

Integrative Core Committee Minutes

Monday, November 08, 2021 2:00-3:15 p.m.

John Carroll University Integrative Core Committee:

Voting Members

Peter Kvidera, Director (EN)
Mike Setter, Natural Science (CH)
Sean Chaplin, Issues in Social Justice (SOC)
Matt Berg, Engaging the Global Community (HS)
Kristen Tobey, Theology & Religious Studies (TRS)
Karen Gygli, Creative & Performing Arts (EN)
Tom Pace, Writing & Written Expression (EN)
Santa Casciani, Languages (CMLC)
Andy Welki, Quantitative Analysis (EC)
(also BSOB representative)
Colin Swearingen, Social Sciences (PO)
Maurice Emelu, Humanities (COM)

Simon Fitzpatrick, Philosophy (PL)
Jean Feerick, Link Courses (EN)
Jackie Schmidt, Oral Presentation (COM)

Ex Officio Members:

Todd Bruce, Director of Assessment
Bonnie Gunzenhauser, CAS Dean
Rodney Hessinger, CAS Interim Associate Dean
Mike. Martin, CAS Associate Dean
Michelle Millet, Director, Grasselli Library
Nevin Mayer, Coordinator of Instruction, Grasselli Library
Michelle Reynard, Registrar
Laura Atkins, Student Success
Carlo DeMarchi, Asst. Dean, Academic Advising

Voting Members Present P. Kvidera, M. Berg, M. Setter, S. Fitzpatrick, J. Feerick, S. Chaplin, S. Casciani, A. Welki, M. Emelu, T. Pace, J. Schmidt, K. Gygli, C. Swearingen **Ex Officio Members Present:** L. Atkins, C. DeMarchi, R. Hessinger, T. Bruce, **Special Guests:** A. Miciak

Documents distributed prior to the meeting:

- A. Agenda
- B. Meeting Minutes

1. Reviewed Minutes

Meeting minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

2. Conversation with Al Miciak

A. Miciak joined the committee and spoke about how the Integrative Core fits within the University Strategic Plan, and how it is a distinctive part of the John Carroll University experience. The core can help our students become the “employees of the future” by exposing them to courses not included in their major and connecting that subject with their intended major. He emphasized that the integrity of the core is important and that although there may be resource challenges, he is hopeful it wouldn’t be at the expense of the integrity of the core designations; equivalency is important. He knows the core is transfer friendly; however for transfer students, it shouldn’t “hold them hostage.” A. Miciak indicated that there are several initiatives through out the University that would establish new programs that the core could help with. (i.e. DEI certificate/ISJ offerings, etc.)

A. Miciak opened the floor for questions. There was a comment about the Boler Core course may be able to knock off more than one designation. Response was that it has to do with the accreditation of the program; certain content has to be covered. Comment was made that students are not coming to JCU for the core, that FY students who do come get the Jesuit heritage experience and find the liberal arts, which is important, why trim that experience? A. Miciak responded that after looking through alumni profiles, students are looking at the world after their JCU experience and JCU needs to market to them who it will facilitate “the how” students get there. He wants to preserve the core, but not hinder their progress. The core should not be non-negotiable. The ISJ director indicated that in one of the recent classes he taught he included an international PL instructor to zoom in and discuss climate change; this demonstrated how issues in other countries are similar to issues in the US. This type of lecture also is an example of how the core can bring together two subject areas with a focus that pertains to the future.

A.Miciak reinforced that if there are core courses that are distinctive, transfer friendly, etc. that he will make the resources happen.

2. Course Renewals:

The committee reviewed and discussed the following renewal applications:

- a. EN 291: Environmental Lit/BL 137: Climate Change: Global Impacts – Link (Rosenthal/Johansen). There was conversation around the signature assignment and whether the assignment had to be integrated between the two disciplines. The history of this linked pair is that it is taught together and apart. There are a series of assignments that lead up to the main assignment that meets the learning goals. The committee vote:

Proposal	Vote
Renew EN 291: Environmental Lit/BL 137: Climate Change: Global Impacts – Link (Rosenthal/Johansen)	YES – 14 NO – 0 AB – 0

- b. IC 163: Women in Italian Society – ISJ (Ferri): Discussion on this renewal request was overall that the course addresses ISJ outcomes; however, the committee would like to see more reference in the syllabus and assignments to the contexts (social, political, historical, etc.) that give rise to the social justice issues. Also, the committee would like more clarity on how student outcomes demonstrate awareness and understanding of these contexts. The committee voted to approve with conditions.

Proposal	Vote
Renew ER 304: Social Entrepreneurship– ISJ – approve with conditions.	YES – 13 NO – 0 AB – 0

3. Course Enrichment Grants:

The Committee reviewed the following enrichment grant request:

- a. EN 299E: Literature of Trauma (Linked) – seeking \$80 for Immersive van Gogh Exhibit (for students researching van Gogh for signature assignment). The director indicated that funds allocated for enrichment grants are almost used up; however there would be enough to fund this last one. The committee voted to approve.

4. EGC Update:

The director had a conversation with the Dean of CAS about the essay option and the faculty who may oversee students with an EGC “course” to study abroad. The dean couldn’t promise additional funds or a course release. The comments from the committee were that they don’t want these students who study abroad to get a free pass for EGC (students have to complete the required courses for other Core classes), and that it is the committee’s responsibility to ensure that students are sufficiently meeting the EGC learning goals. They asserted that the best way for students to meet the learning goals (including the emphasis on writing/writing process) is within the structure of a course. A question was raised if the essay option is in the current bulletin, and after some searching, it was determined that the option is not listed in the bulletin—it was listed on the Core website (in the Core advising guide), but that has been revised. Another question raised: Are there current students who will be electing to do the essay option? The director will check with L. Atkins and the Registrar to find out.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:25pm.