

**From:** "Morgan, Jennifer K" <[jenny.morgan@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:jenny.morgan@austin.utexas.edu)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 22, 2017 at 10:33 AM  
**To:** Deborah L Roberts <[debbie.roberts@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:debbie.roberts@austin.utexas.edu)>,  
**CC:** Cervantes, Victoria E <[victoria.cervantes@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:victoria.cervantes@austin.utexas.edu)>; Friedman, Alan W <[friedman@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:friedman@austin.utexas.edu)>; Abraham, Larry <[l.abraham@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:l.abraham@austin.utexas.edu)>; Iverson, Brent L <[iversonb@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:iversonb@austin.utexas.edu)>  
**Subject:** FW: Core Curriculum Approved

Debbie,

We're having to treat this as final response, but because we heard from the THECB so late into the course schedule production process we were unable to remove the courses they did not approve. I would mark this as final action on this legislation received from the THECB knowing that some of these courses will come up again in this year's legislation to the FC. I know that the standard category is final approved, but because it was approved in pieces and we'll be taking the unapproved pieces forward in new legislation this year, it seems to make sense to broaden the final language used rather than to misrepresent the THECB response. I'm copying Brent and Larry on this in case they have more to add.

Jen

—

**JEN MORGAN**, Program Manager for the Core Curriculum  
The University of Texas at Austin | School of Undergraduate Studies | 512-471-9809

---

**From:** "Morgan, Jennifer K" <[jenny.morgan@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:jenny.morgan@austin.utexas.edu)>  
**Date:** Friday, March 17, 2017 at 8:32 AM  
**To:** Deborah L Roberts <[debbie.roberts@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:debbie.roberts@austin.utexas.edu)>, Victoria Cervantes <[victoria.cervantes@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:victoria.cervantes@austin.utexas.edu)>  
**Subject:** FW: Core Curriculum Approved

Debbie and Victoria,

As you can see from Larry's email below, we got bad news on the courses we submitted for approval to the coordinating board. I don't think there is anything to update on the Secretary's Report at this point because we are preparing a response to the board with a point by point rebuttal on the specific issues the staff had with particular courses. The core curriculum approval process set up by the board is designed for back and forth once the board has initially given a ruling so this is most definitely still pending the board. I'll keep you updated as things move along.

Jen

—

**JEN MORGAN**, Program Manager for the Core Curriculum  
The University of Texas at Austin | School of Undergraduate Studies | 512-471-9809

**From:** Lawrence Abraham <[l.abraham@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:l.abraham@austin.utexas.edu)>  
**Date:** Friday, March 17, 2017 at 6:59 AM  
**To:** "Provost, Executive V" <[provost@utexas.edu](mailto:provost@utexas.edu)>, "Dickens, Linda N" <[linda.dickens@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:linda.dickens@austin.utexas.edu)>, "Kerker, Richard M" <[mkerker@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:mkerker@austin.utexas.edu)>, "President Gregory L. Fenves" <[president@utexas.edu](mailto:president@utexas.edu)>, "[klemoine@utsystem.edu](mailto:klemoine@utsystem.edu)" <[klemoine@utsystem.edu](mailto:klemoine@utsystem.edu)>,

"Karoff, Rebecca" <[rkaroff@utsystem.edu](mailto:rkaroff@utsystem.edu)>, "Iverson, Brent L" <[iversonb@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:iversonb@austin.utexas.edu)>, "Stanfield, Shelby" <[s.stanfield@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:s.stanfield@austin.utexas.edu)>  
**Cc:** Jen Morgan <[jenny.morgan@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:jenny.morgan@austin.utexas.edu)>, Lydia A Cornell <[Lydia.Cornell@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:Lydia.Cornell@austin.utexas.edu)>, "srevisore@utsystem.edu" <[srevisore@utsystem.edu](mailto:srevisore@utsystem.edu)>, "Costello, Laura G" <[laura.costello@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:laura.costello@austin.utexas.edu)>, Brenda Schumann <[brenda.schumann@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:brenda.schumann@austin.utexas.edu)>  
**Subject:** Re: Core Curriculum Approved

Dear colleagues,

Despite the positive subject heading on this automated email message from the THECB, the details provided in the attached information sheet are very disappointing, as a large number of the courses we wish to have included in our core curriculum were not approved. The basis for these decisions is a continuation of a number of fundamental disagreements we have with the THECB staff overseeing the core curriculum. In some cases, the situation is less urgent, since their decision is to reverse previous approval of courses and they are allowing such courses to remain on our core list through the 2017-18 academic year. In other cases, they have chosen not to approve courses we have recently reviewed and approved; this notification of disapproval will prevent us from including these courses in our core curriculum unless we can provide additional documentation addressing their concerns. We shall work quickly to respond to the THECB staff concerns, but this may take a few days and we have no idea how soon they will respond.

This situation is very problematic for two reasons. First, the THECB staff predicted a one-month turnaround for their review, but we only received this response to our January 6 submission late last night, about 6 weeks later than we expected. Second, the Registrar's Office is about to publish the fall 2017 course schedule, and this disappointing message will make it nearly impossible for us to accurately indicate in that schedule whether the courses proposed but not yet approved will or will not count for core curriculum requirements. Clearly this will not allow students and advisors to take full advantage of the range of courses our institution wishes to have available to fulfill the core curriculum.

Our office will work with departments and instructors to prepare and submit additional documentation regarding specific concerns in cases where the THECB staff have indicated they saw insufficient documentation. In other cases our rebuttal will be based on principles, including our belief that the expected core knowledge and skills for core courses can be delivered in a rich variety of courses, including small classes as well as large, upper-division courses as well as lower-division, and in courses focusing on a few topics that allow greater depth of analysis in addition to the more traditional broad survey courses. We already have many examples of each of these constructs in our list of approved courses, and we firmly believe that these dimensions of how we deliver the state-mandated core curriculum represent important and distinct features of the UT Austin undergraduate experience. Allowing undergraduate students to pursue in-depth study in a wide range of topics, taught by distinguished scholars, while at the same time fulfilling all of the required core objectives, enriches the UT Austin curriculum in much the same way as our acclaimed Signature Courses do. We shall be working to continue our ability to include these sorts of courses in our approved core list as quickly as possible.

Thanks for your support!

Larry Abraham

Lawrence D. Abraham, EdD  
Associate Dean  
School of Undergraduate Studies  
The University of Texas at Austin

MAI 202  
110 Inner Campus Drive G8000  
Austin, TX 78712

Phone (512) 475-7000  
Fax (512) 475-7068

**From:** "[corecurriculum@theccb.state.tx.us](mailto:corecurriculum@theccb.state.tx.us)"

**Date:** Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 9:19 PM

**To:** "Provost, Executive V"

**Cc:** Larry Abraham, Jen Morgan, "Dickens, Linda N", "Kerker, Richard M", "[klemoine@utsystem.edu](mailto:klemoine@utsystem.edu)", "President Gregory L. Fenves", "[srevisore@utsystem.edu](mailto:srevisore@utsystem.edu)", Lydia A Cornell, "Costello, Laura G", "[rex.peebles@theccb.state.tx.us](mailto:rex.peebles@theccb.state.tx.us)", "[reinold.cornelius@theccb.state.tx.us](mailto:reinold.cornelius@theccb.state.tx.us)"

**Subject:** Core Curriculum Approved

*Sent on behalf of Rex Peebles, Assistant Commissioner, Academic Quality and Workforce Division, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board*

Thank you for submitting your institution's 2017 Core Curriculum and related documentation for Coordinating Board review. Staff have completed the review and your academic year 2017 Core Curriculum is provided as an attachment. If your institution submitted courses that were not approved, the attachment will also include a list of those courses. Within one month your institution may respond to the decision. No changes or alterations to the institution's 2017 Core Curriculum may be made after Coordinating Board staff reach closure following the institution's response.

The Coordinating Board's website (<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/TxCoreCurriculum>) provides a list of all institutions' approved core curricula at(<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/CoreCurriculumSearch>). Please note that your institution's core curriculum in effect prior to fall 2014 is still posted on the Texas General Education Core Web Center website (<http://statecore.its.txstate.edu>) through May 2019.

Coordinating Board rules, Chapter 4, Subchapter B, Section 4.31(2), state that an institution of higher education may revise its Core Curriculum on an annual basis. Institutions may submit a single comprehensive request once each academic year.

As you all know, Coordinating Board rules, Chapter 4, Subchapter B, Section 4.30 require institutions to complete an assessment of the core objectives on an ongoing basis, and report the results of their assessment to the Board every ten years, on a schedule aligned with accreditation reaffirmation.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Reinold Cornelius, Assistant Director, Undergraduate Education, ([Reinold.Cornelius@theccb.state.tx.us](mailto:Reinold.Cornelius@theccb.state.tx.us)).

Thank you for your continuing efforts to deliver high quality academic programs to your students.

Sincerely,

Rex Peebles