

University Curriculum Committee
Alistair Welchman (Chair)

Report for December meeting of the Faculty Senate

There was one item of business before the committee. The Core Curriculum Committee forwarded its recommendations for the inclusion of three new courses in the core

1. CHE 1053 Introduction to the Molecular Structure of Matter (Life and Physical Sciences)
2. CHE 1063 Introduction to Molecular Transformations (Life and Physical Sciences)
3. COR 2xx3 Personal Career Planning (Social and Behavioral Sciences)

The University Curriculum Committee evaluated the proposals and voted to recommend that the Faculty Senate accept the CCC's recommendations and add these courses to the core. There were 5 votes in favor and none against with 3 abstentions.

CHE 1053 is an introduction to the structure of matter, with focus on the molecules of carbon that comprise living systems. CHE 1063 is an introduction to the chemical reactions of matter, with focus on basic organic reactions that take place in living systems. It builds on and requires CHE 1053.

Both these proposals were very full and clearly presented. The committee was especially impressed by the idea of virtual labs for assessing the state-mandated learning objectives for the students as well as with the use of open source materials. However, we did worry slightly that the learning objective for critical thinking mentions only the possession and application of knowledge, which are on their own not obviously consistent with the State's description of critical thinking skills.

COR 2xx3 is designed for students who have not determined an academic major and/or need direction regarding major and career pursuits. The proposal for this course was very clear, and especially the assessment has been very well thought-out. The committee was a little worried that the course might lack academic rigor, especially for a 2000 level course.