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Faculty Assembly Meeting
October 14, 2005
Excerpt from the draft Minutes

Core Curriculum – Core Capstone. Daniel Cowdin, a member of the Capstone Development Team, presented a detailed description of a proposed course that would complete the plan of the new Core Curriculum program:

Capstone Course: Living Wisdom: Contemporary Challenges

During the discussion, Prof. Cowdin answered questions about the proposed description of the course and Dean Stephen Trainor also offered some clarifications. Some of the points raised:

Degree Completion – The Team has not yet discussed how the course will be implemented in a Degree Completion program.

Assigned Cohorts – The Team has not yet addressed that level of detail about the students assigned to a section. It would seem that a mix of students would be better for each section of the course and would be the easiest to schedule.

Items on the reading list that are already covered in other courses – The reading list in the proposal (described as “Texts under consideration . . .”) is still being developed. There is no problem with overlap. Some students might have read a certain item in another course but others have not. A student who has already read an item may see it in another perspective in this course.

The concentration on a Judeo-Christian perspective under “. . . Relevant Core Goals and Objectives Being Met” – The objectives with a Judeo-Christian focus are from the Goals of the Core Curriculum approved by the Assembly and should be read in the context of the whole Core. If taken individually and out of context, a specific objective could be seen as excluding other perspectives and a “red flag.” These objectives are a starting-point for a broad educational exploration and will not restrict what students will encounter in the course. Students will be exposed to other religious perspectives in RST 210, a required Core course.

The Core Capstone course will be built into a student’s four-year advising plan. If there are some students who find that they have to take the Core Capstone as an extra course because of heavy Major requirements, exceptions will be granted as necessary so that additional fees can be waived.

The design team considered but ultimately rejected the idea of including a formal thesis in Capstone course in view of the fact that many students are already doing a thesis in their majors or in the Pell Honors Program.

The Assembly will vote on the proposal at a later meeting.