

UEPC

Minutes from meeting, January 24, 2011

Recorded by: Asbjorn Moseidjord

Reviewed by: Kathryn Porter

Present: Steve Cortright, Catherine Davalos, Sue Fallis, Asbjorn Moseidjord, Kathy Porter and Linda Wobbe.

Absent with notice: Norman Bedford, Ken Brown, David Gentry-Akin, Charles Hamaker, Christa Kell, and Cynthia Van Gilder.

I. Reports.

Kathy Porter graciously accepted being the back-up minutes recorder. There were no requests for amendments to the minutes from the January 5 meeting. The chair asked the Committee members for guidance regarding how to prioritize the substantial backlog of issues to be placed on the agenda for the spring term. He proposed and received approval for the following: (1) give highest priority to items that, if approved, would require modifications of the College Catalog, (2) among the items in (1), use a first-in-first-out principle, and (3) for experimental courses (which may be subject to the chair's discretionary decision), do not place these on a meeting agenda. Instead, provide an opportunity for Committee members to comment by circulating proposals by e-mail.

II. UEPC Members on the Search Committee for the CC Director.

This agenda item was postponed.

III. Final Review and Recommendation of Learning Outcomes and Rationales.

The members had received as an attachment to the agenda the document entitled TheNewCorePublic. The Committee considered the outcomes and the associated rationales for all 12 learning goals as formulated on pp. 3-17 of that document. These pages (pp. 3-17) in that document (TheNewCorePublic) are referenced below as "NewCore".

First Omnibus Motion

A motion was proposed, and seconded, to the effect that the UEPC formally and finally accepts and recommends to the Academic Senate all sets of outcomes and rationales labeled "UEPC adopted" in NewCore.

The omnibus motion encompassed outcomes and/or rationales for the following learning goals each identified to the members prior to the Committee taking a vote: Critical Thinking: Outcomes; Shared Inquiry: Outcomes; Artistic Understanding: Outcomes; Social, Historical and Cultural Understanding: Outcomes and Rationale; The Common Good: Outcomes and Rationale; and Community Engagement: Outcomes and Rationale¹.

It was pointed out that these sets of outcomes and corresponding rationales had been subject to prior debates and conditional votes in the UEPC and subsequently submitted to faculty at-large for further review and comments. The Committee had not received proposals for changes to the formulations contained in NewCore and quickly proceeded to vote.

The omnibus motion passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0-0.

The Committee thereafter discussed and voted on outcomes and rationales as follows:

Critical Thinking.

Rationale: Approved as it appears in NewCore; vote 6-0-0.

Shared Inquiry:

Rationale: Approved as it appears in New Core; vote 5-1-0

Written and Oral Communication:

An amendment to the rationale was proposed and seconded as follows:

Between the sentence that starts with "Outcome #2...." and the sentence that starts with "Outcome #3...." insert a new sentence to read as follows: "*The communication must be in both written and oral form.*"

¹ This footnote is provided by the chair to explain the background for this vote and should not be considered part of the minutes.

The Critical Thinking and Shared Inquiry Outcomes had previously been conditionally approved by the UEPC (Minutes of Nov. 1, 2010; unanimous vote: 8-0-0). The other outcomes and rationales included in the first omnibus motion had been conditionally approved in the January 5, UEPC meeting. The minutes from that meeting report that all the rationales were unanimously approved. These minutes furthermore report that the outcomes were conditionally approved based on the following votes: Artistic Understanding (6-1-1); Social, Historical, and Cultural Understanding (5-0-0, no quorum); The Common Good (7-0-0), and Community Engagement (8-0-0).

The motion to approve both the set of outcomes and the rationale as they appear in NewCore, as amended, was approved with a vote of 4-2-0.

The Committee spent substantial time discussing this motion. A main concern was that the outcomes and rationale – as formulated before the amendment – placed too little emphasis on the oral component in the learning goal. On the other hand, reluctance was expressed to add additional requirements at this late stage in the process.

Information Evaluation and Research Practices.

A motion to amend the learning outcomes was proposed and seconded. The proposed amendments were to learning outcomes 2 and 3 to read as follows:

2. Critically evaluate sources; and

3. Integrate and cite evidence appropriately; and

The motion to approve the learning outcomes for this goal as formulated in NewCore, as amended, was approved with a unanimous vote (6-0-0).

A motion to approve the rationale for this goal as formulated in NewCore was approved with a vote of 5-1-0.

Mathematical and Scientific Understanding.

An amendment to the learning outcomes as formulated in NewCore was offered and seconded. The amendment was to delete the 3rd outcome under the heading “Scientific Learning Outcomes”.

The argument supporting the motion was that outcome #3 inappropriately singles out the natural and physical sciences as an area requiring this type of self-examination. The Committee recognized that this amendment, if approved, would imply that the last sentence in the learning goal would not be addressed in the learning outcomes.

Motion: To approve the outcomes as they appear in NewCore and as amended. The motion carried with a vote of 4-1-1.

A motion to approve the rationale as appearing in NewCore with the last sentence deleted was approved by a vote of 6-0-0.

Artistic Understanding.

Motion: To approve the rationale as it appears in New Core amended by replacing the word “*Producing*” with the word “*Creating*” in the second line. The vote to support was unanimous (6-0-0).

Theological Understanding.

Motion: To approve both the set of outcomes and the rationale for this learning goal as formulated in NewCore. The motion passed with a vote of 5-1-0.

American Diversity.

Motion: To approve the set of outcomes and rationales for this outcome as they appear in NewCore amended to replace the expression "*it affects*" to "*they affect*". The motion passed 5-0-1.

Global Perspective.

Motion: To approve the set of outcomes and rationales for this learning goals as they appear in NewCore. The motion passed 5-1-0.

Second Omnibus Motion:

A motion was proposed, and seconded, to the effect that the UEPC formally, finally and simultaneously accepts and recommends to the Academic Senate all sets of outcomes and corresponding rationales as formulated in NewCore and as amended in UEPC votes taken in this January 24 meeting.

The motion carried with a vote of 5-1-0.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30.