

**ACU Graduate Council**  
**February 14, 2023**  
**11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
**CBS Dean's Conference Room**

Present: W. Carroll K. Witemeyer, M. Long, D. Barnett, W. Crawford, T. Winter, L. Merchant, L. Lancaster, J. Cardot, D. Walls, D. Andreas, A. Huddleston, J. Neill

Absent: C. Flanagan, T. Womble

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

Guests: R. Scott, K. Jang, D. Kennamer, E. Gumm, J. Smith

The meeting began at 11:49 a.m.

- Prayer by - W. Carroll
- Announcements - Welcome to Dorothy Andreas as a new council member representing Communication
- Approval of the minutes from 11/8/22

**Motion to approve the minutes by W. Carroll; seconded by D. Walls; all in favor. Motion passes.**

*Information Items:*

1. EDUC 697 – Revise Course Description

A Huddleston - We added this onto our degree a year or so ago. We will be teaching it for the first time this summer. We have a new faculty member who will be teaching it. We wanted to broaden the scope of the description to be more accurate. No change to the content.

2. BMFT 634 & BMFT 663 – Change Course Terms

L. Merchant - Our students have requested to change the order of these courses, focusing on our diversity course first. The faculty agreed with their proposition and are changing the order that these will be taken.

*GST Information Items:*

3. BIBM 725 – Revise Title
4. BIBD 631 – New Course – Historical Theology
5. BIBM 753 – New Course – Contextual Analysis in Practice
6. MDVM – Revision to Major – Add BIBH 760, Remove BMIS 673, 675

7. DMin – Revision to Major – Remove BIBM 716, 724, 726; Add BIBM 753, 725

W. Crawford - We are changing the title to alter the language of *thesis* to *dissertation*. We have two new courses. BIBD 631 will be an elective course. It has been taught three times in the past as special topics. BIBM 753 will be part of the DMin degree plan. In the MDiv Missions program, we are removing BMIS 673 and 675 and adding BIBH 760. We haven't taught these BMIS courses in several years. We are updating the DMin as well. BIBM 753 our new course will be added here. These changes work better with our faculty load. E. Gumm - Is there a plan to update the name of BIBM 799 from *thesis* to *dissertation* as well? W. Crawford - There is a plan in place, yes.

*Action Items:*

8. SOCW 798 – New Course – Applied Research Project

W. Carroll - This is the high mark of their recruiting season, so they are eager to have these changes approved. Our work is both to support our colleagues as well as ensuring the effectiveness of that work. We have had significant conversations with the program director.

T. Winter - When this program was started, it was envisioned as a thesis program. However, early on, we had the option of either project or thesis. We had serious issues with the quality of the projects. In order to address the competency issues of our students, we stopped offering the project course. As we have moved forward, we have encountered several issues with the thesis. One is the availability of faculty as well as the requirements from the Office of Graduate Programs. Students are frightened by the thesis. We would like to move back to the original intent of having a project course option. In the past, it was a single, repeatable course taken twice for a total of 6 hours just like the thesis course. We have worked through the competencies from our accreditor and have redesigned the old course to establish quality control. The course takes the students through a learning experience regarding formal research. It is designed to be a continuous two-semester sequence. We believe it honors our accreditation concerns and should give our students more flexibility and less anxiety.

L. Merchant - Will the final project still be a written document? T. Winter - Yes. It can be a journal-type article. L. Merchant - Will these be individual projects? T. Winter - Yes. A. Huddleston - Are they required to submit to the journal they target? T. Winter - No. But we will encourage them to submit. A. Huddleston - This is similar to what we do. What we've learned is that if the students do not submit before they graduate, the likelihood of them submitting after graduation plummets. To try to increase submissions, we have offered class time as a publication workshop. There is also an Alpha Kai conference that allows students to submit.

W. Carroll - I have a concern about students who might leave in the spring and come back in the fall and try to take the same fall version of the course. T. Winter - We expect this to be done in sequence with their spring courses. So the student would have to wait until spring. We are aware of those issues. We are looking at adding a second cohort

sometime in the future that could start in the spring. It is a challenge in working with an agency for spring starts, so we are still investigating that option. J. Smith - Having this as two courses with separate prerequisites might be better. There are 9 different outcomes that change from one semester to the next, so the first 3 hours are different than the second 3 hours. L. Merchant - Is this a class class? T. Winter - Yes, it will meet in an experiential learning course. They will meet with a faculty member. L. Merchant - If it was like thesis where students are doing their own thing, it would work with one course number, but as a class, it seems better as two courses. E. Gumm - It is clearer to track for students if there is an Applied Research I and II. This would clarify greatly for students. J. Smith - Having different numbers will help students know which section to enroll in. J. Cardot - If you reach the point of rolling enrollment for fall and spring, you would need additional time and instructors, correct? T. Winter - We would need new faculty, yes. J. Cardot - Where is the hesitance for having two courses? T. Winter - We already had a course that worked in the past with one course, so we decided to bring it forward in the same way. E. Gumm - So can we copy and paste the first half of the application for one course and the second half for a second course and use SOCW 796 and 797 as course numbers? Since 798 was used in the past, using 796 and 797 would be best. T. Winter - Yes.

T. Winter - The course grade will mark the final project completion. There won't be a project completion separate from that.

#### 9. MSSW – Revisions to Major – Add SOCW 798 Option & Remove Sequencing

T. Winter - Instead of taking thesis only in fall and spring, they will have the option of doing the applied research course instead.

W. Carroll - There is one MSSW degree, but it is listed in the catalog in several ways. Students coming in with a Social Work degree will move to the Advanced Standing track. The catalog is more concerned with the requirements, not the sequencing. That is why we are recommending removing the sequencing and the part-time/full-time descriptions. L. Merchant - I like the changes to the catalog presentation. I think simplifying will add clarity.

**Motion to approve items 8-9 with the change that the course be divided into 796 (I) and 797 (II) with division of outcomes as indicated in the proposal with first semester and second semester and that the degree plan replace SOCW 798 with the combination of 796 and 797 by L. Merchant; seconded by J. Cardot; all in favor. Motion passes.**

Meeting ended at 12:46 p.m.