

Establishment of the University Core Renewal Committee

Beginning on July 1, 2015, ongoing oversight of the Core Curriculum will pass from the University Core Development Committee to a new committee to be established by the Provost: the University Core Renewal Committee (UCRC). The Provost will charge the UCRC to oversee and develop the renewed Core Curriculum to be approved by the Provost. The Provost will charge the UCRC to (1) stimulate, support, and promote a renewed university-wide commitment to the Core Curriculum as a vital part of a Boston College undergraduate education, (2) foster interdepartmental discussion and development of the Core, and (3) promote greater unity, coherence, and integration in the Core program and in the work of faculty and colleagues in Student Affairs and Mission and Ministry in carrying out the Core program.

As part of this transition, a new position of Associate Dean for the Core will be created in the Robert J. Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences. The Morrissey College Associate Dean for the Core will report to the Dean of the Morrissey College and serve as the Chair of the UCRC. As Chair, the Associate Dean for the Core will have the primary responsibility to lead, organize, and administer the work of the UCRC so that it can carry out effectively the charge given to it by the Provost.

In carrying out this charge to oversee and develop the renewed Core Curriculum, the UCRC will be guided by the August 2014 statement, *The Vision Animating the Boston College Core Curriculum*, and it will continue to revise and refine the May 2013 *Toward a Renewed Core* proposal. These documents are to be understood in the context of Jesuit history, pedagogy, and spirituality and in continuity with the 1991 Final Report of the Task Force on the Core Curriculum, with special regard for Part II of that report (The Core in the Context of Jesuit Education) and the disciplinary breadth articulated in Part IV (Content of the Core) of the report.

In pursuit of its charge from the Provost, the University Core Renewal Committee will:

- determine which courses will satisfy Core Curriculum requirements and which courses will not. These determinations will be based on the UCRC's assessment of a course's ability to contribute to the vision and learning outcomes for the Core Curriculum articulated in the 2014 *Vision* statement, the objectives of the 1991 Final Report of the Task Force on the Core Curriculum, and disciplinary learning outcomes to be articulated by the UCRC in conversation with faculty in the Core disciplines;
- oversee the selection, development, implementation, and evaluation of renewed Core pilot courses to be offered in the 15-16, 16-17, and 17-18 academic years;
- offer recommendations to the Provost on the personnel and funds needed to implement the Core in general and in particular departments;
- work with the Center for Teaching Excellence to offer periodic discussions and workshops for faculty and departments that will promote effective and innovative Core teaching methods for the achievement of Core learning outcomes and assist in the design and implementation of rigorous and challenging Core courses;
- periodically require reports from departments assessing the learning outcomes of the departments' Core courses and the contributions made by those courses to the overall goals of the Core;

- on or before June 30 of each year, provide an annual report on the “state of the Core” to the Provost, including recommended changes in the approved Core Curriculum based on the Committee’s evaluations as well as on societal, pedagogical, and educational developments that influence the Core. This report will be presented at a meeting involving the participation of the Provost, the Deans of the undergraduate schools, the Vice President for Student Affairs, and the Vice President for Mission and Ministry. The report will be posted on the Provost’s Office website so that it will be available to the wider university community.

The elected and appointed faculty members of the UCRC will serve 3-year terms, to begin on July 1 of the year of election or appointment, with provisions for staggered terms for the appointed faculty and administrative members when the UCRC is initiated. The Morrissey College Associate Dean for the Core will serve as Chair of the UCRC *ex officio*.

The UCRC will have 15 members, 10 of whom are members of the faculty:

7 elected full-time faculty members

- 3 Morrissey College faculty members (1 humanities, 1 natural sciences/math/computer science, 1 social sciences/history)
- 3 faculty members from the other undergraduate schools (1 Carroll School, 1 Connell School, 1 Lynch School)
- 1 at-large faculty member from any of the undergraduate schools

3 appointed full-time faculty members

- 3 Morrissey College faculty appointed by the Dean of the Morrissey College (1 humanities, 1 natural sciences/math/computer science, 1 social sciences/history)

3 administrative members to be appointed by the Provost;

1 undergraduate student to be appointed by the Provost; and

The Morrissey College Associate Dean for the Core

- who will serve as Chair of the UCRC and the Morrissey College Dean’s representative on the UCRC

The current members of the UCDC are:

To serve until June 2016:

Audrey Friedman (Lynch School)
 Cynthia Simmons (Slavic/Eastern) (at-large)
 Richard McGowan, S.J. (Carroll School)

To serve until June 2017:

Dawei Chen (Mathematics)

Virginia Reinburg (History) (at-large)

To serve until June 2018:

Franco Mormando (Romance Languages and Literatures)

Sean Clarke (Connell School)

Robert Bartlett (Political Science)

The elected faculty members currently serving on the UCDC will serve out their terms as members of the UCRC. Their successors will be elected members of the UCRC. When Cynthia Simmons' at-large term ends in June 2016, her successor in this at-large position will be elected from all of the undergraduate schools. When Virginia Reinburg's term ends in June 2017, that elected at-large Morrissey College seat will cease to exist.

In addition, an Associate Dean for the Core will need to be appointed, the Provost will need to appoint three administrative members of the committee, and the Dean of the Morrissey College will need to appoint three divisional faculty members.

The Provost will periodically convene a group of undergraduate students which will provide to the UCRC information and feedback regarding students' experience of the Core Curriculum.