

Minutes, University Committee for General Education  
Meeting #7, 2008-2009; December 4, 2008

Present: Marc Klowden, Chris Williams, Pat Hart, Elizabeth Sloan, Jean Henscheid, Nic Jorgensen, Matt Wappett, Jeanne Christiansen, Joe Cloud, Charles Tibbals, Provost Baker, Rochelle Smith, Steve Chandler, Michael O'Rourke and Karen Hume.

Provost Baker gave his overview of the Core Curriculum:

Core Discovery:

First year experience – general education is most important

The University of Idaho ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in retention in comparison to its peers.

Core Discovery is good for recruitment

Core Discovery is linked to the U of I learning outcomes

Develops skills, abilities and knowledge

Problems

Culture of the University of Idaho does not always support Core Discovery

There seems to be content over skills bias for some.

Funding the Core

Money could come from eliminating courses with very small enrollments. How are these courses to be considered for elimination to be identified?

- Programs with small enrollment
- Perhaps teach some courses every other year
- Quit teaching entirely

Use these teachers to teach a Core Discovery class or have department pay for someone to teach Core Discovery.

Joe Cloud believes we should set a quota for each college's participation in Core Discovery. There has been some analysis done on who and how much each college

should pay. Maybe the committee needs to execute a plan to make decision-making more efficient. Suggestion was made to bring their own themes to the program instead of existing themes. Jean brought up the idea that Karen had mentioned in the past about combining the sciences with Core Discovery. There was quite a bit of discussion on the content of Core Discovery courses and the different ways we could combine them with the sciences, humanities or social sciences. Another suggestion was to tailor some of the general education courses to individual majors.

Joe Cloud asked the Provost if the University has the funds to cover Core Discovery courses. The Provost believes that there are funds to cover Core Discovery. There are different ways to allocate with faculty or money. The question was brought up about the basis for allocation. The Provost stated that the University does not have a formula they use for allocations. He did bring up the idea of a University College. Marc and Matt felt this idea had a lot of merit.

Provost asked Matt Wappett what his pros and cons of teaching Core Discovery courses were.

Pros:

- Intellectually stimulating
- Rewarding

Cons:

- Time consuming

Pat Hart asked the Provost if he thought Core Discovery worked and whether we could afford it. Provost stated he would like to make it happen. He also stated that he would be meeting with Kathy Aiken, Scott Wood, Jean Henscheid, Jeanne Christiansen, and Chris Williams about Core Discovery next week.

The committee discussed developing a statement of support for the current Core Curriculum but will wait until after the meeting with Provost next week.

UCGE will meet again in January and will develop statement at that time.

Motion made to adjourn (Hart/Klowden). Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Julie Miller  
Core Assistant