CLA Core Renewal
Faculty Forum

Office of the Dean
CLA Faculty Senate
Liberal Arts 21 Committee
• Welcome and Introductions
• Mission
• CLA Core Renewal Task Force
• Task Force Activities
• Timeline
• Data
• Survey Snapshot
• Forum Format
• Guiding Questions
• Discussion
• Next Steps
Dear CLA faculty –

In his August 2016 letter, Dean David Reingold said, “As we consider curricular innovation, we will begin a conversation about our core curriculum, determining how those requirements, in conjunction with the University core curriculum, function for students who want to pursue degrees in liberal arts as either a first or a second major.” It is my charge to begin that conversation by forming the CLA Core Renewal Task Force.

This group of faculty, with representatives from the arts, humanities, and social sciences, will work with me to “initiate a faculty-led evaluation of the CLA Core Curriculum, including data on core course enrollments and benchmarking against peer institution core requirements.” The work of the task force is expected to be completed in time for the final CLA faculty senate meeting of Spring 2017. The actual work of renewing the CLA Core will be accomplished by a much larger committee during the 2017-2018 academic year.

I will provide regular updates to the CLA faculty as the work of the task force progresses. Thank you all in advance for your imagination and expertise as we begin this great work.
History

• Fall 1989, Dean David A. Caputo appointed a committee to review the college undergraduate core curriculum
• The committee initiated a thorough review that led the committee to conclude that a major revision was needed
• The School of Liberal Arts Faculty Senate approved the Committee’s proposal in February 1992 (Fall 1993 was first semester in use)
• Known as “Curriculum 2000”, the proposal was subsequently ratified by the full faculty
• Since approval, the CLA Core has been reviewed and maintained by the Educational Policy Committee of the CLA Senate
Rationale & Goal for Review

- CLA Core has not been formally reviewed as a whole since 1992
- The creation of the University Core Curriculum, the re-organization of CLA (and the creation of the College of Health and Human Sciences), the implementation of the 120 credit hour rule, and changes to admissions (e.g., the 4-year math requirement), among other changes, have unfolded without considering if (and how) this impacts our general education in CLA
- The goal of the review is to initiate a faculty-led evaluation of the CLA Core
- Results of the evaluation will inform a CLA faculty review of the core curriculum to determine the best mix of courses for Purdue students pursuing the bachelor of arts degree
Timeline & Process

• Fall 2016, Core Renewal Task Force members will complete evaluation to share at the final faculty meeting, Spring 2017
• Fall 2017, work will begin on redefining the core curriculum and working through the appropriate departmental and college curriculum committee processes
• The Core Renewal Task Force for 2016-2017 includes 3 faculty representing the humanities, social sciences, and the arts, with the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education as chair
• Subsequent work on renewal of the CLA Core will be accomplished by a larger committee with representatives from each of the individual academic units of the college
Chair (Office of the Dean):  
Joel Ebarb, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education and International Programs

Humanities:  
Elena Coda, Associate Professor of Italian, School of Languages and Cultures

Arts:  
Catherine Dossin, Associate Professor of Art History, Rueff School of Visual and Performing Arts

Social Sciences:  
Ian Lindsay, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology
Activities

• Data Collection
• Research of core use and structure at AAU Association of American Universities institutions
• Faculty Survey: November 9
• Faculty Forum: March 21
• Advisor Survey: March 22
• Student Focus Group: April 4
• Create and share report: due April 18
CLA Undergraduate Enrollment

1989: UG Core Curriculum is reviewed. School of Education is organized. Remaining unit named School of Liberal Arts.

1993: Freshmen begin new curriculum

2002: Liberal Arts Core is revised.

2004: School of Liberal Arts is renamed College of Liberal Arts

2011: HHS is launched. Act 1220 signed to limit # of credit hours.

2013: UCC is implemented. Purdue Moves announced.
UG Core Curriculum is reviewed. School of Education is organized. Remaining unit named School of Liberal Arts.

Freshmen begin new curriculum.

Liberal Arts Core is revised.

School of Liberal Arts is renamed College of Liberal Arts.

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UCC is implemented. Purdue Moves announced.
CLA UG Courses (100-499) Sections with Enrollment over 15

- Both UCC & CLA Core: 57%
- CLA Core Only: 27%
- Neither List: 13%
- UCC Only: 3%

Legend:
CLA UG Courses (100-499) Sections with Enrollment under 15

- 52% Neither List
- 36% Both UCC & CLA Core
- 10% CLA Core Only
- 2% UCC Only
CLA Courses 100-299 Section Enrollment under 15
Spring 2017

- Both: 57%
- Neither: 2%
- CLA Only: 27%
- UCC Only: 14%

CLA Courses 300-499 Section Enrollment under 15
Spring 2017

- Both: 83%
- Neither: 5%
- CLA Only: 2%
Of the 135 faculty who responded to the survey (48% of T/TT total):

- **41%** strongly believe in the **necessity** of a core curriculum for CLA students
- **80%** believe that the CLA Core should **integrate** with the University Core; **25%** believe the CLA Core Curriculum should remain **independent** of the UCC
- **47%** believe the most important role of the CLA Core is to expose students to **important issues and concepts**; **13%** believe the most important role is to expose students to **different disciplines**
- **61%** think the CLA Core Curriculum should focus on **content**, versus **39%** who think the CLA Core Curriculum should focus on **learning outcomes**
- **74%** believe the CLA Core should have a **large number of course offerings** to increase diversity and flexibility
- **56%** believe the **categories of the CLA Core** should be updated
- **Individual & Society (42%)** and **United States Traditions (38%)** are the categories most identified to be removed from the CLA Core; **Written & Oral Communication and Other Languages**, the least (5% each)
- **29%** agreed that the CLA Core should be **eliminated** entirely
PRELIMINARY PLAN pending Working Group input/revision

Beginning Fall 2017, work will begin on renewing the core curriculum, and working through the appropriate college curriculum committee processes.

The Core Renewal Working Group for 2017-2018 will include a faculty representative from each of the academic units, staff representatives from academic student advising, and student representation.

The Dean will select the working group members from a list of 2-3 faculty from each unit, submitted by the CLA heads.

The Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education will serve as co-chair alongside a member of the faculty selected from the Working Group by the Dean.

Administrative support, as needed, will be provided by the Dean’s Office.

Any revisions to the CLA Core would be submitted to the CLA Senate for approval, and then submitted to the full faculty for ratification.
Forum Format

• Guiding Questions
• Be recognized, stand, identify yourself
• Time limit of 3 minutes per comment
• Please be respectful and collegial
• General discussion topics and comments are being recorded for inclusion in the final report
• If there are questions or observations not covered in the time allotted for the forum, please use the response cards to submit your query or comment
1. Does the CLA Core define the Bachelor of Arts experience for the CLA student?

2. The current CLA Core contains over 276 courses in 13 categories; is the size and composition of the core appropriate?

3. What should be the relationship between the CLA Core and the University Core?

4. There are many efforts across the college to partner with units outside of CLA. What impact does the CLA Core have on these efforts?

5. Questions from the floor
**Next Steps**

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