

University Senate Committee Annual Report

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

no later than April 30, 2014.

Committee Name: Subcommittee on Core Curriculum

Academic Year: 2013-2014

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:

8/21/13

8/28/13

9/4/13

9/11/13

9/18/13

10/9/13

10/16/13

10/23/13

11/6/13

11/13/13

11/20/13

12/4/13

1/22/14

2/5/14

2/19/14

2/26/14

3/12/14

4/2/14

4/16/14

4/23/14

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.

This year there were many fewer submissions of GC1Y and GC2Y Sections for review than in years past. There were, however, a lot more Global Perspectives Overlay proposals for review. We spent considerable time reviewing and revising the original submission forms. Also, the committee (mostly Amy Sumpter) developed a D2L course that all faculty can access to store all submissions. This development should make future applications easier to put together. Finally, the Subcommittee spent considerable time and energy revising the makeup of the Subcommittee and getting the changes through Senate.

GC1Y Sections Approved (all sections carry the course number GC1Y 1000):

Swansonomics
The Capital Punishment Debate

GC2Y Sections Approved (all sections carry the course number GC2Y 2000):

Underworlds and Afterlives
Animal Ethics
Iranian Post-1979 Cinema
History of Global Public Health
Globalization, Cultures, and Education
Diversity in Education: Belize Study Abroad

Global Perspectives Overlays Approved:

RELI 3500: Buddhist Traditions in Asia
RELI 3510: South Asian Buddhism
RELI 3520: Tibetan Buddhism
RELI 3530: Zen Buddhism
RELI 3600: Hindu Religious Traditions
PSYC 3500: Social Psychology
CHEM 2920: Chemistry Seminar
GEOG 4210: Military Geography
GEOG 4215: Insurgency and Terrorism
GEOG 4250: Geography of Health
PHYS 2920: Sophomore Seminar
PHIL 4660: Buddhism, Daoism, and the Myth of Meditation
KINS 4353: Global Public Health
ARTS 1100: Arts and Ideas
ARTS 4870: History of Photography
ENSC 1050: Sustainability and the World Population

Area C Courses Approved:

Area D Courses Approved:

GEOG 2100: Introduction to Geospatial Science (for non-science majors)
ENSC 1050: Sustainability and the World Population (for non-science majors)

Committee Membership and Record of Attendance (20 meetings held)

Member Name	Attend	Regret	Absent
Kay Anderson (Secretary)	18	2	0
Scott Butler	16	4	0
Roberta Gorham	19	1	0
Mary Magoulick	19	1	0
Cara Meade	17	3	0
Yeprem Mehranian	15	4	1
Chavonda Mills	17	3	0
Shaundra Walker	17	1	0
Amy Sumpter (Vice Chair)	20	0	0
John Swinton (Chair)	18	2	0

Guests:

Ryan Brown, Funke Fontenot (2), Julia Metzger, Doug Oetter (2), Craig Turner, Catherine Whelan, John Sirmans, Aran McKinnon (2), Heidi Fowler, Stephanie Opperman, Rui Kang, Veronica Womack, Sara Doude, Caralyn Zehnder, Lyndall Mushell

Motions brought to the Senate floor:

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

The Subcommittee requested a change to the University Senate Bylaws to alter the composition of the Subcommittee. This bylaw revision was ultimately passed by the University Senate.

The Subcommittee requested CAPC move to include in its bylaws or operating procedures that it would act as an arbitrator if disputes arise during the process of reviewing courses for inclusion in the Core or to carry the Global Perspectives Overlay. ECUS has asked that CAPC put this in their operating procedures until the Senate Bylaws can be amended.

Other Significant Deliberation (Non-Motions):

Messages to Provost's Office:

- 1) Need to provide more opportunity for Global Perspective overlays in professional programs and for transfer students. Too many students will finish their senior year with insufficient GP overlays if this need is not addressed soon. The Subcommittee agreed that by broadening overlays outside of the Core to include issues of diversity and culture would provide additional opportunities to students of programs that currently have little room for courses that meet the relatively strict definition of Global as described by the Board of Regents would be beneficial. Members of the Diversity taskforce, however, asked that SoCC delay taking any action in that direction until the Diversity taskforce is able to define "diversity".
- 2) The Provost's Office should take the lead in establishing protocol for crediting faculty for the 4th for teaching a GC2Y section and for allocating credit for team-taught GC1Y or GC2Y sections. SoCC has seen very few proposals for sections that integrate multiple disciplines particularly across Colleges. This is a missed opportunity. While it would be nice to think that Deans and Chairs could work out ad hoc arrangements, this will ultimately cause strife as faculty members discover differences across campus. It would be better to have an institutional standard for how credit hours are counted into faculty member workloads for GC1Y and GC2Y sections.

Assessment: With the SACSCOC visit scheduled during the year it became clear that SoCC as a whole is not well placed to take on the task of systematic assessment of the Core. It is the hope of the Subcommittee that the pending reorganization will address that problem. However, it also became evident that the magnitude of the task of conducting a good assessment of GC students' Core experience is a large and difficult task.

Committee Recommendations:

More time will probably be spent on assessment issues.

Meeting every week is probably not a good idea.

It will be interesting to see if the D2L platform and new forms improve the review process.

Make a habit of inviting people who submit proposals to attend the meeting at which their proposals will be discussed. This seemed to work reasonably well and may help alleviate the misconception that the Subcommittee has some secret agenda.

When the Subcommittee grows in size it will be important to focus on the different expertise people bring to the table. I would suggest forming sub-subcommittees to address assessment issues for the different areas of the Core and not expect everyone to meet all the time. If busy faculty members feel they are being required to attend numerous meetings where their input is not required, the schedule will become onerous.

Recommend items for consideration at the governance retreat:

Committee's Chair Reflections:

The difficulty of the tasks put before the Subcommittee started to take its toll this year. Committee meetings were more contentious than in years past and relationships with one or two faculty members outside of the Subcommittee were less than cordial. While most members took great efforts to maintain a professional approach throughout the year, the Subcommittee has been asked to undertake too many different tasks. It cannot simultaneously serve as the gatekeeper of entry into the Core and assessment of Core classes (and ultimately arbiter of courses that remain in the Core) with only the members' goodwill toward the institution to maintain it. Considering how often the Subcommittee meets and the potentially volatile nature of some of the topics, it is unreasonable to think that the current model is sustainable. Ultimately, it is probably in the best interest of Georgia College to professionalize systematic assessment and allow faculty to focus on the nature of our Core.

Appendix: Committee Operating Procedures

The Subcommittee used an informal approach structured on Robert's Rules of Order. We failed to vote on a specific Operating Procedure until late in the year, but other than meeting almost weekly, we followed CAPC procedure by default. SoCC has been mostly reactive in terms of setting an agenda. If it chooses to require itself to post an agenda one week prior to meeting many the discussion of section and overlay proposals will be delayed.