

Academic Council – Student Core Competencies Subcommittee

December 13, 2011

Agenda

- I. Review of 2010-2011 General Education Core Competencies
- II. Review THECB newly adopted State Core Curriculum including Foundational Component Areas and Core Objectives
- III. Documentation of achievement of Student Learner Outcomes

Minutes

The Student Core Competencies Subcommittee of the Academic Council met December 13, 2011 at 9:00 am in Vernon. Members present included Gary Don Harkey (Chair), Joe Johnston, Karen Gragg, Roxanne Hill, and Criquett Lehman. Also in attendance were Shana Munson and Greg Fowler.

Dr. Harkey reviewed the materials from the May 25, 2011 meeting and provided information relative to the THECB's recent adoption of the Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee (UEAC) proposed revision to the State Core Curriculum including the 8 Foundational Component Areas and the 6 Core Objectives. The only change from the original proposal was the Institutional Option (6 hours) has to fall under one of the 8 Foundational Component Areas. It is not a totally "free" option as originally believed.

Dr. Harkey and Joe Johnston discussed their impressions of the Reinventing Instruction & Learning Conference (RILC) which they recently attended in Austin and where the newly adopted State Core was discussed. Of particular concern with many institutions was the apparent limitation which the 6 hours allocated to Life & Physical Sciences has on science courses – most of which are 4 credit hours in length due to the inclusion of labs. Another frequent topic at the RILC was the absence of a mandated student success/freshman experience course.

Dr. Harkey informed the group that implementation of the new State Core was to be accomplished by all institutions by the Fall of 2014. He suggested that VC target the Fall of 2013 as their goal for implementation. This was agreed upon by the committee.

Roxanne Hill suggested that the new State Core be the subject of the Spring 2012 Faculty Development day to which the group concurred. Dr. Harkey will present the overview of the UEAC proposal and adopted State Core to the faculty.

Dr. Harkey asked for suggestions on how best to document the achievement of student learning outcomes. Dr. Harkey reiterated his belief that the End of Semester Course Reviews (ESCR) which are currently being used could be revised to allow for the documentation of outcomes at the course level. Additionally, the newly adopted state Core Curriculum specifically embeds Core Objectives in each Foundational Component Area and thus provides a vehicle for their assessment at the course level. It was agreed that until something better comes to the forefront, that the faculty would be asked to document the achievement of student learning outcomes on their End of Semester Course Reviews. It was agreed that the ESCR would be revised so as to provide a place for the documentation of SLO's as well as future plans for revising instruction for improvement in the achievement of SLO's.

Dr. Harkey also informed the group that he would be attending the LEAP Texas Initiative initial meeting in College Station where discussions would be held regarding the use of AAC&U VALUE rubrics for assessing Core Objectives. He also asked that committee members mark their calendars and plan on attending the state-wide Cisco College Core Curriculum Conference to be held May 17-19 in Abilene.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.