

# Issue 3

## Survey Success and Continuing Conversations

Greetings from the University Core Curriculum Committee –

As we look forward to the Groundhog's prediction for an early spring, I want to provide updates about the continuing effort of the UCCC to guide the KU Core toward fulfillment of its mission as a foundational element of undergraduate education at KU.

I am pleased to report our effort to listen to more of our constituents produced a tremendous response to the KU Core survey in December. Over 2,700 members of the Lawrence and Edwards campus communities took time to share their ideas with us. Nearly 200 faculty, 55 advisors, and over 50 administrators, staff members and others completed the survey. Slightly over 2,000 students, evenly distributed among the undergraduate classes, led the response totals.

Especially valuable is the insight shared by those who provided thoughtful answers to the open-ended survey questions. These comments identified areas of strength and weakness we can use to improve the KU Core and its operations. Analysis of the survey responses will be shared with the UCCC in February and a report about the survey results will be made public in early March.

We also look forward to our planned work with the Faculty Rights, Privileges and Responsibilities committee to conduct campus focus groups this spring. Over 200 survey participants volunteered to participate in this thought-sharing opportunity, and in the coming weeks, we will be working with FRPR to form the groups, conduct the sessions and make sense of the conversations.

The KU Core is a living set of academic goals and the UCCC operates on this belief. Since last August, the UCCC members have been working with information drawn from previous UCCC meetings, minutes, and discussions of the past 18 months to produce an aggregate view of opportunities for Core improvement. This work helped identify question areas for the survey and provides the framework that keeps our committee discussions realistic and focused on maintaining the success of the KU Core structure. This framework is also critical to our efforts to respond to concerns expressed about the Core and the efficiency of the UCCC. As additional input is solicited from across the campus, we hope to fix inconsistencies in the KU Core language, simplify interaction with the UCCC, and guarantee the six KU Core Goals will continue to meet the educational needs of our students.

As I've mentioned in previous Core Communications, UCCC business meetings are open to the public on alternate Tuesdays at 2:30 pm in room 455 in Watson Library. The meeting schedule is at <http://kucore.ku.edu/uccc-calendar>. Our committee work will not be done in haste, without additional public discussion and input, and with fullest regard for the impact any change might

have on all the constituents we serve.

If you have questions and would like me to schedule a visit with your group to discuss the KU Core and the work of the University Core Curriculum Committee, please contact me at [kucore@ku.edu](mailto:kucore@ku.edu). Your patience, understanding and trust are appreciated and will help guide us toward success.

Onward toward excellence,



Mike Williams

University Core Curriculum Committee chair

Associate Professor, William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications