

Agenda

College of Communication Forum on Curricular Reform

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

12 – 1:30 p.m., CMA 5.160 (Lady Bird Johnson Room)

1. Signature Courses

Satisfies 6 hrs of 42-hr core requirement of Higher Ed. Coord. Board

Freshman Signature Course. Inquiry Across Disciplines: Nature

Multiple topical sections; Large sections

Weekly, small group meetings conducted by TAs

Students attend 3 major University lectures or performances

Sophomore Signature Course. Inquiry Across Disciplines: Culture

Smaller sections

Satisfies 1 Board area requirement in history, gov't, soc. sci. or fine arts

2. An Integrated and Coherent Core

All students meet a set of requirements by earning 8 “flags”:

Writing (3 flag courses)

Quantitative Reasoning (1)

Global Cultures (1)

Multicultural Perspectives & Diversity (1)

Ethics & Leadership (1)

Independent Inquiry (1)

Thematic strands

Organize courses meeting core requirements around interdisciplinary themes

Strands are coordinated by a faculty committee of teachers in that strand

Research opportunities, internships & service learning projects for ea. strand

Three-hour course on science and technology

Redirect 1 3-hr. nat. sci. course (of 9-hr. requirement) to courses on sci. & tech.

Create suitable courses to meet this requirement

Review of existing core requirements

Improve quality & pertinence of core courses that shape undergrad ed.

3. Enhance Students' Ability to Find Their Way

Freshmen do not declare a major until 3rd semester in residence

Colleges grant guaranteed 2nd-year pre-admission to freshmen upon UT admission

At least 20% of entering class in a restricted college is reserved for non-pre-admitted

Establish a university-wide advising & career center

4. Establish a University College

Oversees core (approves signature courses, develops strands, works with colleges & units to develop/improve other core courses; Implements strand & signature courses; Serves as a single portal for all entering students for the 1st 2 semesters; Provides advising & career counseling; Will not award degrees; Will not have a separate faculty; Administration: Dean (serves on University Promotion and Tenure Committee); Executive committees of faculty appointed for a finite term (process determined by President & Provost)

5. Increased Resources

Develop plan to generate required resources

As existing budgets grow naturally, high priority given to core curriculum reforms

Funding core is central focus of new capital campaign to create permanent endowment to fund core