Mason Core Annual Report to the Faculty Senate, 2019-2020

Committee members: Melissa Broeckelman-Post (CHSS, chair), Lorelei Crerar (COS), Cheryl Druehl (Business), Kelly Dunne (CHSS), Jane Hooper (CHSS), Jason Kinser (COS), Laura Poms (CHHS), Kamaljeet Sanghera (VSE), Mara Schoeny (S-CAR), Benjamin Steger (CVPA), Ali Weinstein (CHHS), Courtney Wooten (CHSS), Stephanie Foster (ex-officio), Shelley Reid (ex-officio), Bethany Usher (ex-officio)

1. Melissa Broeckelman-Post was elected Chair of the Mason Core Committee.

2. While our meetings have always been open, we began to extend invitations to faculty who were proposing courses to attend the meetings to talk about their courses and answer questions on the day that we were reviewing their course proposals beginning in the spring semester. One of our goals was to add more transparency and communication to the review process, and the committee has enjoyed talking with faculty about their courses, and having questions about courses answered during the meetings has helped to facilitate more timely approval of course proposals.

3. The following courses were approved for inclusion in the Mason Core:
   a. CDS 492: Capstone in Data Science
   b. ECED 490: Internship in Early Childhood Education
   c. EDEP 350: Perspectives on Achievement Motivation
   d. EDRS 220: Introduction to Applied Quantitative Analysis
   e. EDSE 203: Disability in American Culture
   f. EDSE 481: Internship: Professional Services
   g. EDSE 482: Internship: General
   h. EDSE 483: Internship: Adapted (Severe Disabilities)
   i. EDSE 484: Internship: Blindness and Visual Impairments
   j. ELED 258: Children’s Literature for Teaching in Diverse Settings
   k. ENGH 315: Folklore and Folklife
   l. FRSC 101: Principles of Forensic Science
   m. MATH 272: Mathematics for Elementary School Teachers II
   n. SEED 492: Internship: Secondary Education English
   o. SEED 493: Internship: Secondary Education Math
   p. SEED 494: Internship: Secondary Education Science
   q. SEED 496: Internship: Secondary Education Computer Science
   r. SOCI 304: The Future of Work
   s. SOCI 315: Contemporary Gender Relations
   t. SOCI 416: Internship in Sociology I

4. The following courses were rolled back for editing or for more significant revision:
   a. AVT 110: Digital Design Studio
   b. AVT 377: Cyberpunk
   c. AVT 377: Cyberpunk
   d. BENG 475: Intellectual Property, Regulatory Concepts and Product Development"
   e. EDSE 203: Disability in American Culture
   f. EDSE 204: Disability in a Global Society (resubmitted, will be reviewed 4/23)
   g. ELED 357: Integrating Technology in PreK-6
   h. KINE 110: Physical Activity and Wellness
   i. NUTR 495: Nutrition and Food Studies Capstone
j. PHYS 170: Introductory and Modern Physics I
k. PHYS 270: Introductory and Modern Physics II
l. SOCI 304: The Future of Work
m. SOCI 308: Race and Ethnicity in a Changing World
n. SOCI 330: US Immigrants and Immigration
o. SOCI 360: Youth Culture and Society
p. SOCI 431: Survey Research
q. SOCI 431: Survey Research

5. The following courses had the Mason Core attribute removed due to nonparticipation in the assessment process, but were resubmitted and approved for reinstatement
   a. ASTR 103: Astronomy
   b. ASTR 302: Found of Cosmological Thought
c. DANC 145: Ballet I
d. GGS 101: Major World Regions

6. The following courses have had the Mason Core attribute removed due to nonparticipation in the assessment process
   a. ANTH 135: Intro Biological Anthropology (resubmitted, will be reviewed 4/23)
b. BAS 491: Applied Sciences Capstone
c. BENG 493: RS: Senior Adv Design Project II
d. DANC 445: Ballet IV
e. ECON 309: Econ Problms and Publ Policies (resubmitted, will be reviewed 4/23)
f. ECON 390: International Economics
g. EDUC 372: Human Development/Learning
h. ENGH 371: Television Studies (resubmitted, will be reviewed 4/23)
i. ENGH 417: RS: Topics in Folklore Research (resubmitted, will be reviewed 4/23)
j. FRLN 331: Topics in World Cinema
k. INTS 303: Intro to International Studies (resubmitted, will be reviewed 4/23)
l. INTS 314: Conflict, Trauma and Healing
m. RELI 212: Religions of Asia

7. The following course has been submitted and is awaiting initial review on 4/23
   a. SPAN 212: Intermediate Spanish II: Local and Global Contexts

8. Assessment activity for the following Mason Core categories:
   a. Fall 2019:
      i. Faculty development workshops were held in partnership with the Stearns Center to prepare Natural Sciences faculty for fall assessment. Faculty submitted course materials for assessment in all of the Mason Core Natural Sciences courses and laboratory sections.
      ii. In partnership with the English Composition program and INTO Mason, student work samples were collected for continued assessment of learning in first-year composition courses.
      iii. A faculty learning community was active in AY19 to study pedagogical approaches and assessment strategies for team-based learning in the Mason Core. Lessons and
recommendations were shared at the 2019 Innovations in Teaching and Learning conference.

iv. A collaboration continues with Writing Across the Curriculum to conduct a fuller assessment of Writing Intensive courses.

v. Intensive faculty development efforts continue with Mason Core courses in Calculus and Physics, supported by an NSF IUSE grant (PIs Nelson, Rosenberg, Lester, Sachs, and Foster). Discipline-based learning assessment is ongoing in MATH 113, 123/124; PHYS 160, 260, 243, 245.

vi. Assessment reports were released for materials that were collected in AY19 from Mason Core Arts, Literature, and Social and Behavioral Sciences courses. Several open meetings were held for faculty to discuss the results and consider improvements to their courses.

b. Spring 2020:

i. Mason faculty teams reviewed student work samples for Quantitative Reasoning and IT and Computing courses. Reports will be available by fall 2020.

ii. The AY17-20 Mason Core assessment cycle has concluded. Data are being analyzed and a full report is being produced. Results will be shared with the Mason Core Committee in May 2020, and the final report will be available to the Mason community by fall 2020.

iii. Stephanie Foster is working closely with Matt Smith to prepare a narrative and documentation for the upcoming SACSCOC reaffirmation, to be completed over summer 2020.

c. Details about the Mason Core assessment cycle are available at https://masoncore.gmu.edu/assessment/, and results summaries are available at https://masoncore.gmu.edu/assessment/assessment-results/.

9. Samaine Lockwood served as the Mason Core Faculty Fellow this year in order to get faculty, staff, student, and administrative feedback about the Mason Core. As part of Mason Core Conversations, Lockwood conducted 18 focus groups (15 were by self-signup and invitation, 3 were workshops open to any attendees) that involved mostly faculty (tenure-line, term, and adjunct), but also advisors, librarians, graduate teaching assistance, administrative faculty, and professional staff. Based, in part, on the data from the focus groups, a Qualtrics survey was developed and open to Mason faculty for a 14-day period (February 23-March 6). Also based on the focus group data and in collaboration with Mason’s student government, a Google survey was distributed to Mason’s student body in a range of forms (to all students through student government channels, to all students through University Life, and to all students currently taking integration courses). The student survey was open for same 14-day period as the faculty survey (February 23-March 6).
1. During the past calendar year has the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President (or their respective offices) announced initiatives or goals or acted upon issues that fall under the charge of your Committee? If so, was your Committee consulted by the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President in a timely manner before the announcement or action? If not, do you believe your Committee should have been consulted? Would it have been helpful to have had the input of your Committee from the outset?

N/A

2. Did your Committee seek information or input from the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President or members of their staffs? If so, did they respond adequately and in a timely manner?

Dr. Bethany Usher, the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, is a member of and facilitates the work of the Mason Core Committee, and she was a liaison between the committee and the Provost and President, when needed. Because she was a part of every meeting, she was able to actively participate in our work and conversations throughout the year, and her office provided significant administrative support to the committee. Additionally, Dr. Janette Muir (Associate Provost of Academic Initiatives and Services) and Charles Kreitzer (Executive Director, Online Operations) met with us to discuss ADVANCE, the development of the Passport program, and the role of the Mason Core in the online undergraduate expansion planning.

3. Please suggest how you believe the President, Provost, Senior Vice President and/or their staffs might more effectively interact with your Committee in the future, if necessary.

Dr. Usher has been working with the committee to continue to push to make this a faculty-driven and faculty-owned process, and that’s a shift that we would like to see continue.

4. Please relate any additional information you may have regarding interactions between your Committee and the President, Provost, Senior Vice President, or their staff.

N/A