Core proposal: a modest revision

On Monday evening we gather to deliberate about a new structure for Calvin’s core curriculum. It consists of twelve categories of coursework that students take in one of two tracks, depending on their program. The courses in each category target student learning outcomes for the category and possibly additional, course-specific SLOs. The core SLOs correspond to the six core outcomes that Faculty Senate passed in March.

On the one hand, the proposed core represents a modest revision to the current core curriculum: it is rooted in An Engagement with God’s World and aligns with the educational framework. The twelve categories are likely to look familiar to Calvin students and faculty, though work on category descriptions and SLOs over the summer of 2016 will give us opportunity to freshen and refine those categories.

On the other hand, the proposed core offers us real benefits. These changes improve the coherence of our core curriculum because all students achieve the stated learning outcomes in every category. This core is simpler for students and faculty to navigate. This core is simpler to assess (and we must assess our core regardless of the outcome of our deliberations).

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the proposed core allows us to get on with the work of aligning the core to the educational framework and collecting evidence about how well students are learning. As a result, core revision will become an evidence-based, ongoing process that fosters productive conversations about how the core curriculum contributes to the development of all Calvin graduates.

Elizabeth VanderLei, academic dean

Teaching and Scholarship Workshops on May 26

Faculty are invited to sign up for either/both of the workshop sessions:

- 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon: Teaching Plan Workshop in CFAC 115
- 12:00 noon–1:00 p.m.: Lunch in CFAC 125
- 1:00–3:00 p.m.: Faculty Scholarship Planning Workshop in CFAC 115

For more information and to sign up, click here. Please RSVP (with dietary restrictions) on or before May 12. Contact Betsy Jacobsen with questions.

New At-Large Faculty Senators

The Committee on Governance declares Debra Freeberg (CAS) and Cynthia Slagter (Spanish) to be the two new at-large members of Faculty Senate, elected by majority vote. Their three-year terms on Senate begin September 1, 2016.

From the Faculty Activity Reports

- Brian Kreisman (Communication Arts and Sciences), “Effects of Speech Rate, Noise, Sentence Predictability and First Language on Speech Perception” (poster presentation, American Academy of Audiology Conference, Phoenix, AZ, April 14, 2016).

Be sure to fill out your Faculty Activity Reports regularly. If you have questions, see the FAQ page.

Note: FEN activities are now called Intercultural Competency Professional Development Activities and are entered in a new system—not as FARs. You can report these types of activities via this new link. Contact diversity@calvin.edu if you have questions.

**Coming Up on Campus**

**Monday, May 2**
- Chapel. Kathy Smith. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Nursing seminar. 4:30 p.m., SB 110
- Faculty Assembly. 7:00 p.m., Prince Conference Center (arrive by 6:45 to get dessert)

**Tuesday, May 3**
- Chapel. “Judge Not.” 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Henry Institute lecture. Christiana de Groot, Nathan Leamer, James Jones, “Challenges for the Next President: Criminal Justice Reform.” 3:30 p.m., DeVos Communications Building lobby

**Wednesday, May 4**
- Chapel. Sounds of African worship. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- History Colloquium. Student presentations. 3:30 p.m., Meeter Center lecture hall

**Thursday, May 5**
- Board of trustees meeting. 8:00 a.m.
- Chapel. Jazz prayers with Calvin Jazz Combo. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Lights Out! Turn your lights out from 10:00–12:00 noon.
- Chemistry seminar. Doug Vander Griend and student research presentation. 11:30 a.m., Science Building 010
- Calvin Environmental Assessment Program Poster Session and STARS Celebration. Mark Van Putten, “How to Save a Planet: A User’s Guide.” 3:30 p.m., Science Building 010

**Friday, May 6**
- Calvin Center for Innovation in Business Leadercast 2016. 8:45 a.m., CFAC auditorium
- Chapel. Student worship team. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- GEO seminar. Student research presentations. 3:30 p.m., North Hall 078
- Tributes & Awards Dinner. 5:30 p.m. punch, 6:00 p.m. dinner, Prince Conference Center. RSVP required.