

AGENDA

Undergraduate Faculty Meeting
Tuesday, February 12, 2012, 9:30 a.m.
AGLS 129

1. Catalog Updates

- All programs will receive their respective course catalog pages for edits.
- Due date to be turned into registrar's office is 2/22/13. Please return your copy to Jamie by 2/20/13

2. Core Curriculum (see attachments)

- Upper-level courses in the core curriculum (ALED 340, 400, 440, and AGCJ 404) can apply for reconsideration if they meet new requirements: annual enrollment of at least 30, no prerequisites, open to all majors, and not offered as a lower division course in the Texas Common Course Numbering System.
- Lower level proposal timeline: Feb. 1 – June 1, must be to Dr. Dunsford by March 13 for departmental core curriculum committee approval.
- Upper level proposal timeline: May 1 – Sept 1, must be to Dr. Dunsford by May 1 for departmental core curriculum committee approval. See format and application requirements: <http://curricularservices.tamu.edu/core-curriculum/> .
- ALEC Undergraduate Curriculum Committee is made up of Deb Dunsford, chair, Gary Briers, Summer Odom, Theresa Murphrey, and Christine Arnold.
- University core curriculum is proposing dropping KINE 198. Science requirement is 9 hours, no labs are required.
- Howell – Could ALED 424 be submitted as a humanities course? Dunsford – it would need to be open enrollment.
- If a student completes ALL core curriculum at a community college the student will not be required to complete core curriculum at TAMU.

3. Development

- Each undergrad program area (ALED, AGCJ, AGSC, USAL) must identify a faculty member to work with Ambrya Baldwin on department development activities (contact with Former Students, development visits, department events). Please send the name of this person to Rutherford by April
- This should be someone other than the program area leader.

4. Student Evaluations (see attachments)

- 300 volunteers are needed for the IDEA Student Ratings of Instruction system pilot test. The system is more specific in the questions and the responses received from students.
- If faculty would like to participate in this test you **MUST log in by 2/15** using this link <http://ideasri.tamu.edu/volunteer>
- Rayfield – Do we have feedback from the Fall pilot test? Rutherford – More information from students and it is more specific.

5. Microbursts (mini-retreats) - RSVP to Jamie no later than one week prior to meeting date.

Dates: ALED, Friday, March 8, AGLS 200
AGCJ, Friday, March 29, IMS Conference Room
AGSC, Friday, April 19, IMS Conference Room

- These are open to any faculty interested in attending. You must RSVP to Jamie for food and space requirements.
- Workgroup operations are curriculum based and operational; involving course decisions, admissions, teaching assignments, etc..

- Learning communities are encouraged and operate independent of the program area workgroups.
- Agenda items to consider:
 - Teaching loads – we teach more than any other department and most faculty are teaching overloads and the grad program is continuing to grow. This is impacting the measurable outcomes from the department, as noted in the decline in research productivity in the departmental review.
 - 5-year teaching plans need to be completed during this time programmatic and individual. We have to make compliance every semester; it is the faculty member’s responsibility to meet compliance loads. It is the workgroup’s responsibility to make sure the courses are taught regularly to meet student demands for graduation in a reasonable timeframe.
 - Programs need to determine if they need to identify applications for adjunct positions. Need a Master’s degree and exceptional professional work experience. Each program will assume the role of search committee in these situations. Applications need to be received by May. Adjuncts can be full-time TAMU employees and they will be compensated. Benefits are considered on a case by case basis for adjuncts. You can also buy out time for adjuncts with grants, this needs to be discussed during APR.
 - Comments: Wingenbach – All courses should be open for any faculty to teach teaching current loads are not balanced. Not all faculty fit under a specific ‘program’ but could teach other courses.
 - Rutherford – Retreats will determine the teaching load and then Murphy, Rutherford, and Elliot will make decisions how to balance load if needed.

Attendees:

Tracy Rutherford
 Christine Arnold
 John Rayfield
 Roger Hanagriff
 Summer Odom
 Lori Moore
 Landry Lockett

Scott Cummings
 Tim Murphy
 Jamie Norgaard
 Gary Wingenbach
 Cathryn Clement
 Jonathan Howell

Future Undergraduate Faculty Meeting Dates:

Thursday, March 7, 2:00 p.m. AGLS 129

Tuesday, April 2, 9:30 a.m. AGLS 129

Monday, May 6, 2:00 p.m. AGLS 129

Attachments: Core Curriculum updates, IDEA system volunteer request

Core Curriculum

New core course submission deadlines

The Core Curriculum Council has extended the deadlines for proposing courses for the new core curriculum that will be implemented beginning in 2014. The new times for submission are:

- Now through April 1: lower division courses currently in the core
- February 1 through June 1: new lower division courses not currently in the core
- May 1 through September 1: upper division courses currently in the core
 - **ALED 340, ALED 400, ALED 440, AGCJ 404**

More local and state information on the core curriculum may be found at <http://curricularservices.tamu.edu/core-curriculum/>

Proposed action: The Core Curriculum Council has unanimously adopted and the Executive Committee has unanimously endorsed a compromise plan to allow upper division courses into the new core curriculum that is being proposed for 2014. The amendment to the previously adopted resolution includes the following provisions for upper division courses proposed for the core:

1. As mandated by the Coordinating Board, there cannot be a lower division course in the Texas Common Course Numbering System that substantially overlaps in content;
2. The course cannot have another course prerequisite;
3. The course cannot be restricted to a single major or a group of majors;
4. The course must have had an average annual enrollment of at least 30 students in each of the past three years.

The proposal makes clear that the CCC will follow the state mandate restricting courses that overlap with lower-division courses; enshrine two key principles that have guided approval of upper-division courses in the core in recent years – the courses cannot have another course prerequisite and must be open to students in more than a single major or college; and the course must have had at least a moderate enrollment in the past in an effort to ensure that the course does not have a very limited appeal.

Student Evaluations

In December of 2011, The Academic Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate was charged with reviewing alternatives to the current student evaluation system, otherwise known as PICA. The review was driven by an interest in whether we should invest in needed upgrades to PICA given its expanded use, or invest in a nationally validated instrument that would potentially include formative information regarding pedagogy and provide better discrimination between truly excellent, good, and average instructions. On February 7, 2012, the Texas A&M University Faculty Senate approved faculty senate report FS.29.155, which recommends adoption of an instrument developed by the IDEA Center. As part of this exploration process, we have been conducting pilot tests of this system during the Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 semesters.

Thirty-five instructors, teaching fifty-two sections took part in the initial Fall pilot. We will expand the pilot for Spring 2013 in order to have a more comprehensive evaluation of the suitability of the system and its value for faculty.

Therefore, I am requesting about three hundred faculty, who are currently teaching, to volunteer to be part of our Spring 2013 pilot program.

Whether individual faculty members and their departments participate in the pilot or not, all will need to consider the results found in the pilot. If a decision is to be made about moving forward with a new system, it will potentially impact the availability of the existing systems since we will probably not be able to fund both a new system and support existing systems at current levels. This does not mean a decision will necessarily force everyone to use the IDEA system if adopted, but it may mean access to PICA and even to other scanning services in the future could be impacted.

Although the IDEA system differs significantly from the current system in both concepts and implementation, it requires very limited efforts for faculty to set up their course to use the IDEA instrument and there is a five-minute video tutorial on the procedure. Interested faculty would benefit, however, from a workshop on how to interpret the IDEA report and make use of the online resources to improve one's teaching. Unit liaisons will need additional training to be better

prepared for supporting the faculty and handle the processing for the unit. Several workshops will be offered in February and March on overview of the rationale and structure of the IDEA instrument and on interpretation of the IDEA reports and use of associated resources.

If you wish to volunteer to participate in the Spring 2013 pilot, please login to ideasri.tamu.edu/volunteer to register, or contact Sieb Greene at 458-5216 or Debbie Guess at 845-3835, by February 15, 2013.

Thank you

Karan Watson PhD, PE

Provost and Executive Vice President

Texas A&M University