Faculty Senate Resolution on the Core Curriculum

October 11, 2022

Faculty Senate has reviewed the recommendations advanced by the Core Curriculum Committee (CCC), which has assessed the potential for reforms in the core curriculum in line with the Mines@150 plan. Faculty Senate recognizes that the CCC has advanced these recommendations following dialogue with stakeholders across campus, including Academic Affairs, Department Heads, the Registrar's Office, Student Life, Undergraduate Council, and the faculty-at-large. The multi-year effort to develop the current core curriculum is documented in the "Core Curriculum Timeline and Docs" folder on the Faculty Senate's Teams site.

Resolved:

1. The Mines Faculty, through the Faculty Senate, endorses the recommended reforms in the CCC report as a starting point for curriculum reform, and supports action on the part of all interested stakeholders to implement these reforms.

2. Pursuant to this resolution, Faculty Senate requests the relevant stakeholders to begin implementation of the new Core Curriculum through the course and catalog revision process outlined in the Faculty Bylaws. All of the proposed revisions should be submitted to the Undergraduate Council for review no later than January 11, 2023. These proposed revisions include:

   a. A credit hour change for PHGN 100 from 4.5 to 4 credits, to be submitted by the Physics department.
   b. A credit hour change for HASS 100 from 4 to 3 credit hours, to be submitted the by Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences department.
   c. A credit hour change increasing CSM 101 from 0.5 to 1 credit hours, to be submitted by Student Life.
   d. A catalog change to replace the MATH 225 requirement in the core with a list of potential MATH classes to be selected by degree programs, submitted by the Applied Mathematics and Statistics department.
   e. A course proposal for a required 3 credit hour required course on computer science and programming in the first year, to be submitted by the Computer Science department.
   f. A plan for the development of a new 3-credit hour interdisciplinary course in the second (Sophomore) year ("Contextualized Approaches in Science Engineering and Society" or CASES), to be piloted starting in Fall 2023 and expanded over a period of 3-5 years, to be submitted by the Humanities, Arts,

and Social Sciences; Economics and Business; and Engineering, Design, and Society departments. Based on the assessed results of the pilot and the availability of resources for sustaining the course, the Undergraduate Council and the Faculty Senate will evaluate replacing HASS 200 and EBGN 201 in the core with CASES and an additional 3 credit H&SS or Pathways elective by the end of the pilot period.

    g. A plan for the re-designation of Humanities &Social Science electives as Pathways electives, and for the creation of thematic groups of Pathways electives to be voluntarily pursued by students, based on shared interests among faculty across campus, to be submitted by the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences; Economics and Business; and Engineering, Design, and Society departments.

    h. A plan for the creation of a 1-credit hour CSM 201 course in the second (Sophomore) year focused on student wellness, to be submitted by Student Life.

    i. A plan to replace the current four 0.5-credit hour PA credits with a single 1-credit hour wellness elective that includes options for the current PA activities, as well as additional options to promote student health and wellness, to be submitted by Student Life.

3. Pursuant to the resolution, Faculty Senate requests that Undergraduate Council begin preparing proposals for the following catalog changes, to be submitted to the Faculty Senate for review no later than January 11, 2023:

    a. Removal of the Distributed Science requirements from the core, with degree programs determining required math and science classes to fulfill these requirements, without raising their total credit hours beyond current levels and without adding new technical requirements or technical courses.

    b. Reduction of required free electives from 9 to 6 credit hours, with degree programs controlling the remaining 3 credit hours, without raising their total credit hours beyond current levels and without adding new technical requirements or technical courses.

4. Pursuant to the resolution, the Faculty Senate requests that all Undergraduate and Graduate departments review their degree and certificate programs for changes needed to align with the new core curriculum. The resulting changes should be considered and submitted to the appropriate Council and Faculty Senate no later than January 11, 2023.

5. In order to provide an adequate amount of time for the development of the proposals requested in Items 1-4 above, it is recognized that the current Faculty Senate meeting schedule will likely not support timely roll-out of the 2023-2024 Catalog. Thus, pursuant to Article II, paragraph D.1 of the Faculty Bylaws, the President of the Senate will call additional meetings of the Faculty Senate and the Undergraduate Council in the Spring 2023 semester to support the timely review and approval of the 2023-2024 Catalog. The initial schedule of special meetings will be posted to the Faculty Senate website by December 2, 2022. All catalog changes need to be approved by March 10, 2023. The President of Senate may call additional meetings of the Faculty Senate and Undergraduate Council with twenty-four hour written notice on an as needed basis to support the timely review and approval of the 2023-2024 Catalog.

6. The proposed reforms cannot be implemented without adequate resources. Faculty Senate thus requests the stakeholders designated above to provide estimates of the short- and long-term resources they believe are needed to successfully implement the actions relevant to their areas of responsibility. These resource estimates should be provided to Faculty Senate and Academic Affairs by November 8, 2022.

7. Faculty Senate requests that Academic Affairs review the resource estimates provided by the responsible stakeholders and develop a plan to provide the resources needed to implement the new core. This plan should be provided to Faculty Senate no later than December 13, 2022. Faculty Senate will consider the resource plan in the decision to approve the Catalog changes needed to implement the new core. If sufficient resources are not available, it is understood that the involved departments will not be able to move forward with these proposals, and the courses relevant to that aspect of the proposal will retain their current structure.

8. Revisions to the core curriculum should be subject to regular assessment in order to determine their effectiveness in meeting the Core Competencies approved by Faculty Senate in April 2021 and the strategic objectives of Mines@150. This assessment process should fall under the purview of the University Assessment Committee, working in tandem with the academic departments, the Registrar's Office, Student Life, Admissions, and other interested stakeholders.