (8/29/12)
 Ecosophy: Environmental Philosophy (9/7/12)
 Global Connections (9/19/12)
 Ten Plants that Changed the World (10/8/12)
 Theatre as Social Change (10/8/13)
 Human Migration in the Americas (1/23/13)
 Seeing Like a State (1/30/13)
 The AIDS Pandemic (2/6/13)
 Global Perspectives: Water and Scarcity (2/13/13)
 Understanding Islam: The Muslim World and the West (2/21/13)
 Youth Cultures in the Modern World (3/6/13)

Global Perspectives Overlays Approved:

GEOG 1101 (9/19/12)
 All International Plan courses (10/24/12)
 SOCI 3446 (11/14/12)
 MATH 4010 (11/14/12)
 SOCI 1121 (1/30/13)
 MUSC 1200 (3/13/13)
 PHIL 2010 (4/10/13)
 KINS 4333 (4/24/13)
 RELI 1111 (3/6/13)

Area C Courses Approved:

RELI 1111 (3/6/13)

Area D Courses Approved:

GEOG 1112/1112L (3/13/13)
 GEOG 1113/1113L (3/13/13)

Committee Membership and Record of Attendance (27 meetings held)

Member Name	Attend	Regret	Absent
Martha Allen	21	1	1
Scott Butler	21	2	
Kevin Crabb	18	5	

Esther Lopez	21	2	
Mary Magoulick (Vice Chair)	22	1	
Stephanie McClure	19	2	2
Cara Meade	19	2	2
Amy Sumpter	18	5	
John Swinton (Chair)	19	4	
Kay Anderson (Secretary)	18	5	

Guests:

Jason Huffman	14
Tom Ormond	2
Steve Elliot Gower	1
Julie Metzker	1

Motions brought to the Senate floor:

SoCC does not directly recommend motions to the Senate. Through its affiliation to CAPC, it can and does make motions regarding the core.

The Subcommittee did request a vote be put forward concerning the name of the Core (renaming the core to be the “Cube” lost in Senate).

The Subcommittee requested CAPC move to include study abroad experiences be counted as carrying a Global Perspectives Overlay.

The Subcommittee requested CAPC move that all courses in the Globalization plan automatically carry the Global Perspectives overlay.

The Subcommittee requested CAPC move for a rewording of the requirement of students to earn three Global Perspectives overlays to indicate that only one was required in the core.

Other Significant Deliberation (Non-Motions):

The Subcommittee voted to exclude modern foreign languages at or below level 2002 for consideration of carrying a Global Perspectives overlay

Multiple discussions revolved around fundamental purpose and procedures for the Subcommittee:

GC2Y 4th hour: There needs to be clarity for the Subcommittee and everyone who teaches a GC2Y sections what constitutes a legitimate 4th hour, what constitutes legitimate “learning outside the classroom experiences” and whether or not the two are expected to be linked.

Review of Proposals: The Subcommittee believes it is worth considering submissions include syllabi for proposed GC1Y and GC2Y sections. The Subcommittee also discussed the level of scrutiny proposals ought to endure. There was no consensus as to how rigid acceptance criteria ought to be. This will be a continuing issue.

Messages to Provost’s Office:

- 1) Need for crediting faculty members for teaching 4th hour of GC2Y sections so it does not become practice that these be taught on an overload basis.
- 2) Need for crediting faculty members and Colleges for credit hours taught on a team teaching basis.
- 3) Need to review the policy of waiving the 3 Global Perspectives overlay requirement for transfer students. This will require more Global Perspectives overlay options in many majors.

Assessment: In review of pilot assessment of GC1Y sections and learning outcomes associated with the Core the Subcommittee determined that faculty members who are engaged in assessment are taking a too narrow view of the task. They appear to be assessing students based on the expectations of the class level rather than in terms of expected progression of skills throughout a typical college career. Therefore, the Subcommittee suggested that the task of refining the rubrics used to assess the expected student outcomes be revised to reflect this distinction.

It is the opinion of the Subcommittee that this should be accompanied by faculty development to encourage those faculty members currently teaching classes and sections tied to the expected student outcomes to take a broader view when assessing their students.

Committee Reflections:

The Subcommittee undertook a very difficult charge with a great deal of diligence and professionalism. Given the potentially contentious nature of some of the deliberations, the Subcommittee performed admirably throughout a grueling academic year.

Committee Recommendations:

The Subcommittee will likely have to spend some time hammering out a consensus on a few important issues: What constitutes a legitimate 4th hour and what should the Subcommittee request to ensure a GC2Y proposals meet the criteria.

What constitutes a legitimate “Outside the Classroom” learning experience and what should the Subcommittee request to ensure proposals meet the criteria.

Should the 4th hour and the “Learning Outside the Classroom” experiences be linked?

What is the appropriate level of scrutiny for proposals?

More time will probably be spent on assessment issues.

Meeting every week is probably not a sustainable model.

A representative of the natural sciences is desirable.

Recommend items for consideration at the governance retreat:**Appendix: Committee Operating Procedures**

The Subcommittee used an informal approach structured on Robert’s Rules of Order.