

UCC Meeting April 16, 2019

Attendees: Ellen Crowell, Judy Geczi, Jordan Glassman, Steve Sanchez, Bill Rehg, Ness Sandoval, Amber Johnson, Kim Druschel, Ryan McCulla, Emily Lutenski, Michael Swartwout, Kyle Crews, Lauren Arnold, Ginge Kettenbach, Peggy Dotson, Louise Neiman, Laura Rettig

1) Call to Order and Announcements

Approvals:

- Revised By-Laws have been approved by CADD and the Provost. Effective July 1, 2019. These are minor revisions clarifying terms of service for University Registrar and Student Government Association representative, and deleting references to FUZE, which is no longer used at SLU.
- Motion to approve UCC Meeting minutes for 1/22, 1/29, 2/5 and 2/7 (approved).

Membership / Meeting schedule:

- Those UCC members rotating off will continue through August 6th. New members will begin August 20th, 2019.
- Ellen met with Chris Carroll (Parks College) on 4/15 regarding The Serious Play workshop June 1st and 4th to kick-off our summer meetings. The UCC will meet in three small groups and the come together as a whole group. Fabiola will be here for June 4th.
- The summer meetings will be every other Tuesday from 9:00 – 12:00 p.m. starting June 18 and concluding with a day-long retreat on August 6th—location will move between DB 406 and, when not available, VH 219 (locations posted on the Core calendar. Skype available in both rooms for those who need to Skype in—please let Laura know a few days in advance if you plan to attend remotely.
- Fall 2019 meetings will continue to be held each Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. starting August 20th. The Deans are aware of this meeting time as they work to appoint incoming members.
- Happy Hour on Tuesday, May 7th to celebrate end of semester.

2) Overview of Qualtrics survey participation

- Thanks to Jordan Glassman, SGA rep, for his assistance with creating the Core Prototypes survey.
- Update so far: there are 98 entries total on prototypes – this means approximately 30 responses for each. Undergraduates are participating at a high rate so far.
- The UCC will be hiring a GA to work with what we expect will be a large amount of quantitative data. This analysis will begin asap. The survey deadline is May 18th but will remain open until approximately the 22nd.

Discussion

- Should the raw survey data be shared with committee? Consensus: Yes, but later. Right now, what someone sees if they review early feedback could be skewed to the positive or negative—thus one’s initial impressions could be skewed. It was determined to wait until mid-May to share the full survey with entire committee.
- Timing: the UCC discussed the regrettable truth that we are rolling out a future-oriented survey and moving ahead with major structural revision to SLU’s undergraduate curriculum at a particularly challenging time for the institution. Noted need to communicate this awareness each time we discuss the core prototypes with groups across campus.

3) Reports on Core Prototypes Meetings (4/4 – 4/16)

4/4 – CAS Faculty Assembly –

- Overall positive but very preliminary discussion. This was the first presentation of the prototypes and happened even before the full powerpoints were released to SLU community.

- CAS faculty council reps conveyed to UUCC that they had had the impression that the prototypes were fixed (i.e., here are the three options—choose one) and now that they understand they are not fixed, they are glad that there will be opportunities to provide constructive feedback.
- Confusion about the Blueprint core and the 15-44 hour spread.
- Questions about cost were raised—and the extent to which the university’s capacity to deliver any of the three models should factor into the way faculty review and offer feedback on the prototypes. UUCC members (Laura Franklin, Ellen Crowell) responded that the budget overall is a moving target with changes coming all the time. The UUCC is committed to moving forward with the charge we’ve been given. If the Core is going to be shut down, we want the Administration to shut it down not the SLU community. We need to push forward with the Core we all decide we want, and advocate for the funding.
- Core Director has met with Provost and President about budgeting for the core, and both have expressed that if and when the SLU community agrees on a common core, it cannot be allowed to fail—the funds will be found to support its delivery. The President, Provost and Board of Trustees are all in full support. We will have a solid assurance/confirmation of funding for the core by the end of August.

University Leadership Council 4/10

- The President absolutely supports the new Core 100% and is committed to fund it. Provost and Board of Trustees recognizes a lot of work went into developing the prototypes. The new Core will be shaping SLU for the next 50 years and this will brand SLU.
- Deans were present: Michelle Sabick, Parks College, stressed it would be helpful to demonstrate to faculty how existing courses could possibly fit or be redeveloped at the feedback sessions. Faculty will give less pushback if they understand that courses they are currently teaching would slot in to the new Core. Mardell Wilson (Doisy) asked whether the committee has thought about how these prototypes meet external transfer barriers and urged us to keep these at the fore. Tom Burroughs (Public Health and Social Justice) observed that it will be crucial to highlight not only that the HLC mandates that we deliver an assessable general education model, but that overall we need a Core that differentiates us as a Jesuit institution from our peers. This will help with marketing.

Madrid (4/11)

- Overall expressed that they saw a lot of fresh thinking and impressed with what went into the prototypes.
- Concern about how any new core will push changes in individual programs / majors
- Developing new courses is a big challenge in Madrid due to a smaller faculty. A Core model that imagines multiple new courses that need to be facilitated and designed by faculty will be v. challenging for Madrid’s small faculty.

SPS Academic Excellence Committee 4/10

- Overall-- They were impressed by creativity and were expecting this to be very bland.
- Questions about transfer credits, because SPS students come in with a lot of transfer credits.
- Concerns that some prototypes imagine a younger student. Adults will have a different set of needs / concerns around vocation and well-being.
- One-credit hour courses won’t work for SPS students, who are required to take 12 credit hours to be considered full-time and receive financial aid.
- Retreats and foreign language requirements don’t fit into SPS programs. Vocation, integration and development are different for 18-22 year olds than for a 45 year old.

Doisy 4/15

- Question: Is it true that with double counting, the Blueprint could be 15 credit hours? Answer: that would be a rare occurrence, but it is conceivable that a student could figure out a way to do this.
- Observation that the UCC needs to be careful when stating how many hours can count for the core via transfer or double counting with major / minor. When a number gets stated (as in, only 15 hours don't double count in Blueprint) then it begins to feel concrete when it is not.
- Question regarding budget, credit hours, transfer and exchange/international students (not study abroad).

General Feedback UCC members heard via informal campus conversations

- A Biomedical Engineering University Honors student expressed excitement about the prototypes but is also concerned whether any of the three allow space to pursue anything beyond their major due limited extra space they currently have.
- Kelly Herbolich is in charge of first year seminars that offer a course with U101 embedded in it. She's glad we are offering a good first year seminar. She would like to talk to us about how she sees freshman seminars serving a different and stronger purpose on campus versus the current SLU101.
- School of Public Health is starting to see the Core as an opportunity for the college to become engaged with delivering the Core. If there's a writing intensive course, we could augment some of our classes and fit that.
- Blueprint Core: positive comments repeated a lot that this one would require the least amount of new course development. The most resource-neutral option.
- Steve Sanchez asked if everyone has had a chance to review the accreditation requirements he emailed out for all the accredited programs on campus referencing where they talk about Gen Ed or Core? Lauren is meeting with the Public Health Social Justice accrediting body on 4/17 to discuss the implications on the revised Core on their accreditation requirements. She will have this feedback before the Public Health and Social Justice feedback session. There hasn't been any effort to look at the Social Work accreditation for that undergraduate degree. Everyone needs to see it and verify the accreditation is accurate.

4) Adjourn