

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

Present: W. Carroll K. Witemeyer, M. Long, D. Walls, J. Cardot, D. Barnett, D. Perkins, L. Merchant, A. Huddleston, W. Crawford, C. Flanagan, K. Jang

Absent: T. Womble, D. Andreas

Guests: None.

The meeting began at 11:54 a.m.

- Prayer by W. Carroll
- Approval of the minutes from 4/11/23

W. Carroll - We need to add an addendum to the minutes to reflect the general consent passed at the September 12, 2023 Program Directors meeting where we accepted the new institutional approval chart.

Minutes passed as general consent with the addition of the addendum mentioned above.

Information Items:

1. BMIS 616 – Change Course Term
2. KINE 604 – Revise Course Description
3. KINE 605 – Revise Course Description
4. MATP 613 – Revise Course Description and Remove Corequisite

M. Long - KINE 604 & 605 the hours should be based on their mentor not on what is listed in the catalog description. MATP 613 - Strength and Conditioning students do not need the lab. Athletic Training students will continue to take the lab, but removing the corequisite helps the Strength and Conditioning students.

Action Items:

5. MAcc – Revise Admission Requirements

D. Perkins - The admission requirement is 3.00 GPA. Many students start this program before they complete their undergraduate degree. ACCT 499, an internship course, can artificially inflate the GPA, so we would like to remove that from the calculation for admission to the MAcc. J. Cardot - How many courses are used for the GPA? D. Perkins - We have 30 accounting hours. J. Cardot - So you are thinking that one of 10 courses will inflate the GPA too much? D. Perkins - We considered raising the GPA to require B's

in certain courses. I'm not sure this change will make a big impact, but it allows us to have a better conversation with the students who might not yet be ready. W. Carroll - Have you had a problem with this in the past? D. Perkins - I've had some conversations that would have been much easier if I could point to this policy.

Motion to approve by D. Barnett; seconded by M. Long; all in favor. Motion passes.

6. BMFT 628 – New Course – Introduction to Equine Assisted Psychotherapy

L. Merchant - Steve Eller has taught this course twice at the undergraduate level as a special topics course. We would like to include graduate students. Half the class is spent in lecture, half the course is conducted at the farm with the horses. The undergraduate course has already been approved by council. The graduate course will have some different readings and assignments. We use Psychotherapy in the name because it is the language used in the textbook as well as for the certification. D. Perkins - Is this for intellectually disabled students? L. Merchant - It doesn't have to be. It can be used with any therapy. D. Perkins - My daughter participated in equine therapy many years ago. I would love to see some kind of partnership with the state school. L. Merchant - It might create an opportunity for us to do more in the community.

A. Huddleston - What do the horses do? L. Merchant - For example, you create an obstacle course and have to get the horse to go through the horse. They can be obstinate and it create conversation opportunities about how to handle obstacles. Grooming is also very therapeutic and calming. L. Merchant - We do have students from other majors who take the course. C. Flanagan - Do you know how this leads to certification? L. Merchant - This course will not lead to certification. That is why we have "introduction" in the title. There is a separate process for that. J. Cardot - Our youngest daughter has severe dyslexia and horse-riding lessons helped her with that. L. Merchant - This is on-the-ground with horses, not riding. D. Perkins - It seems like it would be good for other departments to know about this course. L. Merchant - We have been communicating with advisors and work with Jim Carpenter in conjunction with the ACU Farm.

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

7. BMFT 668 – New Course – Contemporary Issues in MFT

L. Merchant - Our accreditors require that we cover contemporary issues. The content varies somewhat year-to-year. Trauma and its impact is a large topic. We look at different therapy modalities. We also look at marginalized communities such as immigrants, refugees, LGBTQ communities. We take lots of field trips. We have taught it as a special topics course in the past. J. Cardot - To what extent does the content vary? L. Merchant - We might look at trauma every year, but we look at different therapies or bring in different content experts. The textbooks might vary each year as well. For

example, last year we read a book on eating disorders, and that was the only time we've done that. W. Carroll - The course outcomes are pretty stable, however.

**Motion to approve by J. Cardot; seconded by C. Flanagan; all in favor.
Motion passes.**

8. MFTT and MFTH – Revise Programs to Add BMFT 668

L. Merchant - With the approval of BMFT 668, we would like to make it a required course in the degree plan. We have two electives built into the program. This would leave one elective. Students can take electives outside our field if they wish.

D. Perkins - In our MAcc program, we have 6 hours of electives. Are there any courses in your program that our students might be interested in? L. Merchant - Many of our courses do not have prerequisites and would be available to students in other programs.

D. Perkins - It would be helpful to have a list of graduate courses that are available as graduate electives. W. Carroll - We could certainly compile something like that. We would depend upon the program directors to recommend courses that would be a good fit for students from other programs. C. Flanagan - We need this in our program. So much so, I would be willing to spearhead this program. We could create a Google document to share among Program Directors.

W. Carroll - You don't have any concerns about students losing those elective hours? L. Merchant - No. The LPC Board has changed their rules, so keeping those electives reserved for licensure courses is no longer pertinent. Most of our students are taking Contemporary Issues now that we started offering it, anyway, so adding it as a requirement fits with what students are doing.

**Motion to approve by W. Crawford; seconded by D. Perkins; all in favor.
Motion passes.**

Meeting ended at 12:36 p.m.