

Minutes for the *Carolina Core Committee Meeting*

April 12, 2016, 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Thomas Cooper Library, Room 204

Members Present: Joseph Askins, Susan Beverung, Pam Bowers, Mary Ann Byrnes, Ken Campbell, Ron Cox, Rob Dedmon, Helen Doerpinghaus (Administrative Co-Chair), Kris Finnigan (ex-officio), Andy Gillentine, Augie Grant (ex-officio), Manton Matthews, Alfred Moore, Chris Nesmith, Joe Rackers (Faculty Co-Chair), Nicole Spensley (ex-officio)

Members Absent: Sara Corwin, Daniel Freedman, Brian Habing, James Kellog, K.C. Kirasic (ex-officio), Gene Luna, Ed Munn Sanchez, Brian Shelton

Specialty Team Chairs Present: Joseph Askins, Sam Hastings, David Hitchcock, Adam Schor, Shelley Smith

Specialty Team Chairs Absent: Pat Gehrke, Chris Holcomb, George Khushf, Mary Robinson, Francisco Sanchez

Guests Present: Sabrina Andrews, James Cutsinger

Joe Rackers called for approval of the February 9, 2016 minutes. He then reported on the recent Faculty Forum. Kris Finnigan gave a brief update on the Carolina Core website.

Update on Assessment Use of Results (INF) – Chris Holcomb gave an overview on how he used assessment results to help him improve his classes. He perceives that faculty have an increasing level of comfort with assessment.

Recognition of Mary Ann Byrnes, Joe Rackers – Joe R. acknowledged Mary Ann Byrnes' long-time service on the Committee. Helen Doerpinghaus thanked Joe R. for his contributions as Faculty Co-Chair. She then called for nominations for his replacement. Manton Matthews, Andy Gillentine, Chris Nesmith, and Adam Schor were all nominated, but withdrew. Chris Holcomb and Kathy Smiling were recommended. Helen will check whether they are willing to serve.

Report on Carolina Core Assessment – With regard to GSS, Nicole Spensley noted that performance has increased since pilot, but there is still a lot of rater disagreement. There was discussion about why this wasn't surprising, given the wide variety of disciplines encompassed by GSS. GSS ST Chair Shelley Smith argued the need to do a better job helping instructors link assignments to Learning Outcomes. Nicole mentioned that ARP, indeed all 10 areas have this problem to a degree. Providing discipline-specific examples can help. ST Chair communication directly with actual instructors rather than filtering through Department Chairs might also help, especially when courses are taught by GA's. Adam Schor saw advantages to having a category called "unable to evaluate". He also thought having the faculty person as one of the reviewers might force them to consider the appropriateness of their own assignment.

David Hitchcock reported on the ARP pilot, which is ongoing, and has been difficult. The disciplinary areas are too specialized (STAT, MATH CSCE, Logic) to evaluate each other's fields, and in many cases the artifacts are not appropriate. A major issue is that Computer Science is unable to assess assignments submitted in Blackboard. David agreed with Shelley that instructors need more training about what assignment types are best to submit.

Mary Ann Byrnes suggested that the Specialty Teams identify a place on the *Carolina Core* website to post templates for assignments that worked well. Helen concurred, and suggested reaching out to all instructors of *Core* courses.

USC Policy on Assessment – Kris reported on the status of the draft policy on Assessment. Helen emphasized the importance of Specialty Teams playing a key role in assessment, and Joe Rackers cited the need for ST's to assist faculty with interpreting what the assessment data signify. Nicole's assessment data charts are available by course or program, not by faculty member to protect privacy. Mary Ann commented that the ST chairs are the content experts, not the political muscle. The ST Chair looks at what is, but the Dean/Chair looks at what needs to be done with the assessment results. Adam urged recognition that procedures will continuously change – when processes change, we need to make sure what is compared longitudinally is comparable.

Webinar Update – Helen discussed plans for the *Carolina Core* Webinar, which will be conducted by Mike Matthews, Joe Rackers and Helen Doerphinghaus as a short informational panel. ST Chairs will make short videos about their areas' purpose, resources and goals. The panel has met with the Center for Teaching Excellence to set this up. Helen fielded questions regarding whether the Webinar was for use by students, or by faculty and advisors, given their many questions about the assessment process. She agreed that the panel would be especially attentive to the latter audience.

Joe Rackers then said a few words acknowledging Helen's excellent and inclusive leadership of the *Carolina Core* Committee, noting that she was at her best when there were bumps in the road.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kris Finnigan