

TO: Roy Day, Chair, Faculty Council
FROM: Michael A. Nichols, Chair, Committee on Academic Policies (CAP)
CC: Peter Kvidera, Director, Integrative Core Curriculum
RE: CAP Report on the Revised Proposal: Revisions to the Original Core Document;
Additional Policies for New Integrative Core Curriculum (ICC)
Date: April 6, 2015

Hearings on the Proposal were held on Feb 24, 2015 (preliminary hearings) and on March 31, 2015 (open hearings on the final proposal). The hearings were attended by only one faculty member, who had various questions about the new core and suggested some clarifications on the proposal. Two email comments were received; one in support and one indicating opposition to one provision of the proposal (that provision has since been dropped).

After initial review of the Integrative Core Committee's proposals for revisions and additional policies for the new ICC, we returned the proposal for review and revision. We received the revised proposal on March 19, 2015, have met to discuss it and present our evaluation below.

Dual Membership on ICC/CAP. At the outset of this report, it should be pointed out that two CAP members are also members of the ICC - Michael Nichols, Director of the Exploring the Natural World Integrated Courses and Dianna Taylor, Chair of the Philosophy Department. Both have tried to remain as impartial in CAP deliberations as possible.

Grouping of Revisions: Categories I and II. CAP commends the ICC for returning a significantly clearer and more organized revised proposal that addressed our initial concerns. The ICC has grouped the various revisions and recommendations into five categories and recommended that two of the categories do not require a faculty vote. CAP **supports** this view that Categories I and II - Bulletin Items and Clarifications to the original core document bring Bulletin copy into alignment with the new ICC and the clarifications are consistent with the APTF working groups intentions of the ICC. FC will ultimately need to make a decision whether this does not need to go to a vote of the Faculty.

Categories III, IV, V. The ICC has recommended that Categories III, IV, and V - Administrative structure changes, programmatic changes, and additional policies be voted on as a single package. CAP takes no position on this issue.

Category III - Administrative Structure Items. CAP sees no conflicts with the changes outlined and the intent of the original core document: creation of the CAPA subcommittee and adding ex officio members of the Core Committee. Having a subcommittee review CAPA course proposals prior to Core Committee approval should provide efficiency and additional scrutiny and in reality, the proposed ex officio members have been participating in core discussions for over a year. The latter change will make the core document consistent with current practice.

Category IV. Programmatic Changes. Reduction of Learning Goals in the Integrated Courses. CAP appreciates the complexity of implementing the learning goals and objectives in the integrated courses of the new ICC, with regard to the development of courses, ultimately assessing each learning objective, and the fact that each course or division need not accomplish all of the academic learning goals. Given the amount of work

that will need to be done to develop and assess the large number of integrated courses, the reduction of learning goals and development of more focused learning objectives seems reasonable in the initial implementation of the ICC. If at some point after implementation, certain learning goals are not being addressed in the overall core curriculum, the learning goals could be revisited.

Category IV. Programmatic Changes. Foundational Written Expression. CAP sees no issues with the renaming of the written expression courses from EN111 to EN125 and having students earning a C- or lower retaking EN125.

Category IV. Programmatic Changes. Jesuit Heritage: Philosophy. CAP finds the changes proposed by the Department of Philosophy to be consistent with the intent of the original core document and have been approved unanimously by the ICC and two CAS associate deans. We would reaffirm the following for clarification: students will take **2 PL courses - 1 each (2xx or 3xx)** in the **Knowledge and Reality** and **Values and Society** categories; and that the Department of Philosophy will still offer RL101 courses for the outgoing core curriculum.

Category IV. Programmatic Changes. Jesuit Heritage: Creative and Performing Arts. CAP finds that allowing 3 credit courses that meet the description and learning objectives to count as CAPA courses is consistent with the original core document, as long as there are sufficient numbers of 1 credit CAPA courses available.

Category V. Additional Policies. Transfer Students and Integrated Courses. CAP finds that requiring that courses to be accepted for transfer credit conform to the core requirements (including learning goals) to be logical and appropriate.

Category V. Additional Policies. Prerequisites. CAP finds that establishing the prerequisites of written expression for all integrated courses (EGC, ENW and EHE) and additionally, quantitative analysis for the ENW integrated courses, is logical, appropriate, and consistent with the intent of the original core document.

Category V. Additional Policies. Programs offering Integrated Courses. CAP finds that allowing interdisciplinary programs to offer integrated courses that meet the criteria (including the learning goals/objectives) required in the EGC, ENW, or EHE areas to be consistent with the intent of the original core document. We would point out that in the EGC, ENW and EHE integrated course requirements, students will still need to make sure that 1 course must come from each of the following categories: science - BL, CH, MT/CS, PH/EP, PS; humanities - AH, CMLC/IC/CL, CO, EN, HS; and social science - PO, EC, SC. As 5 total courses are required and 3 are required from the previous categories, students may only take 2 integrated courses from interdisciplinary programs (not associated with a department). Students will need to be advised appropriately.

Category V. Additional Policies. Limit on number of Jesuit Heritage Core courses students can transfer to JCU. CAP understands the concern that without limits, students could transfer an entire category of the Jesuit Heritage course requirements. This policy is a compromise to allowing no Jesuit Heritage courses to transfer. CAP finds that policy will allow students to transfer Jesuit Heritage courses without being able to complete all of their RL or TRS requirements. Transferred courses will still need to conform to the equivalent course requirements, including learning goals/objectives.

In summary, CAP finds that the revisions proposed in Categories I and II to be simple language changes to bring the Bulletin and original core document up-to-date with the ICC. CAP supports the ICC's proposal that no vote of the faculty is required for these changes, however, FC has the final say on that matter.

CAP also finds that the revisions and additional policies proposed in Categories III-V are logical, appropriate, reasonable, and most importantly, consistent with intent of the original core document. CAP takes no position on the ICC proposal to submit these as a single package for a vote of the Faculty.

Respectfully,

Michael A. Nichols, Chair
Jennifer Catellier
Brendan J. Foreman
Rick Grenci
Phyllis Harris
Dianna Taylor
Peifang Tian