

GENERAL EDUCATION CORE STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES



Date: Friday, November 19, 2021

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Central

Facilitator: Robert Denn

Members in Attendance

Donna Seagle, Chief Academic Officer, WSCC | Barsha Pickell, Chief Academic Officer, CISCC | Ryan Thompson, Dean of Humanities & Social Sciences, CISCC | Barry Gidcomb, Professor of History, CoSCC | Robert Denn, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, TBR | Eric Niemi, Associate Professor of English, ChSCC | Rick Stoodly, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, CISCC | Victoria Gay, Dean of Humanities & Social Sciences, CoSCC | Jimmy Barham, Dean of Arts & Sciences, DSCC | Amy Wake, Associate Professor of Nursing, JSCC | Donna Brewer, Assistant Professor of English, MSCC | Donald Turner, Professor of Philosophy, NaSCC | Xiaoping Wang, Dean of Behavioral & Social Sciences, NeSCC | Alex Fitzner, Associate Professor of English, PSCC | Diane Raines, Professor of English, RSCC | Sherria King, Interim Dean of Humanities, Social Science & Mathematics, SWCC | Chris Knight, Dean of Mathematics, WSCC

Members in Absentia

Abby Lackey, Associate Professor of Speech, JSCC

Jennifer James, Associate Professor of Communication, VSCC

Guests

Lynn Drew, CAP, Administrative Assistant II, TBR

Time	Item	Owner
1:00 p.m.	Welcome Robert Denn called the meeting to order by welcoming everyone.	Robert
1:02 p.m.	<i>Meeting Recording Began</i> – Attendees Notified Via Chat	Lynn
1:03 p.m.	New Committee Member Introduction Amy Wake, Associate Professor of Nursing at Jackson State Community College, was introduced as Abby Lackey’s replacement. Abby is leaving JSCC in December and relocating to North Carolina. Amy has served on JSCC’s Team of Ten since its inception.	Robert
1:05 p.m.	Core Competencies/Descriptors Discussion Discussion was held as to slowing down the process a bit. Questions and concerns have been raised at meetings of the Teams of Ten and other meetings. Do Scientific Inquiry and Mathematical Reasoning need to be split? Should Critical Thinking, Information Literacy, and Technology Literacy be combined? Should Ethical Reasoning be labeled as Ethical Reasoning and Civic Engagement instead? Do we need a separate category for Creative and Artistic Expression? Concern that there is no VILO for Social Sciences; should one be added with the	Steering Committee

Time	Item	Owner
	<p>title of Social & Behavioral Sciences? Do Natural Sciences and Social Sciences fit together in a category? In the vertical mapping tool that was sent out, some of the VILOs have numerous classes and some classes are not represented at all. It was suggested that this Committee be brought together in Nashville for a face-to-face meeting, perhaps in early Spring, to finish hammering out the VILOs, definitions and how the courses would map. That is really the heart of the General Education program. It is sometimes challenging to come to a good consensus and have good discussion virtually. It is worth taking the additional time to get it right. One of the challenges is do we figure out where the courses are going to end up first, or the VILOs first? Perhaps simultaneously. End decisions should lie with faculty. VILOs shouldn't replace categories, should be cross-categorical and multi-disciplinary. Will take more than Teams of Ten to review. Difficult to engage in a 'writing assignment' with over 100 authors. Course mapping is a tall order. Must have end game in sight. Disciplines seem to be left out. TBR is not under accreditation, but each institution individually is. Once VILOs are determined, they should be taken to faculty and each faculty discipline would decide where they fit in, even across institutions. Some of the more interdisciplinary skills shouldn't be content-based specific. Shouldn't be trying to assess so many VILOs. Language - 'categories' v. 'VILOs.' If each VILO is touched by several categories, how will they be proved? Do we want it all-encompassing or broad? Is there a possibility of not solidifying VILOs before we send them back to the campuses for mapping? They can be revised as needed. Some disciplines want to do too much. The VILOs each discipline selects are how those classes will be assessed. Need to clarify content of a discipline and the goal of the college/state. Course content is a conduit to individual knowledge, but it is mapped to something beyond content. Categories are more discipline-oriented, and VILOS are intended to connect those categories. Need to look more carefully at the broadened perspective gained in General Education curriculum. AAC&U would be a great resource to assist with this.</p>	
1:53 p.m.	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>The Coordinating Committee will decide on a date and agenda for an in-person meeting of the Steering Committee to have a "Strengthen Your Core" Summit at the TBR System Office in February, with AAC&U representation. If the Leader of the Team of Ten is unable to attend the summit, they may send one proxy from their Team in their place.</p>	Lynn
1:55 p.m.	<p>Adjournment</p>	Robert