

**FACULTY SENATE
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
REPORT**

Members of the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee met on November 19, 2010, at 1:15 p.m. A quorum was present. Two items were on the agenda: (1) adding ART 1103 (Introduction to Visual Arts), SOC 2023 (Drugs in Society), and PHI 2043 (Introductory Logic) to the Core Curriculum and (2) removing level requirements for science in Core Curriculum.

Members present: Carol Dyas; Daniel Engster; Craig Jordan; Nandini Kannan; Melvin Laracey; Clyde Phelix; Hazem Rashed-Ali; Daniel Sass; James Schneider; William Short; Raydel Tullous; Alistair Welchman.

Members absent: John Alexander, Anthony Chronopoulos; Jerry Goldstein; John Merrifield; Anand Ramasubramanian.

ART 1103 – INTRODUCTION TO VISUAL ARTS

This proposal was suggested for inclusion in Domain IV (Humanities & Visual and Performing Arts) and sub-domain (Visual and Performing Arts). The intent of Domain IV (2010-2012 UTSA catalog) is:

Students should demonstrate an understanding of the conceptual approaches and history of at least one of the arts, as a means of comprehending the aesthetic patterns that underlie human creativity; and an understanding of literary concepts and contemporary trends in interpretation, as a means of comprehending the metaphoric or analogical potential of human language.

In addition, courses in the Core Curriculum are to address the key knowledge and skills aligned with their respective domain. The knowledge and skills identified for this domain include appreciation of the liberal arts, the aesthetic experience, and the creative process.

The Committee had returned this proposal to the Department of Art and Art History with recommendations for minor changes. The revised proposal includes a syllabus for Introduction to Visual Arts and an explanation of how the course provides a broad based understanding of the area of Visual Arts. After the committee reviewed this revised proposal, it believed that the course matched the goals of the domain. A motion was made and seconded to include ART 1103 in the Core Curriculum. The members unanimously approved the motion.

SOC 2023 – DRUGS IN SOCIETY

This proposal was suggested for inclusion in Domain V (Social and Behavioral Sciences) and Sub-domain (Social and Behavioral Science). The intent of Domain V (2010-2012 UTSA catalog) is:

Students must demonstrate critical understanding of the political and economic dimensions of social life; knowledge of U.S. history sufficient for understanding current developments in American society within a historical

context; substantial knowledge of social, racial, cultural, and gender diversity in the United States and Texas; and knowledge of the history, theory, methods, and intellectual approaches of the social and behavioral sciences, including similarities and differences with respect to one another and to other modes of understanding.

Courses in this domain must satisfy the following knowledge and skills: (a) evaluating information and applying it to problem-solving and research and (b) understanding the implications of cultural differences and global issues.

After the Committee reviewed and discussed this proposal, it believed that the course met the intent of the domain. However, the committee expressed concern about including another course in the Core Curriculum that addressed drugs and social issues. Currently, BIO 1033 (Drugs and Society) is included in the Core Curriculum. Some members felt that there was considerable overlap between the two courses (BIO 1033 and SOC 2023), and others felt that the BIO 1033 might be too narrow in focus. A motion was made and seconded to include SOC 2023 in the Core Curriculum. The vote was split (six for including SOC 2023 in the Core Curriculum and six against including it in the Core).

PHI 2043 – INTRODUCTORY LOGIC

This proposal was suggested for inclusion in Domain II (Mathematics). The intent of Domain II (2010-2012 UTSA catalog) is:

Students must demonstrate knowledge of higher mathematics sufficient to understand the basis of mathematical reasoning.

Under Domain II, students “must complete one course (3 semester credit hours)” from six mathematics or statistics courses listed under this domain or they may complete another mathematics or statistics course at an equivalent or more advanced level.

In addition to the committee members present, Dr. Sandy Norman, Chair of the Department of Mathematics, Dr. Michael Almeida, Chair of the Department of Philosophy and Classics, and Dr. Lawrence Williams, Vice Provost and Dean of Office of Undergraduate Studies, attended the meeting. During an extensive discussion of the proposal, it was suggested that while an introductory logic course is valuable, students need to have a basic quantitative experience at the level of algebra or statistics. Some members expressed concern that the inclusion of this course in Domain II would result in some UTSA students receiving degrees without gaining the skills needed to understand, interpret and evaluate real data. In addition, the course did not meet the student learning outcomes generated by the University regarding quantitative literacy, which emphasizes students graduating with knowledge and skills required to perform quantitative literary tasks, such as identifying and performing computations using numbers embedded in printed materials. Proponents contended that the introductory logic course satisfies the goal of Domain II and it would meet the same needs of undergraduate students as one of the mathematics or statistics courses.

After completion of the discussion, a motion was made and seconded to reject the introductory logic course for inclusion in the Core Curriculum. Eight members voted to reject the inclusion

of the course, and four members voted not to reject. The recommendation of the Committee is to reject the inclusion of the introductory logic course into Domain II.

LEVEL ONE AND LEVEL TWO SCIENCE

Currently, the Core Curriculum requires six semester credit hours under Domain III (Natural Sciences). The intent of Domain III (2010-2012 UTSA catalog) is:

Students must demonstrate knowledge of the methods, intellectual approaches, social significance, and history of the physical and natural sciences. Students will typically complete the requirements in 6 semester credit hours of coursework. Students must complete two courses from the following lists. At least one course must be chosen from Level Two. Level Two science courses are more rigorous than those in Level One.

The proposal submitted to this Committee was a one-page statement requesting that the “Level One and Level Two Science” requirement be removed from the catalog and that students be allowed to take any six semester credit hours listed under this domain. The proposal suggested that a statement be provided in the catalog recommending that the two science courses be within the same discipline. However, it would not be a requirement. The only reason given for removing the requirement was that it was not enforceable for transfer students. The members of the Committee did not find any indication that the faculty members from the College of Sciences were aware of this change. A motion was made and seconded that the College of Sciences be contacted to provide input regarding this change. The motion was unanimously approved, and the Committee will reconsider the proposal after additional information is forthcoming.