Mason Core Annual Report to the Faculty Senate, 2020-2021

Committee members: Melissa Broeckelman-Post (CHSS, co-chair), Bethany Usher (ex-officio, co-chair), Lorelei Crerar (COS), Jane Hooper (CHSS), Elizabeth Johnson (VSE), Jason Kinser (COS), Laura Poms (CHHS), Mara Schoeny (Carter School), J.P. Singh (Schar), Benjamin Steger (CVPA), Debra Stroiney (CEHD), Courtney Wooten (CHSS), Shun Ye (BUS), Shelley Reid (ex-officio, Stearns), Sheena Serslev (ex-officio, OIEP)

Program Coordinator: Krista Shires

Courses Approved for Inclusion in the Mason Core

The Mason Graduate is an Engaged Citizen and Well-Rounded Scholar who is Prepared to Act. The Mason Core is Mason’s general education program that builds the foundation for the Mason Graduate. Below are the courses approved by the Mason Core Committee from Fall 2020-Spring 2021:

Arts
FAVS 204: Ways of Seeing: Perception, Form and Film
FAVS 280: Writing for the Moving Image
HIST 316: History of Modern Architecture

CAP
ARAB 351: Media Arabic II (Spoken Media)
BAS 491: Applied Sciences Capstone
ECED 492: Internship in Early Childhood Education (Non-Licensure)
ECON 491: Capstone in Economics
ECON 493: Capstone Internship
ECON 495: RS: Honors Thesis in Economics

GU
EVPP 381: Nature and Culture in Global Wetlands
FAVS 320: Afrofuturism and Their Kin
GGS 317: Geography of China
INTS 390: International Internship
RELI 370: Judaism
SOCI 330: US Immigrants and Immigration
UNIV 381: Foundations for Building a Just Society

IT
AVT 110: Digital Design Studio
ELED 257: Integrating Technology in PreK-6
SYST 130: Introduction to Computing for Digital Systems Engineering

LIT
RELI 271: The Bible as Literature

NSL
BIOL 102: Introductory Biology I-Survey of Biodiversity and Ecology
BIOL 105: Introductory Biology II Laboratory
COS 301: Great Ideas in Science

NSNL
ASTR 303: Black Holes
BIOL 103: Introductory Biology II-Survey of Cell and Molecular Biology

SBS
ANTH 121: People of the Earth: Humanity’s First Five Million Years
GGS 301: Political Geography
LING 100: Human Language
SOCI 308: Race and Ethnicity in a Changing World
SOCI 360: Youth Culture and Society
SOCI 371: The Individual and Society
SOCW 200: Introduction to Social Work

SYNTH
COS 310: Introduction to Science Policy

Fall 2020 Mason Core Awards

The faculty below have been recognized by students for being outstanding Mason Core courses in Fall 2020 Their courses scored above 4.75 out of 5 on the element “My Overall Rating of Teaching” from the Student Ratings of Instruction. We know there are many ways to measure a course’s quality and impact, but this evaluation highlights the value we place on student’s perception of teaching in the Mason Core. Excellent teaching isn’t easy, especially given all the pandemic-related disruptions of the past year, and we wanted to recognize their efforts. Please join us in thanking these faculty for their commitment to teaching.

Alkassim, Samirah
Alman, Elizabeth
Anzalone, Christopher
Artz, Brianna
Auld, Eric
Austin, Leila
Azar, Tawnya
Balakian, Sophia
Banales, Jorge
Barajas, Angela
Barnes, Steven
Barnes, Zachary
Barranco, Michael
Bartlett, James
Basch, Rebecca
Beach, Wade
Bean, Amanda
Belle, Gabriele

Farrell, Peter
Fernandez Davila, Jorge
Fernandez, Lourdes
Fitzpatrick, Brian
Flanagan, Kevin
Folan, Kerry
Foltz, Karen
Fondeuf, Gwendolyne
Foote, Beth
Ford, Meggan
Fox, Donna
Francis, Simonne
Freeman, Elizabeth
Frye, Samuel
Fuertes, Al
Gandal, Abdallah
Ganus, Amanda
Gardner, Gregory
Garrettson, Charles

LaCharite, Kerri
LaDue, Chase
Laemmerzalh, Arndt
Larson, Eric
Lauer, Anne
Lawrence, Susan
Lebovic, Samuel
Lee, Gyu Tag
Lee, JoAnn
Legnini, Jessica
Lenon, Bryce
Lessard-Pilon, Stephanie
Lewis, Gwendolyn
Li, Man
Liberatore, Stephanie
Lister, Lisa
Lukyanenko, Cynthia
Madden, Charles
Mandable, Lori

Riou-Bailey, Carmen
Rodriguez, Jessica
Rosenfeld, Christine
Ross, Eric
Rudnicki, Mark
Salters, Samantha
Samuelian, Kristin
Santiago, Maillim
Sargent, Sandra
Satyapal, Shobita
Savage, James
Scarlata, Jessica
Schreiner, Sylvia
Schulman, Vanessa
Schwager, Lane
Schwartzman, Emma
Selove, Nathan
Shadur, Julia
Sherwood, Josephine
Durgun, Basak
Dutta, Nilanjana
Econa, Dominika
El-Hibri, Hatim
Elzey, Christopher
Engebretson, Stanley
Farinelli, Sarah
Kleinendorst, Robert
Koch, Lisa
Kocur, John
Krell, Misty
Kroon, John
Kulkarni, Ajay
Kurtay, Pelin
Radcliffe, Jeffrey
Redelsheimer, Kimberly
Reid, E
Repinecz, Jonathon
Richard, David
Rickless, Sarah
Riddick, Breonna
Williamson, Jacquelyn
Wrigglesworth, Alice
Yamanaka, Aoi
Yi, Robert
Yoder, Andrew
Yoo, Hei
Young, DaSean
Zhang, Karl
Zhang, Xinyi
Annual Faculty Senate Evaluation of the President/Provost
Mason Core Committee

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.

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. There will also be intersections between this committee and the work of the ARIE task force as we move forward, and we look forward to those upcoming collaborations.

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