Minutes of the meeting of the University Core Development Committee, Monday,
December 5, 2011.

The committee met at about 1:05 p.m. in Gasson 105.

Present were Nasser Behnegar, Patrick Byrne, Clare Dunsford, Laura Hake, Arthur
Madigan, Suzanne Matson, Patrick McQuillan, Catherine Read, and James Weiss.

The minutes of the meeting of Monday, November 21 were accepted with three
corrections.

The main business of the meeting was consideration of courses proposed for
Cultural Diversity core credit.

The committee approved CT 375 African American Theatre and Drama (John
Houchin), subject to certain revisions in the syllabus.

The committee approved RL 466 Francophone Sub-Saharan Cinema (Larysa
Smirnova), again subject to certain revisions in the syllabus.

The committee approved HS 154 Japanese Cultural Icons through Modern Times
(Franziska Seraphim), provided that the syllabus was amended to provide for a
regular final examination during the examination period.

Discussion of these three courses gave rise to reflection on how the new cover pages
are working. The sense of the group seemed to be that the statement of the core
learning outcomes on the cover pages needs to be revised and reorganized.

Discussion then turned to Michael Clarke’s proposal for revision of the learning
outcomes for Natural Science core courses.

[For ease of reference I copy the current formulation and Michael Clarke’s proposed
amendments

Natural science core courses should enable students to

a. demonstrate an awareness of natural scientific concepts and methods
appropriate for liberally educated 21st
 century human beings.

b. demonstrate an awareness of the principles and strategies of natural science and
technology.

c. demonstrate an awareness of the critical role that science and technology play in
contemporary society.

d. demonstrate an awareness of the power of scientific method.

e. demonstrate an awareness of the limitations of science and technology.
Alternative wording and addition suggested by Michael Clarke:
a. demonstrate an awareness of natural scientific concepts and methods
appropriate for liberally educated people in the 21st century.
f. demonstrate an awareness of the application of mathematics in science and
technology.]
There was vigorous discussion of several points in the current version and in Prof.
Clarke’s alternative. Much of this discussion focused on item e. “demonstrate an
awareness of the limitations of science and technology.” It was pointed out that the
cover page for Natural Science was the only cover page to require that core courses
attend to disciplinary limitations. Colleagues were inclined to delete this item from
the Natural Science cover page but add similar language to item d. of the cover page
stating the goals of core courses generally.
At the end of the meeting Arthur Madigan reported briefly on conversations he had
been having with J. Joseph Burns about plans for the assessment of the various core
programs in Philosophy, including those (Perspectives and Pulse) that partner with
Theology.
We adjourned at about 2:35 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by
Arthur Madigan, S.J.