Government/Political Science Core Curriculum Component Committee  
Minutes of 4.25.2012 (10:00 – 11:30 a.m.) meeting  

Present: Anita Chadha, Shannon Fowler, Peter Li, Azar Rejaie, Barry Sullender, & Lee Usnick  

1. Handouts related to the Government/Political Science (GPS) mandated content-split and content-related learning outcomes were distributed. Also, drafts of the skill-related learning outcomes from the previous meeting were distributed for review.  

2. A question was posed regarding the manner of course proposal review. The answer reflected that course proposals will emanate from departments be forwarded to the college/dean then be routed to our committee for review. Discussion turned toward the review of learning outcomes, in which the Fowler stated that associated component committees will be responsible for assessing course proposals in their foundational area and the Task Force will assess proposals forwarded to them from the component committees.  

3. Discussion centered on the ability of courses from outside the GPS discipline to adequately meet the content-related outcomes. It was discussed that much of, if not all, of the content outcomes required by the state for current GPS courses likely meet and exceed the description for the Core Curriculum component area provided by THECB. Consideration of drafting content-related learning outcomes broad enough to allow for courses from outside the GPS discipline yet still compliant with the component area content description ensued.  

4. Review of the state mandated “content-split” of national and state GPS material occurred. It was decided that content-related outcomes would be drafted in such a way that incorporated the legislatively mandated content-split and THECB Core Curriculum component area content description. Thus, it was agreed that sets of parallel content learning outcomes were to be drafted, one each for national and state/local GPS.  

5. Content-related learning outcomes were discussed and drafted.  

6. Discussion moved to structuring how learning outcomes would be spread across the six hours. After some discussion, it was decided all proposed courses will meet the skills learning outcomes and fall into one of two tracks corresponding to the legislatively mandated content-split for GPS courses (a federal GPS track and a state/local GPS track). The question of some courses not neatly falling into one of the content tracks was addressed by allowing proposed courses to exceed the minimally-required skills and content outcomes and still be considered for inclusion into the core.