

Committee on the Carolina Core Proposal

Justification

The Faculty Advisory Committee here provides recommended language to be added to the Faculty Manual describing the charge and make-up of a new standing faculty Committee on the Carolina Core (CCC). FAC's proposal adapts the recommendations of the [2023 report of the Carolina Core Review and Revision Committee \(CCRRC\)](#). That committee was tasked with providing a recommendation for how best to ensure the regular review, maintenance, and enhancement of the Carolina Core. As the CCRRC report points out, currently the only committee whose main charge is related to the Core is the [Carolina Core Approval Committee \(CCAC\)](#), housed in the Office of the Provost and consisting of one faculty member representing each Core component as well as administrative representatives from the Office of the Provost. The CCAC is charged with reviewing proposed Core courses, though their charge also includes reviewing assessment results for each Core component and using those results to revise assessment and teaching rubrics. The faculty's Committee on Instructional Development (InDev) is charged with "review[ing] and initiat[ing] as necessary policies governing . . . general education requirements." However, InDev's oversight of general education policies is just one in a long and frequently overwhelming list of responsibilities that fall under that committee's charge. To more effectively engage with the broader range of challenges and opportunities related to the make-up and administration of the Core, the CCRRC recommended renaming the CCAC to the Committee on the Carolina Core, housing it as a committee overseen by the Faculty Senate, and augmenting its charge. This recommendation followed from a review of general education governance at peer institutions.

Following on CCRRC's recommendation, FAC's proposal positions the committee with primary responsibility in relation to the Core as a standing committee that is elected by and reports to the Faculty Senate. However, rather than rehousing the existing CCAC and augmenting its charge and workload, the proposal developed by FAC would create a new standing committee—the CCC. This would allow the CCAC to continue to focus on its current work, which is important and time-consuming. The CCC would consult with the CCAC, but it would more centrally focus on addressing a host of pressing needs in relation to the Core, including the need to regularly review and enhance the make-up and administration of the Core, the need to more effectively communicate the Core's value and mission, and the need to ensure the implementation of the Core best serves that mission. Simply put, creating a standing Committee on the Carolina Core would provide more of the bandwidth necessary to fulfill the Core's mission and also institute better habits around the governance of general education. It would be more responsive to the needs and concerns of stakeholders and to emergent opportunities and issues around general education. Its existence would also provide a signal to the broader community that USC is committed to meaningful and effective general education.

Charge

The Committee on the Carolina Core (CCC) will work with relevant faculty, student, and administrative stakeholders to ensure the Carolina Core provides every student with the basic skills necessary to pursue a fulfilling career, participate responsibly in a democratic society, function well in a diverse global community, and develop a rich and meaningful life.

At the start of each academic year, the CCC will meet with the Office of the Provost to collaboratively set the year's agenda in relation to the Core. The CCC will collaborate on regular reviews of the Core and will consider stakeholder recommendations and develop original proposals for improvements to the Core's curricular content, implementation, assessment, and administration.

The Carolina Core Approval Committee (CCAC) reviews proposed Core courses and recommends modifications to the approved slate of Core courses. The CCC chair or their designee will serve on the CCAC. The CCC will collaborate with the CCAC in reviewing assessments results and will provide feedback on any proposed revisions to Core teaching and assessment rubrics made by the CCAC. The CCC may also suggest additional or alternative revisions. The CCC will assist in circulating any recommended revisions to relevant stakeholders and will present them to the Faculty Senate for feedback and approval.

The CCC will present to the Faculty Senate, for its feedback and approval, any recommended revisions to the Core, including but not limited to the Core's overall curricular content and policies regulating the Core's integration into programs of study.

The CCC will present to the Faculty Senate and other relevant stakeholders, for their feedback, any recommended changes to the administration of the Core and will consult with the Office of the Provost on their implementation. The CCC will review academic affairs policy proposals related to the Core.

The CCC will collaborate with the Office of the Provost to develop language and processes for clearly communicating the substance and value of the Core. The CCC will assist in the development and circulation of best practices to ensure the Carolina Core fulfills its mission.

Make-Up

The committee will consist of eleven faculty members elected for staggered three-year terms. No more than one elected member may be from any single dean-led Unit, with the exception of the College of Arts and Sciences, which will have a minimum of three and may have up to five elected members. One of the eleven elected faculty member will be drawn from the Palmetto Colleges.

Each year, the president of the student body with the confirmation of the Student Senate will appoint one undergraduate student to a one-year term as a non-voting member. Non-voting ex officio members will include the Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies, the Director of Institutional Assessment in the Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Analytics, a representative from the University Advising Center, the Director for Academic Programs, and a representative from the Assistant Associate Deans Council. Additional non-voting ex officio members may include a designee of the Carolina Core Approval Committee and a designee of the Center for Teaching Excellence.

Discussion of the Make-Up of the Voting Elected Faculty Committee Membership

The distribution of the committee's elected faculty member seats seeks to balance relevant expertise, the need for representation across the University's colleges, and the desire to keep the committee to a workable size. Currently, the College of Arts and Sciences, which is granted a minimum of three and up to five elected members, teaches the great majority of the current Core and houses most of the units who specialize in the general education areas specified in [SACSCOC accreditation requirement 9.3](#). The make-up proposed here adapts the distributional approach taken to the formulation of the CRRRC and synthesizes it with the "may have up to x members" formulation used for the University Committee on Tenure and Promotion. Descriptions of both committee make-ups are available on the [Faculty Senate Committees website](#).