

**Curricular Affairs Committee –
Draft Minutes for Mon., Feb. 9, 2015 – 1-2 p.m. 408 RASM**

Present: Brian Cook, Chair; Ken Abramowicz; Casey Byrne; Rob Duke; Alex Fitts; Linda Hapsmith (audio); Cindy Hardy; Jayne Harvie; Joan Hornig; Stacey Howdeshell; Dennis Moser; Rainer Newberry; Caty Oehring

I. Approve minutes from January 26 meeting (attached)
Minutes were approved as submitted for January 26.

II. Old business

A. GERC and “C” –

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- At least 4 credits in the natural sciences, including a laboratory

TOTAL

2. From email from Leah Berman, Core Review Chair: “We had a long discussion in Core Review about the wisdom of trying to compress SOC 100X into 10 days as a wintermester course. In the final analysis, Core Review did vote to approve the compression—in large part because ANTH 100X had already been approved for such a compression (!) in the past. However, there was significant concern as to whether it is really, truly possible to complete a semester’s worth of intellectual engagement in 10 days; while it is technically possible to complete the in-class minutes, it is not possible to complete the typical “two-hours-out-of-class-per hour-in-class” outside work.
3. The current Maymester schedule offers the following Core courses: ANTH 100X, ART 200X, MUS 200X, JUST 300X, PHIL 322X, PS F100X, which means all of these courses have previously been approved for course compression. They are also PHC-fulfilling courses.
4. The issue is one of precedent: since previous committees have approved the compression of these courses, in the case of SOC 100X, Core Review saw fit to approve the compression proposed.
5. This becomes relevant again as the PHC courses are to be replaced with bucket lists to fulfill GE requirements. A change does not NEED to be made, but it seems a good time to discuss the issue Core Review raises to see if CAC/the Senate feel any change or clarifications should be developed/implemented alongside new GE requirements.
6. It is important to note that a significant percentage of 2015’s Wintermester and Maymester offerings were/are compressed Core courses.

One of the main problems with compressed courses is the accreditation issue concerning the requirement of 2 hours of outside work that is required for every 1 hour in the classroom.

It was acknowledged that the instructors who are teaching ‘Mester courses seem happy with the outcome. It seems to work well for some types of courses. The students seem to be stronger, as do the instructors, but the numbers are too low for a true sample.

The bucket list scenario will open up the compression issue; Core Review Committee wants guidelines.

Seemed to be general consensus for letting instructors self-select how they will teach a course in a compressed environment.

Rainer provided a copy of 2 documents created the last time the issues was raised; one is a report from an instructor of a Maymester course, the other a chart of success rates from Wintermester 2012 classes. These are attached.

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