

**University General Education Council
October 28, 2015, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Adams Center Classroom**

Present: E. Gumm, K. Pamplin, C. Niccum, B. Hammack, G. Straughn, P. Roggendorff, M. Garver, J. Xu, R. Ashlock

Absent: K. Hendrick, M. Coco, K. Pybus, M. Smallwood, J. Wallace, P. Wertheim, N. Santana

Ex-officios: (T. Lee, T. Milholland – neither were present)

Guests: Susan Lewis

The meeting began at 3:36 p.m.

I. Call to order by Eric Gumm.

II. Prayer by J. Xu.

III. Approval of the minutes from 9.9.15

Motion to approve by C. Niccum; seconded by J. Xu; all in favor; none opposed; motion passes. (Not official because of lack of quorum – minutes will need to be officially approved at next council meeting.)

IV. ACU's acceptance of transfer credit to fulfill university requirements.

General Statement: ACU will recognize transfer credit from courses that meets university requirements at another accredited institution as meeting the university requirements for all Bachelor's Degrees here.

G. Straughn – It was important to have the faculty vote on the new general education proposal before tackling the specifics of the transfer piece. I've discussed this new segment in CAS meetings regarding caveats and narrowing of the language. We don't want to unintentionally open loopholes.

Math Statement: Matriculated students who do not bring in Math as part of their pre-enrollment credit (i.e. Dual Credit, AP, accredited transfer courses) must take MATH 120 or higher at ACU, or transfer a course equivalent to MATH 120 or higher from an accredited institution. Additional course requirements may be necessary in degrees that require courses greater than MATH 120 (i.e. MATH 123, 124, 130, and 185).

G. Straughn - The Math Department does not want to lower the bar to accept college algebra as new default standard for mathematics. The new statement tries to define which population MATH 109 would prove acceptable for degree requirements and

which populations for which it would not. MATH 120 is a better class and we want our students to take that better course. For students who do not bring MATH 109 in as credit before beginning coursework at ACU, it will not be accepted. Some degrees still have higher math requirements that would need to be met with additional math courses (around 45% of programs). The population bringing credit in is increasing. Those who have transferred MATH 109 in the past and who would be eligible to use their credit for university requirements under the new definition are around the national average when looking at ACT/SAT scores and comprise only about 0.75% of our total student population.

S. Lewis - Is it just MATH prefixes or other prefixes like stats or other courses? G. Straughn - We want to keep it open for institutions that label their courses differently, but the number that would fall into a non-"MATH" category is very small.

E. Gumm - We can nuance the wording to make it clearer. We only take "courses" for credit, not credit by exam. It is only the MATH 109 course that they couldn't take after matriculation. They could still take MATH 123, 124, etc. The enforcement of these new policies is 100% manual by registrar staff. Banner does not monitor it. We will have to manually monitor the courses coming in and keep track of which students are eligible for credit.

R. Ashlock - At other universities, they take college algebra but then require students to take a second math course as well. So MATH 109 alone doesn't fulfill the degree requirements. G. Straughn - Upstream schools have a mix - Baylor has some degrees that accept college algebra and others that don't. They have a math for humanities type class for BA students. Downstream schools don't discriminate at all. You can use whatever math you want to fulfill that university requirement. We aren't that much of an anomaly.

K. Pamplin - Do you think we are losing transfer students because we have not accepted MATH 109 at this level in the past? G. Straughn - Admissions has no quantifying data, but they say any time you have barriers, it hurts the ability to bring transfer students in.

Communication Statement: Matriculated students who wish to satisfy ACU's Communication requirement may only transfer credit from Speech or Communication courses that meet the university requirements at another accredited institution. Courses in English composition or Foreign Language will not satisfy ACU's Communication requirement but may be applied to other portions of ACU's university requirements.

G. Straughn - Some state universities allow foreign language or English courses to fulfill the communication requirement. This statement is to clarify that only transfer credit for *communication* courses will fulfill our communication requirement. SPCH or COMM prefix courses. 5-6 courses typically fulfill this.

S. Lewis – It might be helpful to change the second sentence to say "Courses in any other discipline..." C. Niccum - Adding "for example" or "such as English or foreign language."

P. Roggendorff - Since we don't have numbers, we really don't know how many students are bringing in other courses that might fulfill this role like Bible (homiletics) or Drama. G. Straughn - Good question. I can only think of one case where a student requested that their drama course be used to satisfy their speech requirement. It is extremely rare. E. Gumm – The number of Bible college transfers is very small. We could potentially bring in that homiletics course in the future if we had a demand and if the course proved to fulfill the communication requirement.

AP Statement: The University's policy for awarding credit for Advanced Placement (AP) scores will supersede AP credit awarded by another institution and transferred to ACU. (Example: if ACU requires a 4 on the AP test to receive credit for a two-semester sequence of courses (6 credits) and another university awards those six credits with a 3 on the AP test; the student will only get credit for the first of the sequence of courses at ACU).

G. Straughn – This is to close a loophole. ACU's policy supersedes another university's credit awarding policy for students coming into ACU. E. Gumm - Add for clarity - AP scores must be provided to ACU for credit to be awarded. Credit listed on a student's transcript does not mean it will automatically be accepted by ACU. K. Pamplin - What about institution specific course challenge type credit? Would we accept that? E. Gumm - No.

K. Pamplin - Back to general statement - I think this policy takes way too much authority from the faculty because it accepts credit from any university, anywhere. It's not defined well enough. I would be happy to have it say "Texas higher education institutions" because of the common core. But to say any accredited institutions - we don't know how many that could imply. It's a big window. I'm not comfortable with that. B. Hammack – I believe it specifies regional accreditation. G. Staughn - What would we do for non-Texas students? K. Pamplin - The current system would still be in play. Send things to departments for approval. I want the right to say no. I would even specify Texas public institutions, not all Texas institutions, in response to the new law. C. Niccum - My concern is restricting it to Texas could sound elitist. K. Pamplin - You can word it that we accept a generous amount of credit from numerous institutions worldwide. We want to accept good courses from anywhere but we don't want a blanket statement that we accept anything. E. Gumm – Perhaps adding some kind of acknowledgement of the Texas legislature being the driving force. P. Roggendorff - Maybe something like "in conformity to Texas regulation XYZ, we automatically accept any transfer courses from Texas Public institutions. We accept other credit by departmental review. S. Lewis – We don't want to say "conform" because we don't have to as a private school. E. Gumm – Remember, all of these points are contained in a larger context. They will be included on p. 28 of catalog in the transfer section.

J. Xu - How will this impact international transfer students? E. Gumm - It depends on how the credit is transcribed. It goes to department chairs for review. It is a longer process. J. Xu - More specific language is better for international transfer students, so they have realistic expectations. Something accredited in china might not be accepted here. S. Lewis - "from regionally accredited institutions" is the catalog language.

G. Straughn - I'm a little concerned about specifying the Texas market because we've had a decline of non-Texas students in recent years and this language might make it even more difficult to recruit out of state students. K. Pamplin - I don't think that outweighs our responsibility to make sure transfer courses meet our requirements

S. Lewis - Question about the language "University Requirements" - Not all transfer institutions are universities. Many are colleges. Should we change the language to "general education" or "core requirement?"

M. Garver - We offer an educational experience but also a spiritual experience. Would it be better to open up just slightly in order to get the students here so they can have the ACU experience? If all we care about is education, we might miss the opportunity to reach some students. Others might get discouraged if they don't think they can transfer in their out of state hours. Perhaps we can simply do away with the general statement. G. Straughn - We have to show which direction we approach it from. In the past we said we accept transfer work on a case-by-case basis. Now we are trying to open it up to a wider vista. S. Lewis - It might be helpful to clarify with a second sentence that courses from other institutions will be considered by the department chair. J. Xu - We want students to know that their transfer credit will be accepted. E. Gumm - I don't know that we need a qualifier if this is one of many points in the transfer policy catalog material.

G. Straughn - I like the idea of adding these new items to the list of 13 points currently in the catalog. We will work on revising the wording and send out a draft to everyone so that when we have a quorum next time, we will all be on the same page.

The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.