THE CHARGE OF THE TASKFORCE

“The core curriculum for all degrees offered by the College of Arts and Sciences will be evaluated when appropriate, at least once every ten to fifteen years by a committee of Arts and Sciences faculty members appointed by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. This review will evaluate the size and content of the core curriculum in light of this vision statement. Following this review, the committee will make recommendations for revisions of the core curriculum to the Arts and Sciences Council of Chairs.”

College of Arts and Sciences Core Curriculum Vision, p. 4.
Approved May 2016, Council of Chairs, College of Arts and Sciences

AUGUST 17, 2017: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In Attendance

- The following members of the Executive Committee of the Taskforce were present: Tamarah Adair (BIO), Sara Alexander (ANT), Mark Anderson (ART), Michael Beaty (PHI), Joseph Brown (PSC), Blair Browning (COM), Julie deGraffenried (HIS), John Howard (alumni representative), Stan Denman (THEA), Steven Driese (GEOSC), Chris Hansen (FDCA), Jeanne Hill (STA), Ken Jones (CLA), Kristin Koch (student representative), Heidi Marcum (ENV SC), Thomas McGrath (CHE), Alex McNair (MLC), Carson Mencken (SOC), Brian Raines (MTH), Dwight Russell (PHY), Lisa Shaver (ENG), Sara Stone (JOU), Charles Weaver (PSY/NSC), Doug Weaver (REL).

- The following members of the Working Groups of the Taskforce were present: Frieda Blackwell, Burt Burleson, Gary Carter, Lana Conder, David Clinton, Kim Kellison, Deanne Kramer, Paul Martens, Joyce Miller, Wes Null, Viola Osborn, Ken Wilkins, and Lynn Wisely. The following were unable to attend: Anne-Marie Schultz.

- Lee Nordt was in attendance.

Welcome

- Blake Burleson, Project Manager thanked the 24 Executive Committee members and the 16 Working Group members for their 16 months of service to the College. During this period, 204 formal meetings and hundreds of informal and one-on-one meetings were held. Burleson expressed special thanks to Lee Nordt, Viola Osborn, Lynn Wisely, and the Steering Committee members—Sara Alexander, Julie deGraffenried, Stan Denman, Brian Raines, Chuck Weaver, and Doug Weaver.
Stress Test

• Viola Osborn, Analytics and Budget Working Group, indicated that the extensive testing over the summer revealed that no new faculty lines would be gained and no existing faculty lines lost in any department based on the proposed core. Some stress testing related to other issues may still be conducted.

Dean Nordt’ s remarks

• Dean Lee Nordt thanked the Taskforce members for their work during the 16 months since their appointment to this historic task. He announced that the Executive Committee had reached a strong consensus by affirming a set of recommendations for a unified core curriculum of 49/50 hours. The vote was 17 for, 6 against, and 1 abstention.
• Dean Nordt reported that the set of recommendations, with slight adjustment, met all structural and functional Vision requirements.
• Blake Burleson provided a detailed report on the adjustments that were recommended from the Dean on some common and DL proposals. He further noted that the Dean had accepted or endorsed all secondary recommendations made by the taskforce. Two taskforces that were recommended have already been appointed as a result.
• Dean Nordt congratulated the taskforce on their successful work and dismissed the taskforce. He also outlined the steps ahead for the Council of Chairs in reviewing their recommendations.

A WORD FROM PROJECT MANAGER

Colleagues,

It was an honor to serve as your Project Manager over these 16 months. This was the most challenging but rewarding of my 30 plus years at Baylor University. I count you all as friends. You did a great job; I’m proud of each one of you.

We have now come to the end of the 3rd phase of reviewing and revising the A&S core curriculum. Each phase, thus far, has been a success. In the first phase, 2012-2015, the faculty academic leaders in the College answered a clear “yes” to the question of whether or not the core should be improved. In the second phase, 2015-2016, standing on the shoulders of that consensus, the A&S Core Curriculum Vision taskforce worked 13 months to write and deliver a Vision document to the Council of Chairs which then voted unanimously to approve. Relying heavily on the Vision document, in this the third phase, you have reviewed the size and content of the 4 existing cores in A&S, and after much research, discussion, debate, collaboration, and compromise, reached a strong consensus and have provided a set of recommendations to the Council of Chairs. Now, in phase four, it will be their turn. And, it would seem unimaginable, after 3 phases of successful work that the Council of Chairs would now fail. I am confident that they will honor your outstanding work and the outstanding work of those who served in the two previous phases as they consider your recommendations.

God speed,

Blake Burleson