In Attendance

Susan Spezzini
Alison Chapman
Marius Nkashama
Joe March
Andrew Keith
Joe Quintana
Donna Smith
Julio Rivera
Lynn Nichols
Suzanne Judd
Ela Austin
Cristin Gavin
Mary Wallace
Scott Phillips
Brooke Becker
Kari Dugger
Bradley Barnes
Amber Genau

Introductions & Announcements

a. New Co-Chair: Susan Spezzini introduced Suzanne Judd as the new co-chair for the Signature Core Curriculum Committee. Suzanne is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Health.

Signature Core Curriculum Website

Susan walked through each portion of the Signature Core Curriculum website: The team, Department Liaisons, Timeline, Events, Committee Resources, Learn More and Questions and Comments. The website can be found here: https://www.uab.edu/plan/signature-core-curriculum.

Dialogue Mapping

Dialogue Mapping: Andrew Keitt gave an quick overview of dialogue mapping – a system used to keep track of large scale complex projects, identify key issues and the structure that ties issues together. Andrew said he will show a sample map in a future meeting.
Recent Feedback about the Core

Suzanne Judd mentioned that the initial twitter feedback response was low, about 20-30 responses. A suggestion was made by Cristin Gavin to target student groups for these twitter campaigns. Suggestions included sending something out via the dashboard on Canvas which would reach a larger population. Future Twitter campaigns are in the works. A suggestion was made to start an Instagram campaign with the thinking that most students use Instagram and it would generate more responses.

Role of Department Liaisons

Core Committee members are also urged to talk to their liaisons to get them involved in the process. The liaisons can give their faculty a head’s up that they may start to hear about the Signature Core around campus. The co-chairs will provide form emails to the liaisons to keep them up to date. These liaisons are guaranteed people that will get information. The idea is to have a well-informed audience so no one ever feels left out.

Survey of UAB Core Curriculum, Past & Present

- What should all UAB undergraduate core should have? What proficiencies should they have from epidemiology to studio art? We need to build a core that helps deliver on that
- Core established in 1969 and remained flat with no changes until 1979
- 1979 catalog – This was before there were different schools
- University college - under general degree requirements for BA/BS - 18 humanities, 6 hours in freshman comp and 12 in other - no intro language course - 12 natural sciences and math (now 11 with the labs) - 12 hours in social and behavior sciences - 1987 - 89 - core curriculum has a philosophy - articulates a series of goals - read, write and speak - English, basic mathematical skills, basic competency in computer technologies, basic knowledge of a foreign culture, basic understanding of western civ, scientific process, influence of science and technology on society, social/political and economic systems, ethical dilemmas
- Many universities are engaging in this same process - got started in the late 80s - UAB was at the leading edge of recognition that gen ed should be just as intellectually compelling not stagnant
- 2018-19 standards are similar to that of 1969 - today we have the same core curriculum 50 years ago...

Monthly Meetings

- Last day of every month that isn’t a weekend – This date will migrate throughout the week and we will try to alternate between mornings and afternoons so everyone can be involved. The meeting will also move around to different schools/buildings on campus. We will try to keep the meeting at an hour.
- Next Meeting scheduled for Friday, September 28, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. in CSB 292 – New Collat School of Business building

Suggestions, Comments

- Donna Smith has volunteered to organize focus groups
- The committee members were urged to talk to someone by our next meeting and start conversations that lead to events we could attend.
• Should we survey for readiness before we go out on listening tours, town halls, etc. He mentioned sending out a survey to the faculty.
• How would this impact community colleges in the area?
• The challenge is letting anyone who teaches undergraduate courses know that the core curriculum changes applies to them.
• Comment made that colleges and employers get together every year and talk about competencies in the workforce - critical thinking, oral/written communications, teamwork/collaboration, digital technology, leadership, professionalism/work ethic, career management, global/intercultural fluency.
• Look at how other state institutions have changed their core
• Brooke Becker: Curriculum committee for the Senate has been working on this for a while – she has collated responses for the open forums that have already taken place
• Last year, for the business core curriculum each department was asked to come up with a list of things they want including things they want all of the CSOB students to know – then survey the faculty and find out what gaps there are – get people involved