

ACU Graduate Council
April 14, 2020
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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

Absent:

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

Guests: D. Kennamer, J. Smith, C. Candler, M. Beard, E. Gumm

The meeting began at 11:32 a.m.

I. Approval of the minutes from 2.11.20

S. Jones - ACEND needs to be corrected. There is no S.

Motion to approve the minutes with the correction to ACEND by T. Womble; seconded by A. Huddleston; all in favor. Motion passes.

Business Items:

- II. 2020-2021 Graduate Council Dates
- III. 2020-2021 Graduate Council Members
- IV. SACS Approval of OTD

Information Items:

- V. Policy Revision for Catalog
- VI. OCCT 690 & 695 – Revise Titles
- VII. OCCT 635 – Revise Description, Add OCCT 636 as Corequisite
- VIII. SOCI 542 – Revise Title, Description, and Content

Action Items:

- IX. MACC 642 – New Course

J. Neill – We have taught this course twice before as special topics and part of a study abroad program. We are proposing this as a summer course. While well-suited for study abroad with its focus on international issues, it doesn't have to be part of a study abroad

program. It is a hybrid course. The students studying abroad did the online portion in Abilene then did the face-to-face in the international setting. S. Jones – I think this is a great course, but I noticed in the syllabus in the competencies, you list homework, but you don't list homework as part of the grading system. J. Neill – That's a good point, I'm not sure how points were assigned for homework. S. Jones – Just so the students understand.

X. MACC 634 – New Course

J. Neill – This is Accounting Analytics. We taught it last fall as a special topics course. We plan to offer it every fall. Our visiting committee said our program lacked an analytics component. This is our attempt to meet that need. Students like the course and believe it will be very relevant for them moving forward. J. Smith – For students not in the integrated program, how will they meet the prerequisites if they did not do their work at ACU? J. Neill – 95% of our students are from ACU. For those who did not attend ACU, those are pretty standard courses that any bachelor's program should contain. Anyone we admit from outside ACU should be able to meet the prerequisites. It is more of a gate to keep our integrated students from taking this course too early.

XI. Master of Accountancy – Revision of Major

J. Neill – In our master's program, there are 3 required courses that every student has to take. Then there is a menu of 8 courses where the students select 5. These new courses will be added to this menu to provide more flexibility for students. J. Cardot – If the analytics course is considered critical, why would it not be required? J. Neill – That is the way things seem to be moving, but I would say that through the advising process, most of the students will take it. I will keep that in mind and consider revising the curriculum later to make this required.

Motion to approve items IX-XI by J. Cardot; seconded by C. Flanagan; all in favor. Motion passes.

XII. OCCT 636 – New Course

See explanation in the revision of major section (item XVIII) for items XII-XVI.

XIII. OCCT 638 – New Course

XIV. OCCT 639 – Reduce Hours from 6 to 4, Add OCCT 638 as Corequisite

XV. OCCT 662 – New Course

XVI. OCCT 661 – Reduce Hours from 4 to 2, Add OCCT 662 as Corequisite

XVII. OCCT 715 – New Course

C. Candler – This is related to our revision of major. This focuses on statistics. There is a research section in the new OTD program. Our experience was that this was too intense for the master's program. We want our MSOT students to *use* research not *generate* research. We will leave the research generating to the doctoral students. To do that, we wanted to add another course. OCCT 715 will address statistics and outcome measures. S. Jones – So this course will also be in the MSOT program? C. Candler – Yes, but the OTD students will take the additional courses we are removing from the MSOT program that focus on research generation.

XVIII. MSOT – Revision of Major

C. Candler – The overall changes are more complex on paper than they are in reality. To be more efficient, we are separating courses into lab and lecture components instead of combining them in a single course as they are currently built. We couldn't get good evaluations on say, lab skills, separate from the lecture portion. We needed to separate content *understanding* from content *application* in order to properly evaluate our students' progress. The separate lab and lecture components will be corequisites in the new format. Making those changes required shifting course hours and creating new courses to serve as corequisites. We will also be removing the research-generating courses out of the MSOT, leaving those for the OTD program. We did get approval to apply for candidacy for OTD and to enroll new students in fall 2021.

C. Candler – We are changing our admission requirement from 3.2 to 3.0 GPA. This will put us more in line with our competitor institutions.

Motion to approve items XII–XVII by J. Neill; seconded by L. Merchant; all in favor. Motion passes.

XIX. PSYC 652 – New Course

C. Flanagan- This is a new ethics course. We have one, but the licensing board has requested that we have two separate courses in ethics. One focuses more on ethics in code and legal issues. The other is more philosophical and covers professional identity. We have done due diligence to make sure we are not overlapping in content. Our clinical psychology students can take it as an elective, but they probably won't. This is for our counseling students. Our LPC-bound students are advised into the courses required for Texas, but requirements vary from state to state, so they are considered electives.

Motion to approve by L. Merchant; seconded by M. Long; all in favor. Motion passes.

XX. Allow Departments to Waive GRE Requirements for 2020-2021

T. Womble – I have heard from admissions about how ACT/SAT exams are being cancelled due to the pandemic. Our graduate students would usually be taking the GRE right now, so I raised a concern about our upcoming admission pool for graduate programs. Many of the top-notch programs don't require the GRE anyway, and we are moving that direction. I have not heard from specific students, however. D. Snider – This is a department-level waiver. It is not to change our overall admission policy. We are considering it at this council because Dr. Lewis wants to have documentation for SACS consideration. J. Smith – Is GRE the only exam represented among entrance requirements? J. Neill – We don't require any exam for ACU integrated students. Non-ACU students are required to take the GRE or GMAT. J. Smith – Should we revise this to include other exams, such as the GMAT? C. Flanagan – International students take TOEFL, but I can't imagine waiving that. J. Cardot – Back in the 1980's we had many problems with international student being admitted without demonstrating English language proficiency. I would suggest not waiving the TOEFL.

Motion to approve with the addition of GMAT by C. Flanagan; seconded by M. Scott; all in favor. Motion passes.

XXI. Catalog Policy – Remove General Graduate Outcomes

J. Smith – These graduate outcomes first appeared in 2000-2001 which suggests we added them prior to a SACS visit to make them parallel with undergrad and grad programs. We measure those outcomes based on the undergrad general university requirements. Those don't fit for graduate programs since there is no general education for graduate programs. While these are important conceptual goals for graduate education, they don't apply to all programs and are hard to measure. What is more important is the individual program outcomes. If these general outcomes are on the books, people will expect us to measure them. As we approach our next SACS visit, we wanted to address this. D. Snider – At our last program directors meeting the consensus was that no one was using them. So it makes sense to remove them from the catalog.

Motion to approve by S. Jones; seconded by D. Walls; all in favor. Motion passes.

Meeting ended at 12:24 p.m.