MEMORANDUM

TO: President Ray M. Bowen
SUBJECT: Charge to Core Curriculum Review Committee

At its regular meeting on December 14, 1998, the Faculty Senate approved the following charge to the Core Curriculum Review Committee (which will be formed and approved at the January 20, 1999 Faculty Senate meeting). Attached is a copy of the charge as sent to senate members.

The Core Curriculum Review Committee is charged to study carefully the concept of a core curriculum and ultimately to develop a university undergraduate core curriculum designed to meet the current needs of A&M students and to be flexible enough to meet the developing and future needs of our students as well. The committee shall provide a clear rationale for the entire core as well as for the individual components of the proposed core.

Thank you for your consideration of this item. I would appreciate your informing me of your action on this recommendation.

Diane S. Kaplan
Speaker, 1998-99

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Ronald G. Douglas, Executive Vice President & Provost
       Dr. Janis Stout, Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost

Approved:

Ray M. Bowen, President

Date: 1/13/99
Charge to Core Curriculum Review Committee

December 14, 1998

The challenge today is to ensure that the Texas A&M University core curriculum requirement will expand the thinking of all Texas A&M students, providing them with the basic concepts, skills, research tools, and motivation to continue a life-long search for knowledge and wisdom, and opening their minds to the many areas of the past, the present, and the future that constitute the essence of the human experience.

The Charge: The Core Curriculum Review Committee is charged to study carefully the concept of a core curriculum and ultimately to develop a university undergraduate core curriculum designed to meet the current needs of A&M students and to be flexible enough to meet the developing and future needs of our students as well. The committee shall provide a clear rationale for the entire core as well as for the individual components of the proposed core.

In reviewing the Texas A&M University Undergraduate Core Curriculum, committee members are requested to thoroughly study background information on the development of a core curriculum. At a minimum the study should include the following:

1. A thorough examination of the development of the original core curriculum;

2. An examination of the relevant sections in the 1991 report of the Task Force on the Multiple Missions of Texas A&M University, including Section VII entitled “Core Curriculum and Coordinated Curricular Programming” and Recommendation 6, to be found in the final list of the recommendations for the entire report;

3. An examination of the final report from the Core Curriculum Assessment Study Group prepared in 1992;

4. An examination of and incorporation of the Higher Education Coordinating Board Report on the statewide core curriculum, including the background information prepared by the Texas Core Curriculum Advisory Committee;

5. An examination of core curricula at the institutions of higher learning that are reputed to have the best undergraduate academic programs;

6. Testimony from AOC undergraduate deans as to the effectiveness of the current core;

7. Testimony from departments and colleges currently offering core courses;

8. Testimony from departments and colleges not offering core courses; and

9. Testimony from current students as well as graduates of our undergraduate program.
December 15, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: President Ray M. Bowen

SUBJECT: Core Curriculum Review Committee

At its regular meeting on February 8, 1999, the Faculty Senate approved the following revised charge to the Core Curriculum Review Committee.

Attached for your information is a copy of the revised charge, as well as the list of the committee members.

Diane S. Kaplan
Speaker, 1998-99

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Ronald G. Douglas, Executive Vice President & Provost
    Dr. Janis Stout, Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost
Nominees for the Core Curriculum Review Committee  
(revised)  
February 8, 1999

PAUL PARRISH, CHAIR

1. College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
   Doug Slack, WFSC  
   Charles Kenerley, PLPA

2. College of Architecture
   Nancy Volkman, LAND  
   Thomas McKittrick, ARCH

3. Lowry Mays College & Graduate  
   School of Business
   Carlton Stolle, ACCT

4. College of Education
   Emma Gibbons, HLKN  
   Carol Stuessy, EDCI

5. Dwight Look College of Engineering
   Richard Feldman, INEN  
   Louis Everett, MEEN

6. Galveston Campus  
   Thomas Johnson, GACD

7. College of Geosciences
   Dennis Driscoll, METR  
   Rick Carlson, GEPL

8. College of Liberal Arts
   Dennis Berthold, ENGL  
   Susan Kelly, THAR

9. Sterling C. Evans Library
   Don Dyal, LIB

10. College of Science
    Doug Hensley, MATH  
    Marvin Rowe, CHEM

11. College of Veterinary Medicine
    Deborah Kochevar, VTPP  
    Roger Smith III, VTPB
Charge to Core Curriculum Review Committee  
(revised)  
February 8, 1999

Members of the Core Curriculum Review Committee are hereby appointed by the Faculty Senate to begin work as of February 15, 1999, and to continue their work until such time as they have fulfilled their duties as described in this charge and have brought their report to the Faculty Senate for approval.

The challenge today is to ensure that the Texas A&M University core curriculum requirement will expand the thinking of all Texas A&M students, providing them with the basic concepts, skills, research tools, and motivation to continue a life-long search for knowledge and wisdom, and opening their minds to the many areas of the past, the present, and the future that constitute the essence of the human experience.

The Charge:  The Core Curriculum Review Committee is charged to study carefully the concept of a core curriculum and ultimately to develop a university undergraduate core curriculum designed to meet the current needs of Texas A&M students and to be flexible enough to meet the developing and future needs of our students as well. The committee shall provide a clear rationale for the entire core as well as for the individual components of the proposed core.

The Committee shall also develop an assessment procedure or series of procedures to determine the degree to which the core curricula needs of undergraduate students are in fact being met. The committee shall also suggest a procedure for periodic review and revision of the University core curriculum.

In reviewing the Texas A&M University undergraduate core curriculum, committee members are requested to thoroughly study background information on the development of a core curriculum. At a minimum the study should include the following:

1. A thorough examination of the development of the original core curriculum;

2. An examination of the relevant sections in the 1991 report of the Task Force on the Multiple Missions of Texas A&M University, including Section VII entitled “Core Curriculum and Coordinated Curricular Programming” and Recommendation 6, to be found in the final list of the recommendations for the entire report;

3. An examination of the final report from the Core Curriculum Assessment Study Group prepared in 1992;

4. An examination of and incorporation of the Higher Education Coordinating Board Report on the statewide core curriculum, including the background information prepared by the Texas Core Curriculum Advisory Committee;

5. An examination of core curricula at the institutions of higher learning that are reputed to have the best undergraduate academic programs;

6. Testimony from AOC undergraduate deans as to the effectiveness of the current core;

7. Testimony from departments and colleges currently offering core courses;

8. Testimony from departments and colleges not offering core courses; and

9. Testimony from current students as well as graduates of our undergraduate program.