

Year-end committee report for Core Review Committee

Chairs: Andy Seitz (School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences)

Margaret Short (College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Department of Mathematics and Statistics)

Members:

College of Liberal Arts:

Burns Cooper, English (17)

Brian Kassof, Social Sciences (16)

Yelena Matusevich, Humanities (16)

Kevin Sager, Communication (CLA 16)

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics:

Margaret Short, Math (17) - Co-Chair

Lawrence Duffy, Science (16)

Library:

Katherine Arndt, LIB (17)

At-Large:

Andy Seitz, SFOS - Co-Chair

Unit Core Assessment:

Tony Rickard, CNSM

Kevin Berry, SOM

Ex Officio:

Provost's Council Rep: Marsha Sousa

Office of Admissions and Registrar: Caty Oehring, Hayley Williams

Academic Advising Center: Ginny Kinne, Bobbi Jensen

Rural Student Services: Gabrielle Russell

Victoria Smith: Student Support Services (added in April 2016)

Summary of activities:

The Core Review Committee met nine times during AY2015-2016 (five times during fall semester, four times during spring semester). The main activities of the Core Review Committee were reviewing:

1. Petitions to add "W", "O" or "O/2" designators to courses on an individual course basis
2. Petitions to have transfer courses count towards a core requirement (X)
3. Petitions to allow low scores in courses (<C-) and CLEP exams (<50) count toward core requirements
4. Petition to waive "W", "O" or "O/2" requirement for
5. Requests to permanently attach "W", "O" or "O/2" designators to courses
6. Requests to list a course in baccalaureate core (X)

Type	Approve	Deny	Deny, send to Provost	Withdrawn	Total
Petition					
Add "W", "O" or "O/2" on individual course basis	21			1	22
Transfer course to count as core requirement (X)	4	3	3	2	12
Allow low scores in courses/CLEP count for core	2				2
Waive "W", "O" or "O/2" requirement		1			1
Request					
Permanently attach "W", "O" or "O/2" to course	4				4
List course in baccalaureate core (X)	2				2
Total	33	4	3	3	43

In addition to reviewing course request and petitions, the committee discussed current and future practices, which are summarized:

1. Review of Core Curriculum Review Committee bylaws - The Committee decided to shelve any discussion of modifying the bylaws until at least next year, when there is a clearer picture of what the GERs and Communications Learning Outcomes are, and how they relate to the function of the Core Curriculum Review Committee.
2. Review of meeting procedures, specifically, are meetings open, closed, or semi-closed - this discussion stemmed from a meeting in Spring 2015 when a UAF faculty member attended a Core Review Committee meeting and did not leave during the voting for a petition that he signed. The Core Review Committee discussed how to conduct meetings when a guest wants to attend and we agreed upon the following guidelines:
 - a. Meetings are open to students and/or representative(s) of that student who signed the student's petition that will be discussed.
 - b. The student and/or his/her representative will only be allowed to attend the meeting when the respective student's petition is being discussed. In other words, the student and/or his/her representative will not be allowed to hear proceedings of other petitions on which his/her name is not listed.
 - c. The student and/or his/her representative will only be allowed to answer questions posed by the committee (i.e., they will not have an open floor to "pitch" the petition), and will have a maximum of three minutes to do so.
 - d. The Core Review Committee reserves the right to table the petition at any time during the discussion of any petition.
3. Changes to GERs – The committee was frequently updated on two main changes to GERs, by both staff and the Chair of Curricular Affairs Committee. These changes are:
 - a. Replace Oral (O) and Written (W) requirement with the requirement that each degree program must satisfy Communications Learning Outcomes within the degree program.
 - b. Replace the current Perspectives on the Human Condition with general education requirements that follow a "bucket approach." The bucket approach still has general education areas that need to be met, but they may be met by a wide variety of courses.
4. Given the change in GERs, the future roles of Core Review Committee – The committee will still have several roles, including:
 - a. The Committee will review O and W designator petitions for students using older catalog years.
 - b. The committee will review requests for inclusion of courses in the non-bucket core requirements, such as requests to have new courses meet natural sciences or mathematics core requirements.
 - c. The committee will review petitions from students requesting non-core designated courses (non X courses) to meet core requirements.
 - d. The committee will review requests for inclusion of courses in the new "buckets." A list of criteria for inclusion in a bucket will be used for evaluating requests (see appendix).
 - e. The committee will do an annual review to check whether courses in the buckets are offered annually. If not, letters will be sent to department chairs to check on the planned offerings of the course. If a course in a bucket is not offered for several years, the committee will seek to have the course removed from the bucket.

APPENDIX

GER Course Approval Guide (Prepared by the Curriculum Review Committee)

Adding a Course

1. Both new and currently existing courses may be proposed for a GER category.
2. Each program will be able to have X courses in the appropriate category/categories (talk to AdComm)
3. Course descriptions must reflect how the course meets the category as defined by University regulations.
 - a. Social Sciences: "Courses that fulfill this requirement are **broad survey courses** which provide the student with exposure to theory, methods, and data of the social sciences."
 - b. Arts: "Provide the student with an **introduction** to the visual arts and performing arts **as academic disciplines** as opposed to those that emphasize acquisition of skills."
 - c. Humanities: "**Introduce** the student to the humanistic fields of language, arts, literature, history, and philosophy."
4. Courses must be 100 or 200 level.
5. Courses must be currently designated a social science (s) or a humanities (h) for the purpose of the BA degree.
6. Course must be introductory, as indicated by the lack of prerequisites (except ENGL 111x).
7. Course should welcome all students (e.g. should not discourage non-majors).
8. Course must be offered regularly as described in the catalog (at least once per year).
9. Course instructors must agree to participate in UAF GER assessment activities.
10. If a program already has X number of courses in a category the program must remove a course to add the new course.

Removing a Course

1. Once a course gets an X designation that X is a permanent part of the course number. Courses taken off the list will need a NEW course number.
2. Departments would submit a new course request and go through the approval process to have the course re-numbered.