2022-2023 Mason Core Committee Report

2022-2023 Committee Activities

A Committee retreat was held on September 9th, 2022 to plan for the upcoming year. In addition, committee members reviewed criteria for evaluating Mason Core course proposals.

Regular Mason Core Committee meetings were held nine times during the 2022-2023 academic year.

Capstone/Synthesis Category Revision
The committee created a task force to strengthen the proposal to combine the current Capstone and Synthesis Mason Core category into one culminating experience category. The new category was created with clearly defined learning outcomes and new name – Mason Apex. The name was developed in conjunction with the Office of Student Involvement, who helped run focus groups with various student constituencies. The goal of these changes was to make the process for submitting courses to this category easier to navigate. Mason Core Committee members visited various colleges and schools to discuss the revisions. The proposal was presented to Faculty Senate in March and was approved. The new category has been included on the Mason Core website. Proposals coming through for the old categories are being asked to use the new learning outcomes and category designation.

Communication for the new Just Societies Flag & Global Context Category
An announcement for new course proposals was communicated on the Mason Core website. Committee members have also visited department meetings, and spoken with colleagues about the changes which were approved in the 21-22 academic year to inform those about the revised category and the new flag.

Workshops for Just Society & Global Contexts
Six workshops were offered to review the new learning outcomes, provide a guide to the proposal process, and compose a first draft of the proposal to obtain early feedback. There were sixty-five attendees in total. There are 50 faculty members registered for the expanded two-day workshop in June which will help to develop syllabi, provide recommendations for (re)designing assignments and engaging students in conversations to support the Just Societies flag outcomes.

Committee Charge Revisions
The Mason Core Committee collaborated to revise the committee's charge to reflect the changes in staffing for the Mason Core. The new charge added the position of Mason Core director as an ex-officio member. The revisions also reflected the changes the Writing Across the Curriculum Committee were seeking to their own charge – the WAC course proposals will now be reviewed by the Mason Core committee.

New Course Proposal Form
A new course proposal form was created to improve the amount of detail, clarity and expectations of the proposals being submitted to the committee for review. These improvements hope to increase the success of courses being approved by the Mason Core with less revisions needed. The new course proposal form will be put in use for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Assessment of Mason Core Courses/Categories
The first stage of the new assessment cycle for Mason Core courses began during 2022-2023. Courses in the Information Technology and Quantitive Reasoning categories submitted syllabi and student work samples. Revisions to the assessment are in development as a result of this preliminary assessment cycle.

AAC&U Conference Presentation
Bethany Usher, Deb Stroiney and Laura Poms presented a workshop on the Mason Core change management process at the AAC&U General Education, Pedagogy and Assessment conference in New Orleans, LA. The session was well attended with roughly 50 people participating in the workshop.

The following courses were approved this academic year for the Mason Core:

Category	Course
NSL	GEOL 103: Physical Geology Lab (catalog error fix)
NSNL	GEO 101: Physical Geology (catalog error fix)
NSNL	GEO 102: Historical Geology (catalog error fix)
NSNL	GEO 120: The Changing Ocean
NSNL	GEO 120: The Changing Ocean Lab
GU	CULT 320: Globalization and culture
Capstone	HDFS 499: Advanced internship and analysis in Human Development and Family Science
IT	CS 108: Intro to Computer Programming, Part A
GU	GOVT 134: Grand Challenges to Human Security
SYNTH	CHEM 460: Chemistry in the Kitchen
Arts	ARTH 375: Indigenous Arts of the US and Canada
Arts	ARTH 315: Modern Architecture
Arts	ARTH 303: National Traditions
Arts	MUSI 489: Music Technology Capstone
Arts	ENGH 374: Screening the Global City
Capstone	BAS 493: BAS Capstone
Mason Apex	AVT 453: Professional Practices
Social & Behavioral	EDEP 110: Academic Success Through Self-Regulated Learning
Social & Behavioral	PSYC 333: Industrial & Organizational Psychology
Global History	HIST 394: Globalization and History
Global History	HIST 125: Introduction to Global History
Global Contexts	ENGH 374: Screening the Global City

Committee members:

Bethany M. Usher	Co-chair
Laura Poms	Mason Core Director
Debra Stroiney (Senate)	
	College of Education and Human Development
Abena Aidoo (Senate)	College of Education and Human Development
Jamie Clark (Senate)	College of Humanities and Social Science
Matthew Cronin (Senate)	School of Business
Samaine Lockwood (Senate)	College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Courtney Wooten (Senate)	College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Anne Verhoeven (Senate)	College of Science
Andrea Zach (Senate)	College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Lauren Cattaneo (Provost Appointee)	College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Jason Kinser (Provost Appointee)	College of Science
Liz White (Provost Appointee)	College of Engineering and Computing
Shun Ye (Provost Appointee)	School of Business
Nishok Chitvel	Student Representative
Shelley Reid	Ex Officio
Gina Polychronopoulos	Ex Officio

Respectfully submitted by:
Debra Stroiney, Faculty Co-Chair