Proposed Common Course
A&S Core Curriculum

I. Proposed Course Title: University Chapel

II. Credit Hours: required, no credit (p. 66 Baylor Catalog)

III. Course Level (1000-4000): NA

IV. Department or Departments responsible for teaching course: Office of University Chaplain

V. Proposed Description (1 to 2 sentences):

No change to current Baylor catalog description (pp. 37-38). Baylor students gather to worship together, to engage important issues of our day, and to be inspired by speakers, artists, academicians, and leaders from every vocation.

VI. Core Curriculum Objectives (list 2-4):

1. As a common course providing all A&S students a shared foundation of worship and knowledge through chapel services, it will strive to offer a collective sacred experience as a critical dimension of a transformational Christian education.
2. As students worship together, they will be invited into a service that both speaks to where they are and exposes them to the worship tradition of the larger Body of Christ.
3. Worship services and other programs will aim to lift the spirit and prompt vocational imagination.

VII. Justification for course from A&S Core Curriculum Vision (using quotations):

Baylor Catalog, Curriculum Organization, General Education Outcomes: (p. 30): Baylor graduates should be able to: communicate… think critically… demonstrate knowledge of the Christian scriptures and heritage that enables engagement with others from a Christian perspective… commitment to social and civic responsibility (italics added)

Vision Statement Preamble: “The College of Arts & Sciences core curriculum is the foundation for a degree from Baylor University; it serves to educate men and women
to become informed and productive citizens of a democracy and servant leaders of faith communities.” (italics added)

Oversight-Integration Working Group: Response to Referred Question No. 5 (Are there courses that may not be adjusted or eliminated from the current core due to University requirements?). (Please refer to the whole statement): Selected quotation here: “Changes to the religion requirements would be of the highest sensitivity to the University and its constituents and would, therefore, require involvement from the leadership of the University at the highest levels. Since University Chapel is currently required for all baccalaureate degrees and since, in our opinion, the current content of University Chapel fulfills the requisite criteria of the University’s General Education requirements and the A&S Core Curriculum Vision, we strongly recommend that no changes to University Chapel be considered.” (Italics added)

VIII. Principal author(s) of the proposal: Doug Weaver

IX. Subcommittee supporting recommendation: Christian Tradition