

ACU Graduate Council
November 13, 2018
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
CBS Dean's Conference Room

Present: D. Snider, K. Witemeyer, L. Lemley, H. Martin, D. Walls, S. Jones, M. Long, T. Sensing, L. Merchant, C. Flanagan, A. Huddleston, T. Womble, J. Neill, M. Scott

Absent: D. Barnett, J. Cardot

Ex-officios: J. Weaver (G. Straughn, B. Crisp, K. Cukrowski, B. Hammack, J. Shewmaker – not in attendance)

Guests: M. McMillan, C. Hutson, D. Pemberton, C. Riley, J. Smith, E. Gumm

The meeting began at 11:52 a.m.

- I. Approval of the minutes from 5.8.18

Motion to approve the minutes by S. Jones; M. Long seconded; all in favor. Motion passes.

Business Items:

- II. Ex-Officio member needed for UUAC

J. Smith – This is an informational role so that grad council is informed on undergrad policies – especially pertinent for integrated programs. C. Flanagan – Can you clarify UUAC vs. UGEG? J. Smith – UGEC deals with general education information like university requirements. UUAC deals with changes to any undergraduate programs.

Melissa Long volunteers.

- III. GST Voting Privileges on Grad Council

T. Sensing – Since grad council no longer votes on GST matters, it made sense to keep us from voting on curricular items. However, we would like to vote on policy items since those affect our programs. D. Snider – There is nothing in the handbook to prohibit GST from voting on policy issues, so we will operate under this policy moving forward. GST can vote on graduate policy issues.

- IV. Revised GST Policy on Provisional Admission

D. Snider – This is an internal process to address equivalency. T. Sensing – We wrote a policy to define equivalency for our programs. R. Rhodes read it as well.

We are accepting equivalent bachelor degrees from two specific schools in order to increase enrollment opportunities for Hispanic students. There is no change to catalog information. This is an internal policy only. ATS will only allow us to utilize this equivalency for up to 15% of our admission population per degree. Students under this will be considered provisional admits. At the most, there would be 4-5 students per enrollment period. This is only for formational degrees, not the academic degrees.

Information Items:

V. GST – Change Subject Code of BMIS 621 to BIBM 621

T. Sensing – This is changing ownership of the course. We are offering this course to more than just missions students. None of the missions students were actually taking it, so making it a ministry course makes sense.

VI. GST – Revise MACM – Change BIBD 660 Requirement to a BIBD Elective

T. Sensing – We had too many substitutions for students. So we made this a more general elective. E. Gumm – Do you want this to be retroactive? T. Sensing – For Dallas, if we take it back to the 2014-15 catalog that should cover everyone.

VII. GST – New Program – MATS: Master of Arts in Theological Studies

T. Sensing – We now have the option of a 36-hour program under our accreditor, so this new degree is in response to that opening. This is not for ministry professionals. It is geared toward lay persons who want to deepen their ministry understanding such as elders, Bible class teachers, etc. This does not require residency like the MACM. We are not creating new courses, so this is not a substantive change. We have sent in an application to ATS to be approved. Once approval is gained, we can add it to the catalog. This will be a fully online program. J. Weaver – Are the courses already available online? T. Sensing – Yes.

VIII. ENGL 652 – Change Course Term

T. Womble – It makes more sense to have this course in the spring. We've always offered this in the fall, but students don't teach it as GA's until the following fall. This will eliminate the long wait between learning and teaching.

Action Items:

IX. Graduate Academic Probation & Suspension Catalog Policy Revision

D. Snider – We went over this in the program director's meeting. The registrar's office is going to be taking over all graduate registrar functions, so we need to

clean up the policy. E. Gumm – This is the same proposal that came to program directors with a clarification of a 3.0 cumulative GPA and changing the he/she language. J. Neill – Is this policy only for residential or does it affect Dallas as well? E. Gumm – The difference for Dallas is primarily the process piece. They have different parts of term (Fall 1, Fall 2). The standards are the same, however, for the online program. If your program has a higher standard, we refer to that. This is simply a minimum threshold. M. Long – The second sentence, does that refer to a 3.0 in the previous semester, or a cumulative GPA? E. Gumm – I would be happy to add the word cumulative. L. Merchant – Could that affect a student who might get a 4.0 GPA in a semester and still be unable to pull up their cumulative to the minimum requirement? E. Gumm – That happens. We would suspend a student, then they could appeal. The suspension appeals committee is usually generous in those situations. L. Lemley – I like cumulative. E. Gumm – Cumulative is easier to enforce. Banner will not enforce your specific program's criteria. It will only enforce this minimum requirement. H. Martin – Cumulative is good for accrediting bodies.

Motion to approve with the addition of the word cumulative in the second sentence by H. Martin; seconded by S. Jones; all in favor. Motion passes.

X. MAT – Master of Athletic Training, Revised GPA Admission Requirement

M. Long – Currently we require a GPA of 3.2 for admission. When we first came up with that standard, we were one of the first programs developing a master's degree. We had no one to benchmark against. Now that other programs in Texas are up and running or in development, we examined their requirements and found that we are higher than our competitors. This hurts our ability to recruit students into our program. We would like to change our overall requirement to a 3.0 GPA. I don't want to discourage applicants. We would like this retroactive to the 2018-19 catalog year. H. Martin – Do you have to make a substantive change for your accreditor? M. Long – No. Since we haven't had our site visit yet.

Motion to approve by M. Scott; seconded by C. Flanagan; all in favor. Motion passes.

XI. KATP – Pre-Athletic Training Integrated Program, Revision of Admission Requirements (when a student passes from undergraduate to graduate coursework)

M. Long – We have a wonderful number of students involved in this program. When we first proposed this program, our language was a little ambiguous. We are tightening up and clarifying the requirements. This will make it easier to enforce. D. Snider – How many students do you have in the program? M. Long – It's currently around 30. C. Flanagan – Where does the 104 hours comes from?

M. Long – It was a SACS requirement to have enough hours to complete both undergrad and grad degrees.

Motion to approve by J. Neill; seconded by A. Huddleston; all in favor. Motion passes.

XII. MA-ENGL – Close Tracks and Restructure MA in English Program

D. Snider – The master's degree in English is suffering from a lack of enrollment. This addresses that. T. Womble – Historically, we've had three different tracks. As a department, we've decided it would be better to have one set generalist program since generalist degrees are the norm in our field. We will move to a cohort model. This will cut down on the number of courses needing to be taught each semester. Students will still have room for some choices, but this will be much more streamlined. The disadvantages of having tracks weren't worth the few advantages they offered. We are emphasizing our study abroad program for grad students. D. Snider – And you use GA's a lot to teach, right? So that helps reduce faculty load on the undergraduate side, as well, if we have more students enrolled. T. Womble – That's correct. It gives students skills for professional teaching, running a writing center, or moving on to a PhD program. E. Gumm – Do you have a teach-out plan for your current students? T. Womble – Yes. We can teach them out with their current model. H. Martin – What are you shooting for with enrollment? T. Womble – We are looking for 5-7 students per cohort. There is so much one-on-one mentorship and teaching responsibility, we couldn't handle too many more than that.

Motion to approve by D. Walls; seconded by L. Lemley; all in favor. Motion passes.

Meeting ended at 12:50 p.m.