

Subject A Concern about the New Core
From David R Koukal <koukaldr@udmercy.edu>
Date Sunday, November 10, 2013 7:23 pm
To bakerss@udmercy.edu, venugoep@udmercy.edu, benvenma@udmercy.edu, vancampa@udmercy.edu, "Mantzopolous, Victoria" <armstrov@udmercy.edu>, "Tubbs, Jim" <tubbsjb@udmercy.edu>, "Si, Hendry" <hendrysi@udmercy.edu>, Linda Haynes Slowik <slowiklh@udmercy.edu>
Cc koukaldr@udmercy.edu

Dear Fellow Chairs,

I have a concern I want to share with you about the structure of the new core.

As of right now, in our present university core, there are two places that allow for core electives.

Objective 3c allows students to choose between a course in the natural sciences (BIO, CHM, PHY) or the social sciences (ECN, POL, PYC, SOC).

Objective 4c allows students to choose between a course in philosophy (PHL), religious studies (RELS), or Catholic studies (CAS).

However, the new university core has no place held for these two sets of electives. In fact, since the new core has been designed around learning outcomes rather than credit hours, there is no reason not to think that these electives won't be eliminated altogether.

In my view, I think this decreased exposure to scientific thinking will do a disservice to the general education of our students. I think the same of a decreased number of credit hours in philosophy and religious/Catholic studies, as these disciplines go straight to the heart of our distinctive identity as a Catholic university.

If you share my alarm, I would suggest that the best chance we have of remedying this situation is to come together to craft a collective, direct, and simple appeal to the AVP to preserve these two sets of electives. I think individual departmental appeals would be far less effective.

I hope to hear from each of you by the end of the term. If I don't hear from you by the start of the Winter 2014 term, I will assume you have no interest in this suggestion.

Sincerely,
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Ite inflammate omnia
- St. Ignatius of Loyola

