Core Curriculum Oversight Committee
February 27, 2015

Dr. Kevin Whitaker welcomed the committee and minutes were approved from the last two meetings.

Dr. Whitaker gave a SACS update. He stated the SACS team will visit the Gadsden center this weekend and will arrive at UA late Monday. The team will visit Tuesday and Wednesday and leave Thursday. He stated the off-site team found UA was not in compliance with Standard 3.5.1 (gen ed competencies). UA has submitted a response. When the SACS on-site team comes to campus, they will identify people they want to meet with. Dr. Whitaker stated no one has called him at this point so he hopes that general education competencies are now in compliance.

Dr. Whitaker discussed a conflict of interest issue raised at the last meeting. Dr. Whitaker presented a COI statement proposal to the committee. Discussion pointed out that the statement was over-restrictive; as written a course proposal would never be able to move out of a subcommittee. Dr. Whitaker agreed to continue the discussion and revise the statement for review at a future meeting. Dave Cordes stated there might be a benefit of having co-chairs in all subcommittee to avoid the COI issue.

Dr. Whitaker then opened a discussion on course reviews. Dr. Whitaker stated he is trying to get the remaining courses through the system and there are about 50 courses left. He stated currently, there are 8 courses that are open for voting. Four courses were newly opened and simply need to be voted on. There doesn't appear to be any issue with them. There are four courses that have a mixture of yes/no votes. Dr. Whitaker stated SOC 450 is the most problematic. He suggested this course needs to be sent back to the department. He stated UH 335 has 2 negative votes with 11 yes votes. He stated this course may pass as other votes are entered. Concerning NEW 332 and WS 430: NEW 332 has 11 yes votes and 5 no votes. WS 43 has 11 yes votes and 4 no votes. Dr. Whitaker shared with the committee how the review system database needs to be manually updated and refreshed. OIRA is tied up with the SACS review and on-site visit and these updates have had to wait. Dr. Whitaker suggested that if the committee sends these two courses back, it will take some time to get them back into the system. The concerns raised about the two courses were only related to missing statements that needed to be added to the syllabi. Dr. Whitaker contacted the departments and asked if they would be willing to agree to make the needed corrections; they did and memos to that effect were shared with the committee. The committee wanted to see the updated syllabi before making any final decision on the two courses. Dr. Whitaker agreed to have the departments email him updated copies of the syllabi and he would share them with the committee vie email. The committee agreed to review the new syllabi and re-vote. The committee raised the question of what if there are multiple (more than 20) courses at one time with this type of problem; it might be very confusing emailing the departments. Dr. Whitaker stated this problem really is a result of the efforts that had to be directed to SACS and he sees this as an issue that is unique to this review cycle/year.

A question about temporary core designation was raised and the committee discussed this issue. Brenda Hunter stated there are temporary designation guidelines are listed on the website. Martin Evans pointed out that such a designation is not in the guidelines document.

Continued concern was raised about courses from the Honors College and how their courses fit into the core. Dr Whitaker sated the Honors College is open for suggestions and looking for guidance on their courses. The committee suggested a representative from the Honors College needs to be invited to meet with the committee. Dr. Whitaker will contact the Honors College requesting someone attend a future meeting. It was suggested that the April meeting would be best.

Next meeting dates were set as March 27th and April 24th

Dr. Whitaker dismissed the meeting at 12:35 pm.