Core Curriculum and the Library at Seton Hall

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Assuring Library Participation in Curriculum Evolution

Beth Bloom, May 28, 2004
Topics Covered

- Process of developing new Core at Seton Hall University: Stages of Development
  - Proficiencies
  - Issues
- Librarians’ role in the process
  - Arguments for inclusion
  - Best Practices
Initial Stages of Development

- Summer Seminar
- Extension of Idea to faculty and provost
- Proposal to Faculty Senate
- Election of Core Curriculum Committee
- Dreaming/Planning/Brainstorming
- Back to reality; how are we going to make this happen?
Intermediate Stages of Development I

- Planning to plan
- Looking for models
- Three Town Meetings of faculty and administrators
- Discussion and feedback
- Collating the results
- Planning the next steps

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Intermediate Stages of Development II

- Buy-in from faculty necessary
- Template for presentations to individual departments
- Assignments for each committee member
- Pre-visititation surveys
- Collection of data
- Presentations to departments (Spring 2003)
Intermediate Stages of Development III

- Digesting departmental reactions
- Development of workable models
- Discussion of practicalities
  - Cores of individual colleges
- Which model is best for Seton Hall?
- Choices made based on Seton Hall culture
Latter Stages of Development

● Decision to combine models
  Infusion of educational ideals throughout college experience?
  OR
  Design a few special courses that offer students a “Signature Experience”? 

● All of the above, guided by desired outcomes
Latter Stages of Development II

- Need to include various principles
  - Catholic
  - Global—move beyond Western culture
  - Diversity
  - Reaffirm the value of a liberal-arts education
Latter Stages of Development III

THE THREE COMPONENTS OF THE CORE:

- Odyssey of the Mind, Heart and Spirit (18 credit series plus a capstone)
- Universal Proficiencies
- Literacies and Methodologies
Proficiencies

- Reading and writing
- Speaking
- Critical thinking
- Information technology
- INFORMATION LITERACY!!!
Literacies and Methodologies

- Science
- Ethics
- Aesthetics
- Multicultural/Global/Historical Perspectives

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Issues

- Turf
- Implications of the need for change
- Politics
So, How Does the Library Fit in to the Picture?

- Librarians were part of the initial Catholic Studies Core Curriculum Study Group
- Librarians are members of the Faculty Senate Seton Hall
- Librarians were elected to the Core Curriculum Sub-Committee
- Librarians had designed and taught a course on Information Literacy at SHU

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So, How Does the Library Fit in to the Picture?

AND....

- The librarians were recipients of a Curriculum Development Initiative (CDI 4) grant
  - Librarians work with faculty
  - $75,000.
  - Develop online tutorials that address IL
The Arguments I

- Information Literacy must be an essential part of the Core Curriculum
  - ACRL standards for Information Literacy
  - Student behavior at the reference desk
  - Student behavior during classroom library instruction sessions
  - Poor quality of papers
  - Careless use of Internet resources
The Arguments II:

- Library Participation in IL Initiatives
  - Student Centeredness
  - Research Expertise
  - Pedagogical Materials
  - Collaboration
  - International Partnerships
  - Information Literacy center
  - Continuing education

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Core: Best Practices Using the Library

- University of Washington
- Earlham College
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute
- Indiana University – Purdue University at Indianapolis
- Evergreen State College
University of Washington

The UWIRED program

Faculty and librarians receive technology training and develop coursework that integrates this technology

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Earlham College

Assignments developed in collaboration between a teaching faculty member and Librarian.
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

College librarian program. Librarians set up offices in the colleges
Indiana University-Purdue at Indianapolis

Instructional teams approach.
Program within University college.

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Evergreen State College

- Interdisciplinary team based instructional model.
- Faculty and students study a single topic.

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What’s ahead?

Librarians are included in planning of the:

● Curriculum Development for the infusion of Universal Proficiencies
● Curriculum development for infusion of literacies and methodologies
And the Future?

- Librarians will be involved in training faculty to infuse information literacy into their new courses?
- Librarians will partner with teaching faculty to infuse information literacy into their new courses?
And the Future?

Information Literate Students

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References

- Seton Hall University Libraries

- ALA/ACRL IL Information