

General Education and Academic Assessment Committee
Meeting Minutes for the
January 18, 2016, 3 pm to 5 pm, O.A. Grant 394N meeting

Attending: Dr. Andrew; Dr. Banker; Dr. Bauer; Dr. Becker; Dr. Davidian; Dr. Drueckhammer; Dr. Edwards; Ms. Hancock; Dr. LaTouche; Dr. Lemmons; Dr. Low; Dr. Nelson; Ms. Newsome; Dr. Post; Dr. Schenewark; Dr. Taylor; Dr. Wood

1. Welcome and introductions

New members and guests were introduced. Dr. Lemmons joined the committee as the new Assistant Dean for COLFA. Dr. Post served as proxy for Dr. Shao. Dr. Edwards attended as a representative of the Faculty Senate. Ms. Hancock attended as a resource expert for catalog and curriculum issues. Dr. Taylor attended in her role as AVP of Curriculum, Assessment, and Faculty Affairs. Dr. Wood attended in order to present the newly proposed Mathematics 1316 core curriculum course.

2. Discussion of the General Education Approval Process and Standards

Dr. LaTouche provided training on the THECB Core Curriculum standards and student learning objectives. Dr. LaTouche then provided an overview of the core curricular approval process and the GEAAC's role in this approval process.

3. Consent Items

Dr. Nelson moved to approve the below listed consent items for possible inclusion in Tarleton's Core Curriculum. Dr. Davidian seconded the motion. Discussion was held about the purpose and intent of the FYS courses and the on-going university curricular planning designed to address these issues. The motion was approved unanimously.

Department	Program/Course	Change Request	Item No.	Effective Term
Social Sciences	SOSC 1100	Department requested to develop FYS course specific to majors.	C3370	Fall 2017

Social Work	SOCW 1100	This is a required FYS course for the Social Work Department.	C3316	Fall 2017
Fine Arts	ARTS 1100	The visual arts faculty believe that this [FYS] course will aid towards the retention of art and digital media studies majors.	C3371	Fall 2017
Fine Arts	DRAM 1100	The theatre faculty believe that this [FYS] course will aid towards the retention of theatre majors.	C3222	Fall 2017
English and Languages	SPAN 1100	Departments have been asked to offer program-specific FYS courses.	C3405	Fall 2017
English and Languages	ENGL 1100	Departments have been asked to offer program-specific FYS courses.	C3403	Fall 2017
Criminal Justice	CRIJ 1100	Developing new FYS course in order to better serve our students.	C3358	Fall 2017

4. Non-Consent Item: Department of Mathematics

Dr. Bauer moved to approve this non-consent item for possible inclusion in Tarleton’s Core Curriculum. Dr. Davidian seconded the motion. Dr. Wood provided the committee with an overview of the need for the course and why the Mathematics department felt it was an appropriate course for Tarleton’s Core Curriculum. Discussion was held about the language that had been contained in the original submission that would have implied a possible pre-requisite for the course. Ms. Hancock explained how this issue had arisen at the University Curriculum Committee and the request had been approved with the condition of the removal of this pre-requisite language. The motion was approved unanimously on the condition that the pre-requisite language remain removed from the request.

Department	Program/Course	Change Request	Item No.	Effective Term
Mathematics	MATH 1316	We are requesting that MATH 1316 be designated as a mathematics course that satisfies the General Education Core Curriculum requirements for Tarleton State University. In	C1253	

		addition, we are revising the course description and student learning outcomes to better align with the Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM) since the conversion to the common course numbering system. By doing so, we can remain in compliance with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board requirements for the General Education Core Curriculum.		Fall 2017
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5. Non-Consent Item: Department of Fine Arts

Dr. Nelson moved to approve this non-consent item for possible inclusion in Tarleton’s Core Curriculum. Dr. Bauer seconded the motion. Dr. Davidian provided the committee with an overview of the need for the course and why the Fine Arts department felt it was an appropriate course for Tarleton’s Core Curriculum. Discussion was held about the history of the course proposal and the committee suggested that the wording of the proposal be modified to include language to emphasis its alignment with the Core Curricular area. The motion was approved unanimously.

Department	Program/Course	Change Request	Item No.	Effective Term
Fine Arts	MUSI 1311	Music Theory I was once part of the general education requirement; as the title indicates, it is theoretical in nature. This course was removed from the core because it consisted of four hours. Now that the course has been revised to consist of two components, music theory (3 hours) and aural skills (1 hour), the music faculty wish to put Music Theory I back in the core. Note: Currently, Music Theory fulfills the Visual & Performing Arts core requirement at Angelo State and Sul Ross State.	C2437	Fall 2017

6. Non-Consent Item: Department of Social Sciences

Dr. Banker moved to approve this non-consent item for possible inclusion in Tarleton’s Core Curriculum. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion. Dr. Lemmons provided the committee with an overview of the need for the course and why the Social Sciences department felt it was an appropriate course for Tarleton’s Core Curriculum. Discussion was held about the component area requirements of the Life and Natural Sciences area of the Core Curriculum and whether or not the proposed course fit these requirements. Several committee members suggested that the wording of the proposal be modified to include language that emerged during the discussion in order to more clearly emphasize how the proposed course aligns with the Core Curricular area. The motion was approved by consent.

Department	Program/Course	Change Request	Item No.	Effective Term
Social Sciences	GEOG 1451	<p>Although geography is housed in the College of Liberal and Fine Arts at Tarleton State University, most of the work done using GIS is more related to the Life and Physical/Natural Sciences and STEM. Pre-GIS uses and teaches students to use technical instruments such as GPS units, GIS software, Satellites, Drones and Satellite/Drone imagery. The Pre-GIS course also has a lab requirement like the other core courses in Life and Physical/Natural Sciences. Therefore, this course is being proposed as a core course in this area. It is proposed that we remove GEOG 2301: Geography of Texas from the core, and add Pre-GIS to the core in its place in the area of Life and Physical/Natural Science.</p> <p>The importance of including Pre-GIS into the core curriculum at this point in time is due to the popular rise in GIS use across disciplines, especially in the life and natural sciences. GIS is the predicted to be the 5th fastest growing occupation in the U.S. over the next several years. It is becoming a “core” source of knowledge that students will need to not only be successful but to also have an advantage over other job applicants in the future job market.</p>	C3133	Fall 2017

7. Meeting Times

The committee agreed on a standard meeting time. The committee will meet from 3 pm to 5 pm on the second Thursday of each month.

8. Follow-up assessment review process

Dr. LaTouche outlined the follow-up assessment review process the committee would be conducting during the final weeks of January and first week of February. The importance of these reviews was emphasized for both program enhancement and for institutional use in the budgeting process.

9. Core assessment and program assessment reminders

Dr. LaTouche reminded the committee members of the importance of communicating to all deans, department heads, program leaders, and other faculty the need to enter their completed core and program data for Fall 2016 and to effectively prepare to collect this data in Spring 2017.

10. Carnegie's Community Engagement Classification (applying in Spring 2019)

http://nerche.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=341&Itemid=618#CECdesc

Dr. LaTouche provide an update on the Carnegie Steering Committee's work and discussed how this work would relate to future activities of the GEAAC.

11. SACSCOC reaffirmation (due in September 2019)

<http://www.sacscoc.org/>

Dr. LaTouche reminded the committee members of the importance of communicating to all deans, department heads, program leaders, and other faculty in their areas how Tarleton was entering the final two year cycle prior to its submission of its reaccreditation report in September 2019 and the importance that programs demonstrate their effective use of academic assessment to guide improvements in their student learning environments.

12. Tarleton's assessment calendar

Dr. LaTouche provided a brief overview of key upcoming assessment activities.

13. Other

There was no other business.

14. Communication

Department Head Representatives and Associate Deans should ensure that assessment is a standard agenda item of each college's Department Head Meetings and that they share the assessment information discussed in these meetings during their respective Department Head Meetings within their college.