

Core Review Committee Report

Leah Berman

October 8, 2014

This report covers two meetings of the committee.

Tuesday, September 23, 2014

Debu Misra graciously had agreed to convene the meeting in the absence of a chair. After some discussion, Leah Berman eventually volunteered to chair the committee and the rest of the committee agreed that would be fine.

Three petitions were discussed; two petitions were denied and one was approved.

Caty Oehring raised the issue of whether AP and CLEP scores should be treated similarly to transfer courses in terms of their substitution for Core requirements (specifically for the Perspectives on the Human Condition requirements). After discussion, the issue was tabled until the next meeting.

Tuesday, October 7, 2014

The committee discussed 5 petitions. Two petitions were denied.

The other three petitions were from students trying to complete degrees after a long hiatus. Two petitions wanted to use old courses (from the late 80s, prior to the current core) to satisfy W or O and one was simply a core waiver request (which is outside the mandate of the committee). Although the petitions were denied, the committee recommended that the provost waive the W and O requirements the students were trying to petition in order to facilitate their degree completion.

We continued the discussion of AP and CLEP scores and how/whether they should substitute for PHC requirements. The discussion was tabled until the committee could discuss specific case studies.

Finally, the committee discussed the problem of students trying to use individual study courses to fulfill their W (or hypothetically, their O) requirements. In the past—and indeed, at this meeting—the committee has received petitions for courses that are either in progress or have already been completed. The committee feels that being asked to evaluate whether a course satisfies the W or O requirement at that time is inappropriate in general, and places the student in a bad position.

A form for individual study courses is already required. We are proposing the following modification of the form and approval process:

- Add a line to the form under course information which would say something like, “Is this a Writing or Oral Intensive Course?” Yes/No W or O (syllabus must be included already with the individual study request)
- Include a statement that W or O must be approved prior to the beginning of the individual study class.
- Add an additional signature line for the Core Review Committee. These would be submitted to the Office of Admissions and the Registrar (OAR) once the dean has signed them and a representative from the registrar’s office who sits on Core Review would bring them to Core Review Committee for discussion and a final signature, if approved.

Discussions are underway to determine the appropriate procedure to determine whether this should be implemented and if so, what the process is.