

Academic Council – Student Core Competencies Subcommittee

May 25, 2011

Agenda

- I. Review of 2010-2011 General Education Core Competencies
- II. Review current proposal of the THECB Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee for revising the State Core Curriculum

Minutes

The Student Core Competencies Subcommittee of the Academic Council met May 25, 2011 at 1:00 pm in Vernon. Members present included Gary Don Harkey (Chair), Joe Johnston, Karen Gragg, and Roxanne Hill. Also present were Shana Munson, Greg Fowler, and Mark Holcomb.

Dr. Harkey reviewed the 2010-2011 General Education Core Competencies and provided handouts of the THECB Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee (UEAC) proposed revision to the State Core Curriculum including the 8 Foundational Component Areas and the 6 Core Objectives (attached).

A comparison of the 5 current VC General Education Core Competencies with the 6 proposed Core Objectives showed 3 in common: Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, and Mathematical & Scientific Literacy (Empirical & Quantitative literacy). VC General Education Core Competencies not included in the UEAC proposal were Information Literacy and Cultural Literacy. Proposed UEAC Core Objectives not included in the 5 current VC General Education Core Competencies were Teamwork, Social Responsibility, and Personal Responsibility.

Both Karen Gragg and Joe Johnston expressed concern over the fact that the proposed core allocated only 6 hours to Communications and 6 hours to Life & Physical Sciences. Dr. Harkey pointed out that the 6 hours allocated to the Institutional Option could potentially be used in those areas. Dr. Harkey noted that the proposal was scheduled to be considered by the THECB at their October, 2011 meeting and suggested that the issue be revisited once the proposal was adopted in its final form. It was also noted that while adoption of the UEAC proposal would make it necessary to revamp current core competencies and assessments, it should facilitate the transferability of the core and potentially lead to common assessment measures at the state level.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.