

True Blue Core Committee Meeting

December 5, 2025

12.30 pm in Faculty Senate Chambers, James Union Building

Voting members in attendance: Virginia Hemby-Grubb, Jane Seok Jeng Lim, Suzanne Mangrum, Rebecca Oldham, Stephanie Totty, Ashlee Hover, Andrew Fialka, Andrea Hall, Teresa Davis, Laura Cochrane, Kari Neely, John Zemora

Voting members absent: Andrea Taylor, Sylvester Lamin, Michael Peasley, Nia Moore, Amber Shelton, Xin Yang, Jorge Vargas, Brielle Campos

Others: Amy Aldridge (Vice Provost for Academic Programs/TBC liaison)

Guest: Dianna Rust

Ex officio: Christopher Brewer, Jeff Gibson

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

Welcome

Terri Davis, Chair of True-Blue Core Committee, welcomes the committee members.

Christina Cobb led the committee to hold a moment of silence for Dr. Ashleigh McKinzie.

Approval of minutes

With no other amendments, a motion was called to approve the minutes for October 24, 2025. Motion for approval-Suzanne Mangrum and seconded by John Zemora. The meeting minutes were approved with a Vote (10/10)

Discussion of Course Proposal

CHEM 1030: Topics in Consumer Chemistry – title change

Terri provided the rationale for the title change to accurately reflect the course's content. With no other questions, A motion was called to approve CHEM 1030. Motion for approval- Jane Lim and seconded by John Zemora. CHEM 1030 – title change was approved with a Vote (11/11)

CHEM 1031: Topics in Consumer Chemistry Laboratory – title change

With no other questions, A motion was called to approve CHEM 1031. Motion for approval- Stephanie Totty and seconded by John Zemora. CHEM 1031 – title change was approved with a Vote (11/11)

PSY 2180: Intelligence and Creativity– title change

With no other questions, A motion was called to approve PSY 2180. Motion for approval- Stephanie Totty and seconded by John Zemora. PSY 2180- title change was approved with a Vote (11/11)

PRST 2000: Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies – new course. Dianna Rust presented the course proposal

A motion was called to discuss and approve PRST 2000. Motion for discussion and approval- Jane Lim and seconded by Stephanie Totty.

Discussion – Dianna Rust shared the rationale that PRST 2000 is to introduce students to the foundations and methods of an interdisciplinary lens/ inquiry. The final project is an interdisciplinary activist proposal that pinpoints a specific problem. They would be partnering with local organizations for local service work. The proposal must be feasible and use research to solve problems.

Terri Davis inquired about the career aspirations that align with the rubric. Dianna Rust shared that, through examining the specific, focused problem with two or more disciplinary lenses in their research narratives, students can be encouraged to present and publish their data/ results, thus adding to their career aspirations.

The committee reviewed the TBC guidelines for course approval in the TBC course category of foundation skills, specifically information literacy. With no other questions, A motion was called to approve PRST 2000. PRST 2000 was approved with a Vote (11/11)

RS 2500: Religion and Sports – new course

A motion was called to discuss and approve RS 2500. Motion for discussion and approval- Jane Lim and seconded by Virginia Hemby Grubb.

There were several discussions on RS 2500, but there were no faculty representatives to elaborate on some concerns

- a. Faculty assigned: Suzanne Mangrum wanted to find out more about the faculty assigned to the course, as she noted there were adjuncts allocated.
- b. Breadth of the content and assignment might be too narrow

Terri Davis was concerned about the breadth of the content. She noted religion is a broad theme, but sports might be more specific to a limited audience. Andrea Hall & Susanne Mangrum felt that RS 2500 does cover a broad range of sports. Jeff Gibson said that RS2500 can be drawn parallel to religion and arts. Rebecca Oldham felt that the accessible assignment might be too narrow and not broad enough for all disciplines.

Laura Cochrane felt there should be a faculty to present and share the content of RS2500 for clarity. Terri Davis and Christina Cobb agreed to have a faculty representation to discuss the concern.

As there were several questions regarding the course proposal, the motion to discuss and approve was rescinded, and a motion was called instead to table it for course discussion in the January TBC meeting. Motion to move to January agenda- Jane Lim and seconded by Suzanne Mangrum with a Vote (11/11)

VFP 1000: Film Appreciation – new course

A motion was called to discuss and approve VFP 1000. Motion for discussion and approval- John Zemora and seconded by Kari Neely.

There were several discussions on VFP 1000, but there were no faculty representatives to elaborate on some concerns

- a. Assessable assignment not aligned to the TBC rubric

Rebecca Oldham noted that the assignment is not exactly aligned with the TBC rubrics. Stephanie Totty and Terri Davis also wonder how the students will meet the outcome in the accessible assignment.

- b. Need elaboration on TBC course category: explorations in creativity and cultural expression

There is no mention of cultural expression, which is part of the TBC guidelines.

Kari Neely suggests providing a framework and an approved example of an assessable assignment that is aligned with the TBC rubric for the course proposal, as more work needs to be done.

As there were several questions regarding the course proposal, the motion to discuss and approve was rescinded, and a motion was called instead to table it for course discussion in the January TBC meeting. Motion to move to January agenda- Suzanne Mangrum and seconded by Laura Cochrane with a Vote (13/13)

Discussion

HUM 2610- World Literatures

There were some discussions on HUM 2610. Kari Neely wanted to know if it could be a topic course. Christina Cobb shared that Tyler Henson mentioned the topic must be repeatable and the Learning outcome (base knowledge) must be the same for each course semester. As there were more questions on the course offering, Amy Aldridge suggested a meeting with Tyler Henson to be set up for Kari Neely, together with Christina Cobb

WLLC Prefix

Kari Neely asked about changing the WLLC prefix. Amy Aldridge shared that there is a Major realignment with some colleges at MTSU; thus, Tyler Henson and the team are prioritizing college realignment in the curriculum. Thus, the prefix will be put on the back burner for now and may take longer to approve.

New Business: True Blue Core Outstanding Teacher Award

Christina Cobb shared the website and rubric for the TBC Outstanding Teacher Award. The committee went through the guidelines

Discussion pertaining to the award:

Rebecca Oldham asked about the criteria for an eligible nominee to have taught 6 TBC courses within 3 years, as some courses are only offered once a year. Kari Neely shared that this criterion was established to recognize faculty teaching in general education. There are other MTSU awards for outstanding teaching for those not teaching general education.

Discussion was tabled on having a standardized rubric for peer evaluation. Christina Cobb said it was a good idea. Stephanie Totty said that the evaluation must be focused on the TBC rubric. In addition, the evaluation submitted must be for recent years and not date back to an earlier period.

The course syllabi submitted should be from different courses, not similar courses, but rather different sections.

Jane Lim suggested including a video to reduce the paperwork. Kari Neely suggested reducing the criteria to encourage more nominees to apply, as potential candidates are often put off by all the paperwork

Jeff Gibson suggested combining requirements 5 & 6 to state: Letters of support (maximum of two) received from Chair, peer, student (current/former), focused on TBC evaluation

Kari Neely suggested combining requirements 1 & 3 to state: One-page reflective narrative that summarizes major accomplishments and how the faculty member addresses the General Education/True Blue Core Learning Outcomes as required of the TBC rubric

A motion was called to approve and change the current 7 criteria for submission to 5 criteria. - Andrea Hall called for the motion, and Laura Cochrane seconded. The change was approved with a vote (13/13)

Other business

Christopher Brewer updated the committee that THEC is finalizing for the next cycle and will start next year with the new assessment measurement. The Quality Assurance Funding (QAF) will be going away. They will no longer be using the California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST). Christina Cobb said we can use the TBC critical thinking rubric.

Other matters

With no other matter, the meeting was adjourned at 2.00 p.m.

Meeting notes submitted by Jane Seok Jeng Lim, Recording Secretary

December 5, 2025

Edits and revisions submitted by Christina Cobb