University Core Curriculum Committee
Annual Report: 2015-2016

April 2017

I. Charges to the University Core Curriculum Committee

A. The University Core Curriculum Committee (UCCC) received six standing charges and six additional charges at its initial meeting on August 25, 2015.

Standing Charges
1. Oversee the composition of the KU Core curriculum.
2. Certify (and re-certify) courses and experiential learning activities nominated for inclusion as part of the KU Core.
3. Monitor the achievement of learning outcomes through these courses and activities.
4. Review and approve/deny petitions as needed from students concerning completion of the KU Core requirements.
5. Review and recommend proposals for certificate programs (e.g., Global Awareness Program, Research Experience Program, Service Learning Program).
6. Envision innovative ways to meet learning outcomes.

Additional Charges
1. Complete the recertification process for courses that satisfy Goal 1 (outcomes 1 and 2); review the assessment and recertification submissions, determine ongoing course membership in KU Core Goal 1, and communicate decisions to the departments as reviews are completed.
2. Re-review any Goal 1 courses that require further information in the spring 2016 semester.
3. Make recommendations for changes to the recertification process as needed.
4. Communicate to the university community the expectations for KU Core review in the 2016-17 academic year.
5. Work with the Undergraduate Advising Executive Committee to perform an audit of how schools and degree program curricula are having students satisfy the KU Core requirements, and to what extent the degree specific requirements are restricting KU Core completion.
6. Review proposed courses with the UNIV designation.
7. Work with University Academic Assessment Committee to finalize and communicate assessment and recertification process. Pilot the process with a small group of courses and departments.

II. UCCC Actions Regarding Course Approval

A. UCCC approved 45 course-learning outcome matches for the KU Core curriculum:

Goal & Learning Outcome	Approved
Goal 1, Learning Outcome 1	3
Goal 1, Learning Outcome 2	0
Goal 2, Learning Outcome 1	1
Goal 2, Learning Outcome 2	1
Goal 3	12
Goal 4, Learning Outcome 1	2
Goal 4, Learning Outcome 2	9
Goal 5	5
Goal 6	12

B. UCCC returned 6 course/learning outcome applications to nominating units for, in most cases, potential revision and resubmission.

C. UCCC considered four multi-course sequences proposed by the School of Engineering; three to meet Goal 5, Learning Outcome 1 and one to meet Goal 2, Learning Outcome 2. These sequences would incorporate the objectives and requirements of their respective goals across multiple courses through integration into existing courses and are intended to be taken only by students majoring in the specified department. Two sequences were approved to meet Goal 5, Learning Outcome 1, one for Chemical Engineering students and one for Engineering Physics students. One sequence was approved to meet Goal 2, Learning Outcome 2 for Chemical Engineering Students. One additional sequence for Petroleum Engineering students for Goal 5, Learning Outcome 1 was returned to the Department of Chemical & Petroleum Engineering for potential revision and resubmission.

III. UCCC Actions Regarding Petitions

A. Student petitions for substitutions for KU Core approved units are reviewed by the UCCC chair. Petitions that are not automatically approved or denied based on established guidelines and prior precedent are then forwarded to UCCC for final determination, along with a recommendation by the chair for approval or denial of the petition. 29 petitions for substitutions for KU Core approved units were approved by UCCC during the 2015-16 academic year while 4 were denied.

B. UCCC created a subcommittee to review student petitions submitted during the summer when the UCCC does not conduct regular meetings. This subcommittee considered 19 petitions, of which 11 were approved and 8

were denied.

C. In December 2015, the UCCC approved the following language change to the KU Core website petitions information "Lack of knowledge of KU Core requirements either on part of student and/or mis-advisement is not an extraordinary circumstance for a petition to be considered".

IV. UCCC Actions Regarding Course Review Process

A. The KU Core includes a review process to ensure that all courses and experiences that are part of the Core continue to meet their specified learning outcomes. This Core Review has two components 1.) Recertification of courses and experiences to ensure they meet specified learning outcomes and 2.) Assessment of achievement of KU learning outcomes. All courses and experiences must participate in this review to remain part of the KU Core. Review of courses in the KU Core began in Fall 2015 with courses meeting Goal 1, Learning Objective 1- Critical Thinking and Goal 1, Learning Objective 2- Quantitative Reasoning. This follows the schedule for course review determined by the 2014-15 UCCC listed below.

Year	Learning Outcomes Reviewed
2015-16	Goal 1 (LO1 and LO2)
2016-17	Goal 2 (LO1 and LO2), Goal 3 (Arts and Humanities)
2017-18	Goal 4 LO1 and Goal 3 (Natural Sciences & Mathematics)
2018-19	Goal 4 LO2
2019-20	Goal 5 (LO1 and LO2), Goal 3 (Social & Behavioral Sciences)
2020-21	Goal 6 (LO1 and LO2)

B. The review forms for Goal 1 consisted of two parts. The **Recertification** portion of the review form is a self-report by the department or program offering the course that certifies that the course complies with the required criteria of the KU Core Goal and Learning Outcome being reviewed. The **Assessment** portion describes how the department of program offering the course measured student achievement of the learning outcome by 1.) Describing the assessment materials used and how these assessment items align to the learning objective, 2.) Reporting on student achievement across a representative sample of students, and 3.) Describing any changes suggested by the data to improve student achievement of the learning outcome. Review forms for Goal 1 were posted on the KU Assessment website and several informational workshops were held in Spring 2015 to describe this assessment process.

C. Departments were asked to submit review material for all Goal 1 courses by September 15, 2015, using the Assessment System Online, with review by UCCC beginning after that date. In the initial review process, each course was reviewed by four UCCC members, who first determined whether the course had sufficient materials submitted for a review to proceed. If the report was complete, the UCCC review determined whether the course appeared to be successfully meeting the KU Core Goal and Learning Outcome objectives. This review included an evaluation of the Assessment materials provided in the course report. Courses were then assigned a rating according to the following categories:
   1. Acceptable/ Recertify
   2. Revise and Resubmit
   3. No Basis for Review
   4. Does Not Meet the Goal

D. A total of 89 courses were reviewed for Goal 1 in 2015-16, 71 in Goal 1, Learning Outcome 1 and 18 in Goal 1, Learning Outcome 2. This represented all courses approved for Goal 1 as of August 2015, with the exception of two courses that had participated in the pilot review program in 2014-15. Of these courses, 41 (46%) were rated acceptable/recertify in the initial review in Fall 2015. 21 courses (24%) were rated as review and resubmit, while 26 courses (29%) were assigned the designation "No Basis for Review" and 1 course (1%) was indicated as not meeting the objectives for Goal 1.

E. For all courses, the department or submitting unit was sent the results of the initial review in December, 2015. Courses rated in category 2-4 were then given the opportunity to revise their review materials, respond to UCCC review comments, and/or complete submission of review materials by February 15, 2016. A second round of the Goal 1 review was then conducted by UCCC in Spring 2016 for these courses.

F. Following the re-review of Goal 1 courses, 20 of the 21 courses given an initial designation of review and re-submit were re-approved for KU Core Goal 1. The remaining course did not respond to the request to revise and re-submit materials, and so was recommended for de-listing from the list of approved courses for KU Core Goal 1.

G. Of the 26 courses that were initially designated as "No Basis for Review", five courses submitted materials during the re-review and were re-approved for KU Core Goal 1. Twelve other courses did not submit a full set of review materials, including six courses that had not been taught since the beginning of the KU Core in 2013. The remaining courses submitted materials that required further follow-up from the department of submitting unit before a final determination on their re-approval status could be made.

H. UCCC determined that courses that were not taught during an entire review

cycle (typically six years, although four years for this first review of Goal 1 courses, counting from the beginning of the KU Core) should not continue to be listed as approved for the KU Core. This decision was made in order to keep the list of KU Core courses reliable and up to date for students seeking to fulfill their Core requirements. For this first review cycle, courses in this group that were scheduled to be taught in 2016-17, however, were provisionally re-certified with the understanding that they would submit a Goal 1 review report once they had been offered and data for the assessment section of the report was available.

I. The final recommendations for courses from the Goal 1 review is as follows. The total of 80 courses is lower than the initial 89 courses reviewed due to multiple listing of some courses, either courses with honors sections listed under separate course numbers (which were ultimately reviewed together for re-approval) or courses cross-listed in multiple departments. The final category includes courses being taught in 2016-17 for the first time since the beginning of the Core, as well as several courses that submitted review reports in Spring 2016 that were designated as revise and resubmit.

Action		# of Courses
Re-approve	Fall, 2015	41
	Spring, 2016	24
	Total	**65**
Remove from Core- No report submitted		6
Remove from Core- Not currently offered		3
Remove from Core- Does not meet Goal 1		1
Requires further follow-up before re-approval		5

J. Notice to departments and submitting units of the final designation for courses from the Spring 2016 Goal 1 re-review of Goal 1 was not sent until after the end of the Spring 2016 semester. To give the affected departments or submitting units time to respond, courses requiring further follow-up or recommended for re-approval were not removed from the KU Core for the 2016-17 academic year. A final decision on removal of these courses was left for the 2016-17 UCCC.

K. The KU Core Review in 2016-17 will address Goal 2 (Learning Outcomes 1 and 2) and Goal 3 courses in the Arts and Humanities area. As previously determined, courses in Goal 3 will undergo an expedited review process that does not require an assessment of learning outcomes. Review report forms for Goal 2 and Goal 3H were approved by the UCCC in Spring 2016 and posted on the KU Assessment website. Two Town Hall Meetings on the Review process for these goals were held on May 2 and 3, 2016 to discuss the process for preparing and submitting reports for these goals. Based on the experience of the first year of the full KU Core review process, UCCC also

developed a framework to expedite the initial review of Goal 2 courses to allow results to be provided to the submitting departments earlier in the academic year, allowing for the second round of review to be completed before the end of the Spring 2017 semester.

V.   UCCC Actions Regarding Certificate Programs

UCCC approved an undergraduate Sustainability Certificate in September 2015. This certificate will be offered by the Center for Sustainability and will include a mixture of coursework and experiential learning.

VI. UCCC Policies, Procedures, and Administrative Actions

A. As described in Section III, UCCC revised the KU Core substitution petition process to include direct review of all petitions by UCCC faculty members. Submitted petitions are now reviewed by the UCCC Chair, who consults with the Undergraduate Studies office to determine if the petition is essentially identical to a previously approved or denied petition. The UCCC chair then makes a recommendation on approval or denial of the petition and then submits the petition, along with the recommendation and reasoning, to the full UCCC (or a petition subcommittee during the summer months) for a vote. Petitions must still receive approval from at least 69% of the voting members to be approved.

B. UCCC amended the Policies, Procedures and Understandings document to address the submission of first-year language courses to meet Goal 4, Learning Outcome 2. Under this interpretation, first-year language courses will typically not be considered as fulfilling Goal 4.2. The specific language added (Section II.V.E) is below:

"The promise of Goal 4.2 is that students "will learn to analyze regional and international issues and perspectives," and that a majority of course content will be devoted to sensitizing students to the practices and beliefs of another culture. Given the necessary emphasis on learning the mechanics of language acquisition in first-year language courses, only in very rare cases will these courses be considered to fulfill the intent of the learning outcomes of Goal 4.2"

C. UCCC approved the addition of a new UNIV course, UNIV 492, to replace LA&S 492 and approved changes to the UNIV 104 course.

D. At its May 3, 2016, meeting, UCCC elected Colin Roust, School of Music, as its 2015-2016 chair.

Membership of UCCC
Christopher Anderson, Business; Martica Baccalao/Alice Lieberman, Social Welfare; Jill Becker, Libraries (ex officio); Norb Belz, KU Medical Center (ex officio); John

Broholm, Journalism & Mass Communications; ; DeAngela Burns-Wallace, Undergraduate Studies (ex officio); Chris Fischer, College (Natural Sciences and Mathematics); Jeff Hall, College (Social Sciences); Alex Kaechele, Student (Fall, 2015); Marie-Alice L'Heureux, Architecture, Design & Planning; Edward Peltier, Engineering; Lizette Peters/Barbara Phipps, Education; Anton Rosenthal, College (Humanities); Colin Roust, Music; Svetlana Vassileva-Karagyozova, College (International and Interdisciplinary Studies); Maria Velasco, College (School of the Arts); Brett Wagner, Student (Fall, 2015); Howard Wolf, Student (Fall, 2015); Barbara Woods, Pharmacy

Supporting UCCC:
Jeni Klute, Terri Morris and Jana Collins, Administrative Assistants; and Lucy Russell, Undergraduate Studies.

For more information on the KU Core curriculum, please visit www.kucore.ku.edu.

Submitted by:
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2016 Interim Chair
University Core Curriculum Committee