

ACU Graduate Council
March 19, 2024
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
CBS Dean's Conference Room

Present: W. Carroll, K. Witemeyer, D. Walls, D. Barnett, A. Huddleston, W. Crawford, D. Andreas, R. Slaymaker, T. Womble, M. Long, D. Perkins

Absent: J. Cardot, L. Merchant, C. Flanagan

Guests: D. Nelson, J. Smith, R. Team (for C. Flanagan), R. Scott, B. Bender (via Zoom), E. Gumm

The meeting began at 11:57 a.m.

- Prayer by D. Nelson
- Approval of the minutes from 11/14/23

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

Information Items:

1. MATP 621 – Revise Prerequisites

R. Scott - The course is also being utilized by the Strength Conditioning program. This change will broaden to allow non-athletic training students to take this course.

2. OCCT 635 – Revise Title
3. OCCT 636 – Revise Title
4. OCCT 782 – Change Course Terms
5. OCCT 791 – Change Course Terms

D. Walls - Based on faculty conversation and feedback from students, we feel that we need to increase our attention to pediatrics. We will add a new course that will become first in sequencing and the current course will become the second course students take. We would also like to move our professional prep courses to a time where students will take them closer to the time they actually take their exams. D. Andreas - I noticed the course and the lab have differences with Roman numeral two and one is an Arabic number two. K. Witemeyer - I will standardize those.

GST Information Items:

6. Close MATS Program/Degree
7. Close Five MA Programs (Ancient & Oriental Christianity, Modern & American Christianity, New Testament, Old Testament, Theology)
8. BHEB 686 – New Course – Hebrew Readings A
9. BHEB 687 – New Course – Hebrew Readings B
10. BHEB 688 – New Course – Hebrew Readings C
11. BGRK 636 – New Course – Greek Readings A
12. BGRK 637 – New Course – Greek Readings B
13. BGRK 638 – New Course – Greek Readings C

W. Crawford - All of this stems from our new offering of the MTS. This is consistent with other seminaries in America. In the MA programs, you had to end in a thesis. In the MTS, you have the option of completing 6 hrs of electives instead of a thesis. These one-hour language courses allow a student to take a course in English then study the content in Hebrew/Greek with a professor. We had very few people interested in the MATS, so we want to close that as well. W. Carroll - This will include a full faculty vote. So that is why we wanted to give space to discuss it here. W. Crawford - The MA program was our PhD prep program, but we still prepare students for graduate work through the MTS instead of the MA. Students wanting to pursue a PhD will use the thesis option. E. Gumm - Is there a rationale for the A, B, C for the reading courses instead of I, II, III? W. Crawford - I don't know. I, II, III seems to indicate sequencing, and these courses do not need to be taken in any particular order. E. Gumm - Although A, B, C could indicate that as well. It is an outlier for other ACU courses.

Action Items:

14. OTD & MSOT – Revise Admission Requirements – Add Direct Admit Pathway

D. Walls - We would like to create a pathway for our undergrad students to declare their intention to pursue grad school here. We will flag them as freshmen/rising sophomores and then when it comes time for them to apply for grad school, if they meet the requirements, they will automatically be admitted to our program. J. Smith - Your intention is to restrict this to only those two points of time? D. Walls - Yes. D. Andreas - Why is that not available to juniors and seniors? W. Carroll - The goal is to be more attractive to recruiting undergraduates. D. Walls - I'm not really sure why it is that way. W. Carroll - In the past few years, we've only had about 2 ACU students per cohort. We would like to see that number grow. R. Slaymaker - It could have to do with the nature of a professional school. E. Gumm - If a student changes majors as a junior, it would be difficult for them to complete all the requirements. M. Long - We would love to know how better to recruit students interested in our Pre-OT track.

**Motion to approve by W. Crawford; seconded by T. Womble; all in favor.
Motion passes.**

15. OCCT 625 – New Course – Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics I

D. Walls - This new course is designed to meet student need. This will be a 2-hour course in the first spring semester to set a foundation for future learning. We are hoping this helps with their fieldwork and their performance on their boards. W. Carroll - The application refers to being offered both fall and spring. D. Walls - It should just be spring.

Motion to approve by D. Barnett; seconded by A. Huddleston; all in favor. Motion passes.

16. OCCT 703 – Close Course

D. Walls - This course is offered online while they are completing their fieldwork. Due to some changes, this course doesn't really meet our accreditation standards, so we would like to close this course. Those two hours will be filled by the new course. D. Perkins - Is there any benefit to keeping the course available for future use? D. Walls - I don't think so. W. Carroll - There are no electives in this program for which this course would fulfill a need.

Motion to approve by R. Slaymaker; seconded by M. Long; all in favor. Motion passes.

17. MSOT – Revise Program to Add OCCT 625 & Remove OCCT 703

D. Walls - These changes reflect the addition of the new course and the removal of the closed course.

18. OTD – Revise Program to Add OCCT 625 & Remove OCCT 703

See above.

Motion to approve items 17-18 by M. Long; seconded by T. Womble; all in favor. Motion passes.

19. CSD – Revise Admissions Requirements

B. Bender - We are adding a second sequence option for the length of time students can complete the degree, either 2 years or 3 years, to allow flexibility for those who need to to work. The students will still be considered full-time in the three-year pathway. The admission requirements will reflect this as well as clarifying how we admit students. W. Carroll - So the admission requirement change is more a change in the language to reflect this program change. M. Long - Does this bump up against any accreditation issues? B. Bender - No, because all we need do is clearly identify the students. Once a student selects one of the two sequences, then they are clocked to complete their degree within that specified timeline. D. Walls - Will students be able to switch to a different timeline? B. Bender - Two-year students *can* move to the three-year sequence, but a

three-year sequence student *cannot* change to a two-year sequence. R. Slaymaker - Is the three-year sequence available to Abilene students? B. Bender - For right now, it will only be available to Dallas students. Our faculty load would be hard to manage in Abilene because of courses being offered outside normal hours. D. Walls - Is the probationary section new? B. Bender - I believe so.

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

20. METL – Remove Sequencing from Catalog

W. Carroll - This is an approval issue because of where it falls in the catalog, in the degree plan. A. Huddleston - We've had some feedback about changing some courses around in order to help with placements. Our degree plan was specified by semester. We would like to remove that sequencing language from the degree plan to allow us more flexibility on when we offer courses. W. Carroll - You can still specify sequencing on your program's website. D. Perkins - Your students come through as a cohort? A. Huddleston - Yes. D. Perkins - We have students that start at all different points. A. Huddleston - We don't have that flexibility, so we recruit them pretty early.

**Motion to approve by D. Perkins; seconded by T. Womble; all in favor.
Motion passes.**

21. KINE 501 – New Course – Legal Aspects of Sport Recreation Management

M. Long - We offer this at the undergraduate level and would like to cross-list it as a graduate course to give our students the option of taking this course. Many have not been exposed to this material elsewhere. D. Perkins - I'm curious about the impact a cross-listed course has on accreditation. M. Long - This program is not outside accredited. The grad students will have assignments with more rigor than the undergrad students. T. Womble - What happens if a student takes it as an undergraduate? Could they also take it as a graduate course? W. Carroll - I think they would be eligible to retake it. E. Gumm - That is correct. If the department wishes to restrict it from being retaken, they could police that on their own. M. Long - The discussions would look very different and legal and ethical issues are always in flux, so we wouldn't have a problem with students retaking it. It is a menu item, so students don't *have* to take it.

**Motion to approve by D. Barnett ; seconded by T. Womble; all in favor.
Motion passes.**

22. MSSCHP – Revise Program – Add KINE 501 Option & Broaden Psychology Menu

M. Long - This is to add the new course as an option as well as broadening the psychology menu. This would allow us not to write as many substitutions.

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

Meeting ended at 12:57 p.m.