The Core Curriculum Subcommittee has met several times since December 2003 to resolve issues arising about the university core curriculum. As this academic year closes, the subcommittee has been unable to complete a proposal to present to the Curriculum Committee. The statements below represent those matters on which we agree so far.

1. The present core curriculum of the university meets the qualitative standards of the current SACS requirements and exceeds the 30-credit-hour standards by 3 credit hours. Requirements for the associate’s degree in the School of Aeronautics exceed the 15-credit-hour SACS standards by 12 credit hours. Our inclusion of a course in computer literacy satisfies a part of the SACS requirements other than the core. The university’s policy on transfer credit meets the SACS stipulation of having a rationale for course equivalency. A policy exists that “identifies competencies within the general education core”, and provides a mechanism to gather “evidence that graduates have attained those college-level competencies” [SACS language].

2. The subcommittee agrees that there should be no change in the part of the core dealing with mathematics (6 credit hours) and science courses (6 credit hours).

3. The subcommittee requests that the faculty of the Department of Humanities and Communication revise the mechanism for remediation of students with poor writing skills. A new approach should avoid enrollment in COM-0110 Basic Writing Skills for most students who are in need of remediation. The solution might be a course sequence that is parallel to COM-1101/1102 or the establishment of sections of COM-1101/1102 tailored to the needs of deficient students while maintaining standards of performance.

4. A full year of writing, as presently represented by COM-1101 and COM-1102, should remain part of the core curriculum. The primary goal in these courses needs to be the development of writing skills. The core should continue to require a third course in communications (COM)—one that is specified by each academic unit for its curricula or one that the unit leaves open for the student to elect.

5. The definitions for humanities and social science electives as found in the 2004–2005 university catalog should be revised to eliminate first-year foreign languages (LNG-1XXX). These courses would remain as liberal arts electives, and curricula may be revised to accommodate the desire of faculty to include the election of first-year foreign languages.

Matters that the subcommittee needs yet to address include the civilization sequence and possible inclusion of more content and courses about non-Western civilizations; evaluation of prerequisite designations for upper-division humanities courses; renumbering of some humanities courses based on prerequisites; use of MSC-4002 Military Science 4 as a humanities or social science elective. Much discussion has focused on increasing the flexibility in sequences of humanities courses.