Proposal 3 for Revised College of Arts and Sciences Core

Preamble
This proposal embodies significant change along with a revitalized nomenclature, yet it still fulfills the basic requirement of a core: a broad introduction for students in each general discipline of sciences, humanities, and arts. This proposal, however, also enables students to gain more in-depth knowledge in at least one discipline besides their major by integrating the option of a minor as part of the core requirement. It empowers students to make choices and put together, in consultation with their major adviser, a cohesive undergraduate experience, rather than requiring them to fulfill a series of unrelated distribution requirements.

How it Works
In addition to the University core, a major, and the existing B.A./B.S. language requirements, students will take three “Cognates,” one from each general disciplinary category—Math and Sciences / Social Sciences / Arts and Humanities. Students will also choose, in consultation with their major adviser, at least one of each of the credit-levels for each of their Cognates: Experience, Appreciation, or Immersion. No courses in any Cognate may overlap with courses in the student’s major.

To see the total credit breakdown for each major, we urge you to consult the spreadsheet which allows manipulation of the cognate levels (in yellow boxes) to see exactly how this proposed core could work in concert with your department’s major.

Cognates
Math and Sciences Experience – 6 credits
Math and Sciences Appreciation Cognate – 16 credits
Math and Sciences Immersion Cognate – 36 credits

Arts and Humanities Experience Cognate – 9 credits
Arts and Humanities Appreciation Cognate – 15 credits
Arts and Humanities Immersion Cognate – complete a minor in any Art or Humanities dept.

Social Science Experience Cognate – 9 credits
Social Science Appreciation Cognate – 15 credits
Social Science Immersion Cognate – complete a minor in any Social Science dept.
Rationale
In its simplicity, elegance, and innovative conceptualization, this core will have great appeal for our students and their parents. Since we now require our students to complete a University core, a college core that enables them to make choices and construct their own cohesive undergraduate experience will attract students to Seton Hall and to major in our College. At the same time that this core meets the goal of graduating broadly educated and well-rounded citizens through requiring credits in each general disciplinary cognate, it also encourages the development of more in-depth experience through the requirement of at least one Immersion cognate (minor). Not only can students create an individualized program in which a chosen Immersion cognate can complement their major, but departments can recommend, suggest, or even require Experience/Appreciation/ Immersion combinations tailored specifically for their majors. This will result in a more cohesive, focused and directed undergraduate educational experience that will better prepare our students for their future careers.

For Example
Here are some examples of possible Arts and Humanities Cognates and Social Science Cognates. *These are samples only*. Should the general outlines of this proposal be chosen, actual Cognates could be constructed by this Ad Hoc Committee in concert with chairs of departments, or by committees elected for that purpose. While not necessitating a wholesale revision of our current introductory courses, this proposal encourages interdepartmental cooperation in constructing interdisciplinary cognates. Immersion cognates would be constructed out of our existing 18-credit minors and any new or revised minors proposed by departments.

**SAMPLE ARTS AND HUMANITIES EXPERIENCE COGNATE** – choose 3 for 9 CREDITS

- HIST 1201 or HIST 1202 Western Civilization I-II
- ENGL 2101 or ENGL 2102 Great Books I-II
- PHIL 1101 Introduction to Philosophy or PHIL 1102 Philosophy and the Classical Mind
- ARTH 1101 Art of the Western World or MUHI 1102 Music and Civilization
- COST 1600 Oral Communications or COMM 1670 Intro to Communication Theory

**SAMPLE ARTS AND HUMANITIES APPRECIATION COGNATES** – 15 CREDITS

**AMERICAN** Choose 5 courses:

- HIST 1301 or 1302 American History I-II
- ENGL 2103 or 2104 American Literature I-II
- AFAM 1213 or 1214 African American History I-II
ARTH 1107 American Art or MUHI 1108 Music of America

COJR 2431 American Journalism or COBF 2231 Electronic Age in America

**WESTERN**  Choose 5 courses:

- HIST 1201 or 1202 Western Civilization I-II
- ENGL 2101 or ENGL 2102 Great Books I-II
- CLAS 2301 or 2301 Classical Epic/Greek & Roman Drama
- PHIL 1102 or 1103 Philosophy and the Classical Mind/Philosophy and Modern Mind
- ARTH 1101 Art of the Western World or MUHI 1102 Music and Civilization

**WORLD**  Choose 5 courses:

- HIST 1101 or HIST 1102 World History I-II
- IDIS 1101 or 1102 Traditional Cultures of the Non-Western World I-II
- AFAM 1201 or 1202 History of African Civilization I-II
- ASIA 1601 or 1602 History of Traditional Asia/History of Modern Asia
- RELS 1402 or RELS 1403 World Religions/History of Asian Religious Reflections

**SAMPLE SOCIAL SCIENCE EXPERIENCE COGNATE – 9 credits**

- SOCI 1101 Understanding Society
- PSYCH 1101 Introduction to Psychology
- POLS 1211 United States Politics or POLS 1401 Western Political Thought

**SAMPLE SOCIAL SCIENCE APPRECIATION COGNATES – 15 credits**

**SOCIAL SCIENCE**  Choose 4:

- SOCI 2601 Social Problems and/or SOCI 2701 Social Change
- ANTH 1201 Physical Anthropology and/or ANTH 1202 Cultural Anthropology
- SOWK 2201 Social Problems and Programs and/or SOWK 2301 Social Policy and Analysis
PSYCH 1212 Child Psychology and/or PSYCH 1213 Adolescent Psychology

Plus 1 upper-level elective in Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology, or Social Work

POLITICAL SCIENCE    Choose 4:

POLS 1211 United States Politics and/or POLS 1611 Comparative Politics

ECON 1411 Introduction to Economics and/or SOWK Introduction to Social Work

PSYCH 2216 Social Psychology and/or SOCI 2513 Social Inequality

AFAM 2313 Black Politics and/or WMST Women, Gender and Society

Plus 1 upper-level elective in the Political Science, Sociology, Psychology, or Social Work