CLAS Chairs and Directors meeting, 14 November 2012

KU Core and the College

1. CUSA makes recommendations of courses for the KU Core; final approval for KU Core courses rests with the UCCH. Progress on courses approved for the KU Core is listed on the KU Core website at http://kucore.ku.edu/courses.

2. We want a robust selection of classes—for students in the College and for majors in the professional Schools in order to
   a. Ensure the goal of student choice
   b. Maintain strong SCH within the CLAS; if CLAS does not provide courses, professional Schools may elect to propose and offer them, and if approved by UCCH, this could potentially result in a reduction in the overall size of the CLAS
   c. Attract students because of what we have to offer—recruitment, new opportunities for double-majors or an extra minor, unique combinations of major(s) and minor(s), etc.

3. Chairs and directors expressed support for a process that will streamline groups of classes that belong in the KU Core Curriculum, such as a blanket review/approval of all language proficiency classes (basic language), of all “capstones” courses and experiences, and where possible of key College classes required for the professional Schools that align with specific KU Core learning goals.

4. Recommendations for departments:
   a. Plan to have at least as many courses in the KU Core as you have in the current system of distribution requirements, principles courses, etc. And recognize that for strategic reasons, you may want to have more in the KU Core.
   b. Recognize that the old distribution requirement system focused mainly on introductory general education; note that the new KU Core includes advanced goals. Consider nominating additional advanced courses that meet KU Core criteria and may also serve your majors.
   c. Remember that the KU Core is based on variety and choice, rather than limitations and restrictions. The array of courses in the KU Core identifies the building blocks for our liberal arts and sciences degrees and they are also the building blocks for degrees in most of the professional Schools.

5. Suggestions for using the online form to nominate courses for the KU Core curriculum. Form: (http://www2.ku.edu/~irsurvey/cgi-bin/rws5.pl?FORM=KUCoreCourseNominationForm)
   a. Print out the PDF of the form to see all fields before you start filling it out. You can save your work using the “Pause” button on every screen.
   b. Be explicit on the nomination form and in the draft syllabus about what course component(s) fit(s) the criteria of the goal.
   c. Make recommendations to streamline the form to Chris Haufler and Paul Khute.

6. If you have concerns about the assessment piece, here are some ideas:
   a. Minimum: (a) identify exam questions, projects, or assignments, etc., that address the specific learning outcome(s); (b) preserve direct evidence and evaluation of a representative sample of student work from those elements of the course focused on assessment of the learning goal; (c) write an instructor comment page at the end of the course on how well the students in the course have achieved the learning outcome and indicate what will be worked on in a future iteration of the course to improve student
achievement; (e) keep records to document the feedback cycle for the learning goal over time; courses taught by multiple instructors can coordinate this documentation.

b. Rubrics are not mandatory, but they are the current “gold standard” for evaluation of student work. Sample evaluation rubrics are included on the KU Core Curriculum website at the end of the description of each learning goal: http://kucore.ku.edu/goal1.

c. Note that the Center for Teaching Excellence is currently conducting a national search for an assessment specialist.

d. Note that the KU Core assessments will be the foundation for the learning outcome assessments needed for periodic university-wide accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission through North Central Accreditation.

7. Nominations for additional KU Core Curriculum courses will be accepted throughout the year; the sooner we can review them the better. **Spring student advising for Fall 2013 begins on March 14, 2013.**

8. The KU Core Curriculum is a university-wide set of requirements for all students pursuing baccalaureate studies. Parallel to the establishment of courses by the College and all professional Schools in the KU Core Curriculum, CUSA will be making recommendations about College-specific degree requirements for the B.A. degree in the College.

   a. The final approval of these College-specific B.A. degree requirements will follow a College governance process and will apply only to students earning the B.A. within the College.

   b. It is important to separate the array of courses within the KU Core Curriculum, which may serve the entire university, and the College requirements for a College B.A. degree.

   c. At present, the KU Core can be mapped onto B.S., B.G.S., B.F.A., and B.A.E. degrees offered by the College without additional College-specific degree requirements. CUSA will review the B.S., B.G.S., B.F.A., and B.A.E. degrees in the future if there are options to provide more choice for students.
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences offers five different undergraduate degrees at present: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of General Studies, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Fine Arts, and Bachelor of Art Education. For all of these degrees, the KU Core will map onto the degree requirements without significant initial change.

The Bachelor of Arts degree is the exception. This is the cornerstone liberal arts and sciences degree that historically combines general education, breadth across various fields, competencies linked to a broad understanding of cultural heritage, and depth within a major.

The Committee on Undergraduate Studies and Advising (CUSA) is the College’s standing committee that oversees curriculum and curricular change, and it is governed by the College By-Laws. CUSA has been deliberating on College-specific degree requirements that will complement the KU Core in order to offer a Bachelor of Arts degree competitive with or hopefully better than the quality of Bachelor of Arts degree in liberal arts and sciences at our aspirational peer institutions.

The following table describe potential timelines for completing College-specific B.A. requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Step</th>
<th>Best Case</th>
<th>Likely</th>
<th>Worst Case</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CUSA formalizes the proposed College-specific requirements and seeks short-turn-around feedback from chairs and directors</td>
<td>After 11/27/12 or 12/11/12 CUSA meeting; 11/28-30 or 12/12-14 feedback period</td>
<td>After 1/22/13 CUSA meeting; 1/23-25 feedback period</td>
<td>After 2/12/13 or 2/26/13 CUSA meeting; 2/13-15 or 2/27-29 feedback period</td>
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<td>With chair and director feedback, CUSA finalizes College-specific recommendations and sends them to the College Advisory Council (CAC) as a motion.</td>
<td>CUSA deliberation 12/11/12 or 1/22/13 and recommendation at CAC on 2/12/13 (CAC does not meet in January)</td>
<td>CUSA deliberation 2/12/13 or 2/26/13 and recommendation at CAC on 3/12/13</td>
<td>CUSA deliberation 3/12/13 or 3/26/13 and recommendation at CAC on 4/9/13</td>
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<td>Under the guidance of the Dean, CAC will convene two information meetings for faculty in the CLAS, before sending the proposed College-specific recommendations to a vote of the College Assembly (electronic ballot).</td>
<td>Informational meetings A and B: A: 2/14/13 (Thurs.) B: 2/18/13 (Mon.)</td>
<td>Informational meetings A and B: A: 3/14/13 (Thurs.) B: 3/18/13 (Mon.)</td>
<td>Informational meetings A and B: A: 4/11/13 (Thurs.) B: 4/15/13 (Mon.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The College Assembly will be presented with a choice between: 1. KU Core + major requirements = BA; or 2. KU Core + College specific requirements + major requirements = BA.</td>
<td>Electronic ballot 2/19-2/26/13 with recommendation to Provost 2/27/13</td>
<td>Electronic ballot 3/19-26 with recommendation to Provost 3/27/13</td>
<td>Electronic ballot 4/16-4/23/13 with recommendation to Provost 4/24/13</td>
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Possible College-Specific B.A. Requirements

CUSC will make recommendations to CAC, and a formal deliberation/governance process will occur regarding the College-specific B.A. degree requirements. The requirements beyond the KU Core may include the following components:

1. an additional course in quantitative literacy, with a variety of courses that can satisfy this requirement;
2. a laboratory course experience, which includes field camps and laboratory experiences in both Natural Sciences and the Social and Behavioral Sciences;
3. foreign language proficiency beyond the minimal level required by the KU Core, with appropriate alternatives and options;
4. a clarification that the U.S. diversity requirement must be satisfied;
5. possible additional breadth requirements; and
6. possibly a course or experience in Global and International as distinct from other learning goals.

Because there is high sensitivity to ensuring a streamlined overall curriculum, the exact configuration of 4, 5, and 6 is under careful scrutiny at present.
Please identify your relationship to KU:
- Faculty
- Staff
- Undergraduate Student
- Graduate Student
- Other  If other please specify

The University Core Curriculum Committee (UCCC) has recommended a modification of the description of the options for meeting the "Respect Human Diversity and Expand Cultural Understanding and Global Awareness" Advanced Education Goal of the KU Core. This recommendation emphasizes the expectation that all KU undergraduates will achieve both learning outcomes associated with this educational goal.

Please complete this survey indicating which of the two versions you prefer and add any comments that you may wish to share with committee members.

Click here to view the Goal, the Learning Outcomes, and the Criteria.

Please mark the circle next to the version that you prefer.

- **Current description of options for meeting this goal:** (from p. 23 of the Guide to the KU Core)

  Requires two units that may be

  - A unit meeting Learning Outcome 1 and a unit meeting Learning Outcome 2, or
  - A two-course non-English language sequence that includes culture content, or a one-semester non-English language course and a significant study abroad experience, or
  - An approved course or educational experience meeting the criteria for one of the two learning outcomes and a significant study abroad experience.

- **Recommended description of options for meeting this goal:**

  This goal requires two units that may be

  - A unit meeting Learning Outcome 1 and a unit meeting Learning Outcome 2, or
  - A unit meeting Learning Outcome 1 and either a significant study abroad experience or a semester non-English language course.

- **No preference**

Use this text box to provide any comments you would like the UCCC to consider

http://www2.ku.edu/~irsurvey/cgi-bin/rws5.pl?FORM=CultureandDiversityGoalSurvey 11/27/2012
From: owner-kulfs-l@listproc.cc.ku.edu on behalf of Klute, Paul G <pklude@ku.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2012 2:07 PM
To: kulfs-l - KU Lawrence Faculty and Staff, student01-l - All KU Students
Subject: Request for comments on KU Core proposed revision

***Sent on behalf of Chuck Marsh***

To Members of the University Community:

The University Core Curriculum Committee (UCCC) has recommended a revision of the description of the options for meeting Goal 4 of the KU Core: "Respect Human Diversity and Expand Cultural Understanding and Global Awareness." The recommendation emphasizes the expectation that all KU undergraduates will achieve both learning outcomes associated with this educational goal.

UCCC requests feedback regarding this recommendation from members of the university community.

The language of the recommendation and an opportunity to offer comments can be accessed through this link: http://www2.ku.edu/~irsurvey/cgi-bin/rws5.pl?FORM=CultureandDiversityGoalSurvey

During its Nov. 30 meeting, UCCC will devote 30 minutes (from 2:30 to 3 p.m.) to an open hearing regarding this recommendation. The meeting will be held in the Kansas Room (Level 6) of the Kansas Union. Spokespersons of constituencies from the university community are welcome to provide brief comments regarding this recommendation.

Thank you very much,

Chuck Marsh
Chair, University Core Curriculum Committee

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