

CORE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023, 4:10 P.M., VIRTUAL MEETING

Voting Members 2023 – 2024:		Non-Voting, Ex Officio Members 2023 – 2024:	
Kathy Reid (ACCT, BADM, ECON)	X	<i>vacant</i> (Student Representative)	
John Steffen (BIOL)	X	<i>vacant</i> (Student Representative)	
Chris Coltrin (CAT)		Tracy Seffers (Registrar)	
Jacquelyn Cole (CHEM)	X	Christina Reich (Academic Advising)	
<i>vacant</i> (CME)		Ann Wendle (Assessment)	
Monica Larson (COMM)	X	H. Williams-McNamee (Student Success)	X
J. B. Tuttle (EDUC)	X	Emily Gross (Academic Support Center)	X
Sytil Murphy (EPS)	X	Larry Daily (C&I Chair)	X
David Gordon (HIST)	X	Shannon Holliday (FYEX)	X
Rhonda Donaldson (Library)	X	Annie Lewin (Multicultural Student Affairs)	
Erica Rumbley (MUSC)			
Kellie Riffe-Snyder (NURS)			
Stephanie Slocum-Schaffer (PSCI)	X		
Lindsey Levitan (PSYC)	X		
Rhonda Hovatter (RSES)	X	Core Curriculum Committee Chair 2023 – 2024:	
Charles Hulse (SOCL)		Tim Nixon (EML)	X
Karen Green (SOWK)	X		

Quorum = 10 voting members (reached by 4:10 PM)

I. Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting of 10/18/2023

Approved by acclamation

II. Reports

A. **C&I** (Larry Daily) C&I endorsed the new structure that permits A.A. & A.S. students to transfer without having to take/retake additional Core Curriculum courses at Shepherd. It also approved the new committee structure for CCC, which features one representative from each department and additional elected representatives from each college for a total of 21 members.

B. Assessment Subcommittee (Anne Wendle) no report

C. Course Substitution Subcommittee (Karen Green) The subcommittee considered some requests for the past month. It now has a new batch from the Registrar's Office.

III. Important Initiatives for the New Academic Year

A. 2023 – 2028 Strategic Plan and the Core Curriculum Committee (Jason Best)

Jason Best provided background regarding this initiative: The BOG approved the 2023-28 Strategic Plan at its Sept. 14 meeting. The plan has five goals and nine strategies. Each strategy

within a goal has a series of tactics that will evolve over time. Goal 2, Strategy 1 asserts that CCC undertake an examination of the Core to see how Liberal Arts are being realized within it. This is intended to be forward-looking (to make adjustments) rather than retrospective.

The working group for LA (Liberal Arts) realization has already met and posed questions to Jason on this occasion. Stephanie expressed confusion regarding the group's mandate. Jason said that the issue to be addressed was what LA means—or should mean—to students now rather than when the Core was created or when the LEAP system of assessment was still in place nationally (i.e., up to 2018). Further discussion ensued regarding such issues as whether the meaning of LA has changed, whether the issue is the value of LA per se or its realization at Shepherd, whether administrators have a desired outcome in mind, and so on. Jason emphasized that the report due in January 2024 is not meant to be definitive (it's part of an ongoing dialogue) and that it will be very important to include metrics for the realization of LA within it.

Sytil reported that she had difficulty locating a copy of the final Strategic Plan. Tim has a section from it pertaining to the Core but will search on behalf of CCC for the Plan as a whole.

IV. Second Readings

A. EDUC 46X

Jason Allen represented EDUC. In advance, EDUC had submitted a table with two forms of assessment for each of the five competencies selected on the relevant Course Change Forms. Sytil motioned to approve and Kathy seconded. The proposals for the new, state-mandated courses passed as a group with 10 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

V. Old Business

A. Students Transferring to Shepherd with an Associate's (A.A. or A.S.) Degree from Community Colleges

Discussion occurred regarding this proposal. Sytil expressed concern that programs at some nearby community colleges have general education classes that are not nearly as rigorous as those that our students take. Also, Blue Ridge CTC requires fewer credits for its core than we do. Karen pointed out that programs at Shepherd still have the right to insist that their students (including transfers) take specified courses to fulfill particular Core requirements.

Other specific issues were brought up. Tim pointed out that the language of the proposal is about accredited institutions. He raised the issue as to whether Shepherd could legally and/or ethically distinguish among their programs, judging some as adequate and others as less so.

Stephanie motioned to approve and Rhonda seconded. The endorsement passed with 6 yeas, 1 nay, and 3 abstentions.

VI. New Business

A. FYEX for Vets (Tracy Seffers)

Emily and Stephanie each spoke in favor of the proposal for a separate FYEX specifically aimed at, and recommended for, incoming students who are veterans. Following discussion, Stephanie motioned for approval, Sytil seconded, and the motion passed with 9 yeas and 1 nay.

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 PM.