

True Blue Core Committee Meeting

October 25, 2024

12:30 pm in Faculty Senate Chambers, James Union Building

Voting members in attendance: Andrea Taylor, Virginia Hemby-Grubb, Andrea Hall, Laura Cochrane, Teresa Davis, Jane Lim, Suzanne Mangrum, Yi Gu, Ann McCullough, Janet Colson, Stephanie Totty, Scott McDaniel

Voting members absent: John Zamora or Liz Barnes-excused; Andrew Fialka-excused; Jorge Vargas, Michael Peasley, Angie Hooser

Ex officio Amy Aldridge, Katie Foss, Christopher Brewer, Jeff Gibson, Dr. Myers-Shirk Myers-Shirk

Observers: Karen Austin

True Blue Core Team: Christina Cobb, Molly Walters, Abby Arnold

Welcome by Laura Cochrane, chair, True Blue Core Committee

New student, Journee Nobles-Lander, was introduced to the committee.

John Zamora will be joining the committee as a replacement for Liz Barnes at our next meeting.

Suzanne Mangrum introduced herself as the new TBCC Secretary.

Approval of minutes from September 13, 2024; Access minutes in the True Blue Core Teams Folder.

Approval of vice chair of TBCC: Teresa Davis, CBHS Teresa Davis will be our chair next year, pending a vote.

Teresa Davis was unanimously elected as the Vice Chair of the TBCC; 10 votes.

Introduction of TBCC secretary: Suzanne Mangrum

Announcement of standing issues from Dr. Myers-Shirk that will be discussed in the future. Among those topics:

- How many courses are allowed in the core
- Moving a THEA course into a Literature course
- The exception for English to the 12-hour rule
- The recertification process

Dr. Myers-Shirk will schedule a Zoom meeting for November 22. It is close to the Thanksgiving break, so it will be recorded on Zoom and can be watched later if needed, but Dr. Myers-Shirk wants to be sure that the committee is informed of these issues.

No voting will take place that day. Things that need to be voted on will be saved for a future on-ground meeting.

Other Announcements

Dr. Myers-Shirk asked that we use the [TBCC course guidelines checklist](#) to review proposals for approval.

Reminders:

- The committee are not accepting proposals for the Discovery section of each knowledge domain at this time.
- Committee members should use Curriculog to find and review courses, but don't vote in Curriculog. Comments can be made, but it is not recommended. Comments are viewable across campus, and it would be best to bring all discussion to the committee.

Discussion of course proposals:

ANTH 2740: Magic, Witchcraft & Religion

No faculty members in attendance to answer questions about this proposal.

Questions & Comments:

- The course originator summarized the rubric for the primary category outcome although they said it would reach all areas. Is there another place in the proposal where all areas of the rubric are explicitly addressed?
- Comment that the assignment was not easy to match with the rubric
- General question about prerequisites.
- This course is currently being taught as an online class, and it was taught in Summer 2024. The last revision date needs to be added to the proposal.
- A request was made to add a section on how the course meets criteria in **each row** of the rubric.

General question: can we have online-only course? Yes.

Motion to table the proposal passed.

13 voted to table this proposal and request will be made for additional information.

Action items:

1. Please add in section of how course meets criteria in each row of the rubric.
2. Please include when this course was last revised.

JOUR 2720: Digital Media Skills

Dr. Sally Ann Cruikshank from the School of Journalism & Strategic Media, was in attendance to answer questions about the proposal.

Dr. McCullough asked for an explanation of non-linear editing. The response was any editing that is media-based?

There are four assessable assignments for this course. They build on each other. The TBCC is ok with that, but only one assessable assignment is required.

Ann asked if the final assignment could be used as an assessable assignment, and Dr. Cruikshank agreed. Students use all of the skills in the course to do the final assignment.

Dr. Myer-Shirk asked how this assignment focuses on the information literacy rubric. Do students have to cite sources for all of the information that they use? Is there a reflective essay?

Dr. Cruikshank answered that the students pitch stories in class and that they must be approved by the instructor. The sources are cited. Those sources and type of research involved depend on the story. Fact-checking is a large focus of each story/assignment. Who's saying it? How many are saying it? Why?

Skills that need to be on top of public speaking. Responsible media use, etc. Everyone in every industry needs this.

Dr. Teresa Davis asked if an essay is submitted for each of the four assignments.

Another committee member asked if this is required for the major. The chair of the department, Katie Foss, stated that there is a different Intro to Media and Entertainment course for majors. Students cannot double-dip once this proposed course is part of the Core.

Dr. Cruikshank stated that the proposed course is useful for all majors with the main goal of learning is to present information clearly and with information that is correct. And the students can choose topics that dovetail with their major.

Motion to vote passed. This course was approved by the committee unanimously, with 13 votes in favor of adding this course to the Core.

ENVS 2810/2811: Introduction to Environmental Science & Lab

No one from Environmental Science was in attendance.

Dr. McCullough stated that the assessable assignment is a group project, so it would be difficult for the committee to know how the assessment plan would work. Dr. Cobb answered that we would need to know individual contributions to the assignment.

There was general agreement from the committee that clarification is needed on how material is recorded on the sample assignment. Does each student in the group write his or her own reflection? We think so. But directions in one part of the assignment state that groups should place all statements into one cohesive document.

The lab is separate so that students can take it separately, but they only get three credits for AP. However, the students with AP or DE credit can take the one-hour lab to complete the TBC requirement

The course is on the ground, but the lab is online? The committee could not determine the answer.

Before tabling the course, the committee addressed all of the items on the checklist.

If approved, this will be the only course in scientific literacy explorations.

Besides the second item on the "Characteristics of Core Course," the committee felt that all other guidelines were met.

Ann McCullough made a motion to recommend conditional approval if Dr. Cobb agreed to reach out to the faculty and discuss how the sample assignment would fit in with our assessment requirements. Dr. Cobb agreed.

Motion passed. This course was conditionally approved by the committee unanimously, with 13 votes in favor of adding this course to the Core if conditions are met.

Action item:

Dr. Cobb will reach out to the faculty and clarify the language in the sample assignment or request small changes to the assignment so that the TBCC will have the data needed for assessment.

CDFS 2100: Dating and Mating: The Science of Love, Sex, and Relationships

Dr. Rebekah Oldham, Department of Human Sciences, attended the meeting to answer questions about the proposal.

The committee's main question was to ask for the sample assignment. Due to the many documents attached, the committee members were not sure which one was the actual assignment. The file with the assignment is file CDFS 2100 CIP Description TBC.

She taught this at Texas Tech, and this is currently taught as a personal communication course.

The Primary outcome of this course is critical thinking. The secondary outcome is non-written communication. There is also a section on information literacy.

There are a few components of the assessable assignment that involve group work. Dr. Davis recommended that the infographic assignment should be changed to an individual assignment, rather than a group assignment. Dr. Oldham agreed that would be an easy change to make.

Dr. Davis asked if the Infographic assignment would be enough to show how they student student achievement on all parts of the rubric. Dr. Oldham explained that the Infographic should include pitfalls, research, and practical skills. Citations have to be included.

Dr Totty asked if students were expected to analyze their own assumptions or others. This question was in response to the rubric.

Dr. Myers-Shirk responded that we haven't assessed this rubric yet. We have piloted some, but it may need to be tweaked. The assumption in critical thinking is that you are looking at your own assumptions. It's difficult to have all desired learning outcomes pigeonholed into a rubric.

It was also suggested that a pre and post-reflection could help.

Dr. Oldham stated that she administers a background survey and an exit survey. That could be adapted to a written statement.

Dr. Myers-Shirk stated that professors have an alternative option: They can submit a grade sheet for the assignment as the artifact. This is the procedure for several language courses.

The committee voted to approve this course conditionally. The infographic will become an individual assignment.

This course was conditionally approved by the committee unanimously, with 13 votes in favor of adding this course to the Core if conditions are met.

—

Review of Procedures: True Blue Core Outstanding Teaching Award

Each spring, the TBCC reviews faculty for the True Blue Core Outstanding Teaching Award and selects a recipient.

Dr. Christina Cobb gave a quick description of the committee's role in selecting a recipient for this award and stated the need to streamline the process. She started with the [eligibility requirements listed on the provost's website](#).

Eligibility list:

#1 Recommended change: Item #5 on Eligibility List. The committee agreed that faculty should be able to receive this award again after 5 years. (Instead of only once)

#2 Recommended change: Item #3 on Eligibility List. Include winter and summer sessions as a semester taught.

Nominee Process:

Additional recommendations from the committee:

#3 Recommendation: brief teaching-related CV. No more than 2 pages.

#4 Recommendation: Teaching philosophy. Limit to one Page.

#5 Recommendation: Accept the **summary** of teaching evaluations for the last six General Education classes taught.

Dr. Cobb also wants to look at the rubric, a spreadsheet that holds rankings from all voting members. It was also recommended that we make the rubric public. [It has always been public] We may need to re-align it with the eligibility requirements. We will address these issues at a later meeting.

The committee decided to vote on the five proposed changes to the eligibility requirements and materials submitted by nominees.

The Committee unanimously agreed to implement the five recommendations listed above.

Action Item: Dr. Cobb will ask the provost's office to change the website to reflect these changes.

New business

2:00 p.m. - meeting adjourned

Meeting notes submitted by Suzanne Mangrum, Recording Secretary

October 28, 2024

Edits and revisions submitted by True Blue Core Director, Dr. Myers-Shirk Myers-Shirk

November 25, 2024