June 10, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

I trust that you’ve been enjoying these initial weeks since Commencement. The first orientation session is already in the books, and the first students in the Class of 2019 have enrolled in new pilot core courses. Over the course of the spring semester, building on the work of the Core Foundations Taskforce of the last two academic years, Interim Dean Greg Kalscheur, S.J. has led an extensive discussion of possible changes to the governance structure for the undergraduate core curriculum. We heard from faculty colleagues from across the university with ideas and hopes for the core.

I am pleased to announce a substantial change and, I expect, improvement to the governance structure. The University Core Development Committee, originally created in 1991, will cease to exist on June 30, 2015, and a newly constituted University Core Renewal Committee will assume responsibility for the core curriculum on July 1, 2015. I have attached a final version of the proposal for your review, and I will post both this letter and that document on the Provost’s Office website. The new UCRC will be well positioned to sustain the momentum of the last few years in providing support for new courses and initiatives and in assisting with assessment of existing core courses.

As part of the transition to the UCRC, Greg Kalscheur and I are pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Julian Bourg as the inaugural Associate Dean for the Core in the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences. Professor Bourg is a member of the Boston College History Department where he has taught since joining the university in 2010. His teaching and research focus on modern European history with a particular interest in twentieth-century French intellectual history. In addition to Professor Bourg, other members of the UCRC will include the following (with the final year of their terms in parentheses):

Elected faculty members (note that these eight members are faculty who have previously been elected to the UCDC and will now serve as the first elected members of the UCRC)
Robert Bartlett, Political Science (2018)
Dawei Chen, Mathematics (2017)
Sean Clarke, Connell School of Nursing (2018)
Audrey Friedman, Lynch School of Education (2016)
Richard McGowan, S.J., Carroll School of Management (2016)
Franco Mormando, Romance Languages and Literature (2018)
Virginia Reinburg, History (2017)
Cynthia Simmons, Slavic and Eastern Languages and Literature (2016)
Appointed faculty members
Jeffrey Bloechl, Philosophy (2016)
Brian Gareau, Sociology (2018)
Gail Kineke, Earth and Environmental Sciences (2017)

Appointed administrative members
Mary Crane, English and Institute for the Liberal Arts (2018)
John Rakestraw, Center for Teaching Excellence (2017)
Akua Sarr, Academic Advising Center (2016)

Appointed student member
To be named by early fall (2016)

I want to thank Professor Arthur Madigan, S.J. of the Philosophy Department for providing exemplary leadership and service as Chair of the UCDC since 2009. I look forward to working with Julian Bourg and the members of the UCRC to ensure that we have an undergraduate core curriculum that delivers on the powerful promise of liberal arts education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition.

Best,

David Quigley
Provost and Dean of Faculties