

ACU Graduate Council
May 6, 2025
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Zoom

Present: W. Carroll, K. Witemeyer, D. Walls, D. Perkins, M. Lee, R. Slaymaker, L. Sharp-Penya, T. Baggs, A. Huddleston, M. Long

Absent: C. Flanagan, L. Merchant, T. Womble

Guests: C. Miertschin, R. Milligan, E. Gumm, J. Smith, D. Andreas

The meeting began at 12:01 a.m.

- Prayer by W. Carroll
- Approval of the minutes from 12/17/24

Minutes passed by consent.

GST Information Items:

1. MDiv – Combine Ministry and Missions into one degree program with tracks

M. Lee – This is just clarifying that they are not supposed to be two separate degrees. Missions is just a track within the MDiv degree. This way we only have to assess one degree instead of two.

2. MDIV, MACM – Remove English Bible Exam Requirement

M. Lee – This exam is an artifact from previous generations of GST. It doesn't really assess anything pertinent. We've needed to get rid of it for years and are finally taking care of that business.

3. BIBM 661 – New Course – Renewing the Church for Mission

M. Lee – This was a special topics course taught for a couple years. We have intentions for keeping this course around and including it in our certificate.

4. Certificate in Practical Ministry – Add BIBM 661 to Leadership Selections
5. Certificate in Practical Ministry – Change Admission Requirements

M. Lee – For the certificate, when this launched in January, we had the same admissions requirements as we did for our master's programs. However, who we are targeting with this certificate is a different population. This is a non-degree program, and we want to lower the barrier for entry. So we are reducing the requirements.

6. Certificate in Practical Ministry – Remove BIBL 682, BMIS 649; Add BIBL 627, BIBD 660

M. Lee - Most of the students in the certificate program are living elsewhere. The core curriculum of the certificate didn't reflect that reality as most of the courses were residential courses. We had to do a lot of substitutions. Making this course change will allow us to offer more online courses. They also nest in our degree programs well in case the students decide to move on to one of our other degrees.

Information Item:

7. COMM 508 – Change Title

L. Sharp-Penya – We would like to change the title to reflect what is standard in our discipline. No content is changing.

Action Items:

8. MA ENGL – Add ENGL 650 to Menu

W. Carroll – ENGL 650 is not a new course. It was intended to be in this menu, but it was not added initially. We are correcting that oversight. This allows us to eliminate many substitutions.

**Motion to approve by A. Huddleston; seconded by T. Baggs; all in favor.
Motion passes.**

9. MS SCHP – Revise Program & Reduce to 30 Hours

M. Long – The national body that houses the test our students take for certification is moving to require accreditation. We have a small number of faculty to oversee our programs, and we cannot take on the burden of accreditation. We see the value of revising this to be a general Kinesiology degree. It will be reduced to 30 hours, which will match our competitors. The core remains the same. We are rearranging a few of the menus. This allows a student to pick and choose their emphasis. We teach over the summer as well. Some students are online, some are residential, some are hybrid. This also has room for adding tracks later as our department grows. R. Slaymaker – Is this an online program? M. Long – The program is residential, but there are a few courses that are available online. L. Sharp-Penya – Who is the audience for this program? M. Long – Our own undergraduate students, our student athletes, and students who are looking for a residential program. L. Sharp-Penya – If they can't sit for the certification, what are their career options? M. Long – Up until 2030, they can still sit for the exam. There are several areas available to them. This can also be a steppingstone to OT or PT programs. A. Huddleston – How many students take that exam each year? M. Long – Around 4-5. A. Huddleston – Are you concerned about losing those students if they can't sit for the exam? M. Long – No. Most of our students are interested in the broader program. E. Gumm – We can't use single letter major code (K). M. Long – Whatever code you would

like to use. E. Gumm – I would suggest KINS. L. Sharp-Penya – I see a lot of 500-level courses. Are there many 400-level courses cross-listed with those? M. Long – I think about 3-4 of them are. L. Sharp-Penya – Have you considered making this an integrated program, since some of the students might have already taken some of those courses. It might help you compete to keep some of your students since that would help with cost. M. Long – That's a good idea that we can consider in the future.

Motion to approve by R. Slaymaker; seconded by D. Walls; all in favor. Motion passes.

10. MS CSD – Revise Admissions & Graduations Requirements, Add Online Component

T. Baggs – Our secondary accrediting body approved for us to add an online cohort to our master's program. We are adding the requirement of the grade of 'C' or better for all major courses. We are also removing the GRE requirement. It will be under the same degree plan, same program code. The accrediting body requires that it be one program. We will have three cohorts differentiated with campus codes on students – A, DR, DO. R. Slaymaker – Under the online section, right above admission requirements header, you are using the term "semesters" and that could be confusing wording. Do you mean long semesters? Online programs use different terminology. E. Gumm – Most of the catalog language uses "semesters" but you are correct that operationally it looks different. L. Sharp-Penya – Do you think offering an online modality will affect your face-to-face cohorts? T. Baggs – We don't think it will negatively affect our residential enrolment. W. Carroll – Looking at the market, the undergraduate Dallas online students will be likely to continue in an online graduate program. Online students don't tend to move into face-to-face. T. Baggs – We have a three-year residential program in Dallas that might go away if the online fits their needs better. D. Perkins – If the same teacher is teaching across all modalities, can a student opt to take an online section? T. Baggs – There would need to be an exception. J. Smith – Both our colleagues in CSD and SSW are going through a collaborative process with online offerings, and one of the things we are trying to figure out is how to make these new faculty models work. We don't have a set plan in place yet. E. Gumm – The student experience would not be a good one in that situation because the campuses have different versions of Canvas and different calendars. There is a billing difference as well, so it would need to be an exception. We would not encourage that.

Motion to approve by D. Walls; seconded by D. Perkins; all in favor. Motion passes.

11. OCCT 733 – New Course – Research in OT Doctoral Seminar

D. Walls – We want to add OCCT 733 to replace OCCT 633 in the doctoral program. This course will help us meet the new standards that our accreditor requires. L. Sharp-Penya – It looks like it covers both quantitative and qualitative research. Is that typical for courses in your discipline? D. Walls – Yes. L. Sharp-Penya – It looks like you are going to have them conduct some research, but I don't see that as part of the syllabus. D.

Walls – I believe when we offered this as a special topics course they did a survey and analyzed that data. I know they do a literature review as well.

Motion to approve by T. Baggs; seconded by M. Long; all in favor. Motion passes.

12. OCCT 721 – Change to CR/NC

D. Walls – We have capstone seminars to help them prepare for their capstone experience. In each seminar, they explore their options, secure a site, etc. There are no exams. There are milestones to be achieved. Our last capstone seminar OCCT 725 is a CR/NC. We would like that same grading system for each of the other seminars. A. Huddleston – How is credit/mastery determined? D. Walls – There are rubrics for the students. They will work closely with a mentor and faculty advisor to ensure all milestones are completed. A. Huddleston – We have a similar course that doesn't lend itself well to letter grades since it is more about revising and feedback. I'm a fan of this. Are they three-hour courses? D. Walls – They are one-hour each.

13. OCCT 722 – Change to CR/NC

See above.

14. OCCT 723 – Change to CR/NC

See above.

15. OCCT 724 – Change to CR/NC

See above.

Motion to approve items 12-15 by R. Slaymaker; seconded by T. Baggs; all in favor. Motion passes.

16. SOCI Close Graduate SOCI Courses

W. Carroll – This came to us in an unusual way. There was a document that went through AUAC that included both undergraduate and graduate courses. At the undergraduate level, action on the item has been delayed since courses are listed on menus in other programs which will need to be revised. We have checked the graduate courses, and none of them are being used in graduate programs.

L. Sharp-Penya – The sociology program has been closed. These graduate courses have not been taught in years. We would like to close them. A. Huddleston – Do we know if there ever was a graduate program in Sociology? J. Smith – I believe these were associated with a Gerontology program. A. Huddleston – I recall we moved the graduate GERO courses to MFT, will that impact the future of the gerontology program? J. Smith – There are GERO courses that are cross-listed with these SOCI courses, so the GERO

courses will remain open and available for that program. E. Gumm – I don't recall us ever having a Sociology master's program. R. Slaymaker – Yes, I think the courses were connected to the GERO certificate. L. Sharp-Penya – There is no one to teach the majority of these courses.

Motion to approve by T. Baggs; seconded by R. Slaymaker; 5 in favor, 2 abstentions. Motion passes.

Meeting ended at 1:13 p.m.