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.