

Work Plan for the 2023-2024 Academic Year

Senate UK Core Education Committee Ideas by Keiko Tanaka, Chair

Cleaning up lists of UK Core courses

- **Action.** Ask departments/programs to remove UK Core designated courses which have not been taught over 10 years.
- **Rational.** GPS lists all approved-courses for each UK Core area. Often, students have specific courses which they wish to take though they may not have been offered for many years. I'd like to offer students a better, more up-to-date list of UK Core courses from which students can select to develop their plan of coursework.
- **Status.** I have a list of UK Core courses which have not been taught over 10 years. I need to: (a) ask the SUKCEC to approve that those courses be removed from the Undergraduate Bulletin; and (b) request departments/programs to remove them from the Bulletin or provide a plan to teach these courses in a regular basis.

Limit Subtitle Required UK Core Courses

- **Action.** Create a new policy document instructing faculty that SUKCEC no longer approve a Core designation to any new Special Topic courses that require subtitles (SR). Ask all existing Special Topic courses to be recertified.
- **Rational.** SUKCEC has been very reluctant to approve a Core designation to new Special Topic (SR) courses. This is because we only review a sample syllabus of one subtitle. During the assessment process, we have observed that several subtitle sections do not meet Core area SLOs. More importantly, all Special Topic (SR) Core courses were meant to be recertified in every three years by SUKCEC. This never occurred.
- **Status.** SUKCEC has been discussing this topic for 3 years. We are ready to develop a document about Special Topic (SR) courses. I'd like to give exceptions to HON and TEK programs since the nature of their curriculum is very different and both programs have faculty advisory committee that review proposals. SUKCEC will develop a policy document specifically addresses the HON and TEK programs.

Examine the Future of the UK Core Program

- **Action.** Organize one or more working groups that examine various issues concerning the future of the UK Core Program and develop recommendations for revising the UK Core program.
- **Rational.** The UK Core Program began in 2009. It is time to organize a series of campus-wide discussion on how to enhance the UK Core program. I envision that this process to take about 3 years.
- **Status.** We had a retreat in May 2023. Many ideas generated at the retreat are useful. During the 2023-2024 academic year, SUKCEC will discuss about the steps at its monthly meeting and develop a proposal to the University Senate about the process of revising the UK Core Program.

Recertify Core Courses with two area designations

- **Action.** Ask departments/programs to select one of the two Core areas that they were approved and submit a request for recertification to the SUKCEC
- **Rational.** The courses with two Core areas are extraordinary difficult to assess since two sets of Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) may not be comparable. And each student select which Core area to satisfy through a particular course.
- **Status.** I have a list of UK Core courses with two Core area designations. When the UK Core program was created, all UK Core courses were meant to be “recertified” periodically. However, it has never taken place. A good place to start would be those courses with two Core area designations. I will ask: (a) the SUKCEC to approve a new guideline that each Core course can be approved for only one Core area designation; and (b) departments/programs that offer target courses to discuss the matter among faculty.

Improve the UK Core Assessment Program

- **Action.** Create a one-year long “professional development” program for UK Core instructors. This program will assist a cohort of faculty to (re)design a Core course and improve their capacity to teach Core courses in their respective program.
- **Rational.** Many faculty members know little about the UK Core program and feel lost about designing assignments that meet Core SLOs.
- **Status.** RaeAnn Pearson from the OSPIE and I have been discussing about this idea for several months. This PD program will meet once a month (or two months) over two semesters where: a cohort of selected faculty members will learn about designing and effective Core course, Core Assessment processes, and evaluating Core courses. They will receive a stipend for participating in this program. **This program requires financial commitment from the Provost’s Office.**

UK Core Symposium

- **Action.** Develop a symposium on the UK Core Program where faculty and non-faculty instructors (a) exchange ideas for UK Core instruction, and (b) are being recognized for excellence in UK Core instruction.
- **Rational.** We need to build a community of scholars around the Core Program.
- **Status.** This is beyond the capacity of the SUKCEC. A&S is organizing a symposium on teaching. In the future, we would like to have a track on the UK Core program.