

ACU Graduate Council
November 12, 2024
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
CBS Dean's Conference Room

Present: W. Carroll, K. Witemeyer, R. Slaymaker, M. Lee, T. Baggs, D. Perkins, D. Andreas, C. Flanagan, L. Merchant, M. Long, T. Womble, A. Huddleston (via Zoom)

Absent: D. Walls

Guests: J. Smith, D. Kennamer, C. Miertschin, R. Milligan, K. Elliott

The meeting began at 11:45 a.m.

- Prayer by C. Flanagan
- Approval of the minutes from 5/7/24

Minutes passed by consent.

Information Items:

1. PSYC 610 – Revise Title

C. Flanagan - These changes reflect what our licensing board is asking for.

2. PSYC 648 – Revise Title, Description, & Course Terms

C. Flanagan - We have merged some theory classes together to update this course since we were experiencing some overlap. This will help our students with portability as well.

3. BMFT 690 – Revise Course Terms

L. Merchant - We have historically offered this in the spring, but it is too busy for students and faculty. So we will start offering it in the summer. This will also be a time when our students will have clients. C. Flanagan - How long will it last? L. Merchant - It will be a two-weekend class in July. R. Slaymaker - Will it be open to other students? L. Merchant - Yes, but it has zero credit hours. There is a course fee to cover our consultants who do the training. Other students are welcome to attend.

Action Items:

4. GERO Courses – Change Department of Record to Marriage & Family Studies

L. Merchant - This is a provost-initiated change. We are moving the Pruett Gerontology Center to the Department of Marriage of Family Studies. It is my understanding that

there have not been any certificates of gerontology granted for quite some time. Once we hire a new director of the center, we might consider what to do with these courses and the certificate. W. Carroll - Within the Communication and Sociology Department, once there were no Sociology faculty to handle the Pruett Gerontology Center, we needed to find a home for the center. We looked at Social Work as well as MFT. C.D. Pruett is very pleased with the new home. L. Merchant - He is helping to draw up the job description for the director. He is hoping that there will be collaboration with the Sibert Institute. We are happy to have this and we are looking at the Aging Studies minor as well and develop that. D. Perkins - Do you have courses that address the financial aspects of aging? Like dealing with medicare? R. Slaymaker - We used to have a SOCW policy class that was cross-listed with GERO.

A Huddleston - When I read the proposal, it felt a little bit like the decision had already been made and that we are voting today with the expectation that it will be approved. What would happen if we didn't approve it? W. Carroll - I'm not certain. R. Slaymaker - The decision was donor-related. This was an effort to please the donor. J. Smith - The center and the curriculum is not the same thing. The question of the courses that we offer, this council's action is definitive. W. Carroll - If we are going to offer the classes, they cannot be delivered from their current department because they don't have the faculty expertise any longer.

A Huddleston - It feels like it's another blow to the Sociology program. My understanding is that Sociology is not closed yet. Will this change make it harder for them to get those hires? D. Andreas - In our department, we are being asked similar questions. We find it very challenging, since we have no sociology faculty in the room. L. Merchant - The center has moved several times. This is probably its fifth move since its inception. R. Milligan - I don't think that the moving of the center and the keeping of Sociology program affect one another. There should be no positive or negative impact on Sociology by moving the center and curriculum.

R. Slaymaker - We have a couple of SOCW courses cross-listed with GERO courses, so we can discuss whether or not we want to continue with that cross-listing before we move forward with our department's changes.

5. Certificate in Gerontology – Move to Department of Marriage & Family Studies

See above.

Motion to approve items 4-5 by T. Womble; seconded by D. Perkins; 9 in favor; 1 abstention. Motion passes.

6. HIST Courses – Close all 500/600-level HIST Courses

K. Elliott - We had a History master's degree back in the early 90's. It has not been offered since the 2000's. We are not going to bring back our master's degree. We don't have personnel and a master's is not part of our department's goals. We are removing

these graduate-level courses in order to clean up the catalog and reflect our offerings more accurately to students.

**Motion to approve by L. Merchant; seconded by T. Womble; all in favor.
Motion passes.**

Meeting ended at 12:18 p.m.