

Core Curriculum Updates

February 1, 2012

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Letter from the Core Director

Dear Colleagues:

Since being appointed Director of the Core for the new core curriculum in early November, I've been busy working with the Core Committee to begin implementation. The calendar of events and activities that we've arranged for this Spring follows this letter, but I wanted first to inform you all about the overall changes necessitated by the passage of time. Effectively, our late start this year has demanded slowing down by a year the original schedule for implementing the core. We now project devoting next year to preparation for a full, year-by-year rollout of the new curriculum beginning in Fall, 2013, and to design of a number of pilot sections – of first year seminars for the Fall and of other courses for the Spring – to run in Academic Year 2012-13. This new schedule should allow responsible resolution of issues unaddressed in the document passed last Spring by the faculty.

The ambitious agenda for implementation of the new core has already demanded considerable preparatory work: the Core Committee has met 3 times and will begin weekly meetings in the Spring Semester (Mondays @ 11:30-12:30pm, MBA Conference Room). In addition, we have produced an implementation budget for the 2011-12 year and numerous planning task forces, including one for advising and the new First Year Seminar, one for Calendar and Logistics (including planning on transition issues between the old and new cores), another for Transfer Credit and one for the pursuit of external grant opportunities. At this point, the First Year Seminar is approaching readiness for preliminary Curriculum Committee approval and for the design of pilot sections; the new quantitative requirement has gone through a first round of design and feedback, and considerable progress has been made in developing plans to implement the Writing Instructional course sequence.

While I anticipate a busy spring, we are on schedule for full implementation of the new core by 2016-17.

Perhaps the most pressing and thorny of the issues to face us in our initial work arises from the way that the new First Year Seminars will necessarily affect some advising structures at the college. I have appointed a First Year Seminar task force (headed by Ann Ryan) to work on, among other things, this question of advising and its integration with the new Core. In consultation with Sue Ames and the Advising Committee, they have arrived at a plan that will involve some changes in the roles of academic advisors in the majors. With that in mind, I've both placed resources from the Core implementation budget at the disposal of departments (some of which may need to redesign some elements of how they handle first year advising) and scheduled a series of voluntary workshops and meetings in March and April with both program heads and whole departments to assist them.

Please feel free to be in touch with me with any questions or issues. To enroll in workshops or request funds, please contact Megan Andolina at andolime@lemoyne.edu, ext. 4765.

Sincerely,

Tom Brockelman

Just when you
thought it
was safe to
go back in the
water...!

News on the
new Core
Curriculum.

Spring 2012 Schedule of Events for the Core Committee

Saturday, February 25, 10:00am - 1:00pm:

Workshop for the development of 1st Year Seminars

Any faculty interested in developing a first year seminar are welcome to attend this workshop, which will both explain the common elements in the course and assist in syllabus development. Stipends available.

Monday, February 27:

Submission of detailed guidelines to Core Committee, Quantitative Literacy Requirement

Tuesday, February 28:

Final selection of Pilot Seminars

Participants in February 25th Workshop may be selected to develop a Fall 2012 Pilot Seminar.

Stipends available for pilot development.

2nd Week of March: Special Meeting - Assessing pilot seminars:

Workshop with Core Assessment advisors and instructors for pilot seminars

Saturday, March 17, 10:00am -12:00pm:

Workshop for Chairs and Program Directors: changes in Advising with the New Core/
Assessment of the New Core

Late March - Mid April:

Departmental Meetings to Design Advising Structures and Pamphlets

The Core will provide resources (including pamphlet design and refreshments) to departments wishing to re-design elements of their advising programs to mesh with the new curriculum. Additionally, the director or other members of the committee will gladly attend these meetings to facilitate a smooth transition.

April 10:

Deadline for submission of Pilot Syllabi to Core committee, First Year Seminars

April 15:

Submission of detailed guidelines to Core Committee, Writing Instructional Classes