

ACU Graduate Council
October 26, 2021
11:00 p.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present: W. Carroll K. Witemeyer, D. Walls, D. Barnett, L. Lemley, S. Jones, M. Long, J. Neill, L. Merchant, D. Mayhall, J. Cardot, C. Flanagan

Absent: M. Scott, T. Womble, T. Sensing

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

Guests: C. Buck, J. Smith, C. Riley, E. Gumm, D. Kennamer

The meeting began at 11:03 a.m.

Action Item:

I. New Program – Master's of Science in Strength, Conditioning, and Human Performance

M. Long – This will be a residential master's degree. We started talking about this program about three years ago. It is a great fit for our university. We have everything on the undergrad side to lead to this and keep our students on campus. This is a 36-hour program. Six hours are experiential learning. The two internship courses will total 640 hours of hands-on experience in facilities. We have room to grow in partnership with the other universities in Abilene. We have great staff who are excited about having this program. Many of these types of programs are offered online, and every one of them that I called, told me that it really needs to be a residential program. Students need the hands-on training in facilities. We have the opportunity to do that here. Our graduates will be prepared to sit for two different licensure exams. We will be the first academic program to offer enough hours under an approved mentor for students to be qualified to sit for both exams. We have an approved mentor on our staff already here at ACU. He is excited about the program and wants to help our students. The curriculum has five courses that already exist. We will need to develop seven new courses that will come through council for approval. They will come through the Kinesiology Department but they will be focused on training students for those licensure exams.

L. Merchant – Where will the internships happen? M. Long – At the beginning, they will be here at ACU. As we grow, we can use HSU, MCM, and Hendrick facilities. We have great community resources. D. Walls – You talk about targeting student athletes who want to stay for another year of eligibility. Will they stay to complete the program after their eligibility is over? M. Long – We have 24 student athletes who are taking graduate classes through ACU Dallas right now. This time next year we will have 42. At least four

of them are interested in residential programs. We have front-loaded our program so that all they really have left after that first year is their internships, so hopefully that will encourage them to stay around. We also plan a lot of faculty mentorship to help them stay engaged.

L. Merchant – What are they doing at ACU Dallas that interests them? M. Long – Some of it is kind of random. W. Carroll – If we pull students from ACU Dallas, is this a net gain for us? Consensus seems to be that we serve the student better if they are engaged in a program that interests them since they will be more likely to complete. E. Gumm – The certificate is attainable for them in the single year that they are here, so many choose that option at Dallas. Completion is definitely something we want to aim for. Having them in a program they select because of personal interest instead of convenience could work well in achieving that completion status. L. Merchant – Could students come in to this program who did not have a background in this area? M. Long – There are some specific prerequisites they would have to complete. These are required for sitting for the licensure exams.

Motion to approve by L. Merchant; seconded by J. Neill; 9 in favor, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

Meeting ended at 11:21 a.m.