

University General Education Council
November 11, 2015, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Adams Center Classroom

Present: E. Gumm, G. Straughn, P. Roggendorff, J. Wallace, J. Xu, C. Niccum, M. Coco, M. Garver, B. Hammack, N. Santana, K. Hendrick, R. Ashlock

Absent: K. Pamplin, K. Pybus, M. Smallwood, P. Wertheim,

Ex-officios: T. Milholland (T. Lee - absent)

Guests: S. Lewis

The meeting began at 3:35 p.m.

I. Call to order by E. Gumm.

II. Prayer by C. Niccum.

III. Approval of the minutes from 9.9.15 and 10.28.15

Motion to approve both sets of minutes by J. Xu; seconded by M. Coco; all in favor; none opposed; motion passes.

IV. ACU's acceptance of transfer credit to fulfill university requirements and language added to transfer section of catalog.

Proposed Catalog Revision:

4. Evaluation of transfer work intended to meet specific ACU degree requirements is the responsibility of the chair of the department offering the comparable course at ACU.

5. 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 math course requirements may be necessary in degrees that require courses greater than MATH 120 (i.e. MATH 123, 124, 130, and 185).

6. Students may only satisfy ACU's Communication requirement through transfer credit from Speech or Communication courses that meet the university requirements at another accredited institution. Courses such as English composition or Foreign Language will not satisfy ACU's Communication requirement but may be applied to other portions of ACU's university requirements.

7. The university's policy for awarding credit for Advanced Placement (AP) scores will supersede AP credit awarded by another institution and **included on transcripts sent** transferred to ACU. AP scores must be provided to ACU for the awarding of credit – credit by exam listed on another institution's transcript is not sufficient. All aspects of the Credit by Exam procedure will apply. (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).

Discussion:

E. Gumm - From page 28 of the catalog - We are only looking at the sections in blue which are new items. The others items in the list will remain unchanged. The wording inserted is the exact wording that we ended with at the previous meeting except for one adjustment highlighted in yellow.

E. Gumm – We spent significant time at the last meeting discussing the broader question about automatically accepting general education courses transferred from another institution without departmental review. The suggestion arose to limit that policy to Texas schools since we have already approved most of those courses and have confidence in the material. I opted to remove that wider scope of language from the catalog so that department chairs could continue to practice as they currently are in approving new transfer courses for credit. The courses that arise most frequently in transfer situations that haven't been addressed in the past, are now specified in items 5 and 6 regarding the math and speech components. These statements should cover the majority of situations this new policy was created to address. G. Straughn - The loss of the umbrella statement gives us more flexibility to address transfer questions on a case-by-case basis. Perhaps we don't need the umbrella statement since the math and speech components are the ones most affected by this change in policy.

P. Roggendorff - I'm still uneasy about the math. It seems to promote a double standard. It would be cleaner and more honest and fair to have the policy be the same for all students whether or not they are transfer students. G. Straughn - It is a compromise to try to keep both sides happy.

E. Gumm - How do we want to move forward? Look at each item one at a time.

S. Lewis – I suggest a clarifying phrase be added to the introductory paragraph in the catalog:

The following policies are in effect for all incoming transfer work from regionally accredited institutions, whether that work is done prior to attending ACU or after ACU enrollment has begun:

Add wording “unless otherwise specified” since the math item has different rules depending on matriculation.

E. Gumm - That might open more doors of confusion since it creates a large loophole. S. Lewis - “unless otherwise specified below.” Maybe we should wait to see if the Math item is approved.

J. Xu - Motion to approve item 5 if added “regionally accredited” to the statement at top. C. Niccum seconded. 6 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstained. Motion passes.

G. Staughn - Item 6 - Dr. Wallace added some nuanced language to clarify the communication item. He handed out hard copies to the group. (see Appendix A) J. Wallace - This was after conversations with my colleagues who wanted more specificity

for clarification. G. Straughn - How do you define "principle component?" J. Wallace - If the course fulfilled the speech requirement from the transferring institution. For Example - Bus. & Prof. Communication - which includes speaking components. G. Straughn - What about Interpersonal Communication? There are some schools that accept this course for the communication requirement, but we don't. That is the difficulty. There are 7-8 courses that could be submitted. We want to leave it open for being transfer friendly, but I understand the need of the department to hold students to a particular standard. Remember this is a sliver of our overall population. J. Wallace - We are more concerned with giving students this important skill set. E. Gumm - I don't think we should include the Texas state course numbers listed in your wording. It is not just Texas schools submitting this credit. G. Straughn - It would make a lot of sense to articulate the types of courses not accepted (English, Foreign Language, Theatre, Journalism), but leave it open after that - no specific courses listed. J. Wallace - We don't want to leave the door open to accept things that don't fulfill the skill set we think our students need to have as graduates. C. Niccum - Could we do the same as Math? Once you are here, you can't go take one of these outside courses and transfer them in?

J. Wallace - I'd like to make a motion to accept the proposed wording. C. Niccum - Can we rearrange the wording to have the subject, verb agreement? Group edited statement.

E. Gumm - I can't think of another place in the catalog where we include a list of another institution's courses. C. Niccum - And there were instances of the same course number applying to two different courses. So I think we should eliminate the course number examples.

G. Straughn - With the statement Dr. Wallace submitted, we are still sending everything to the department to approve. E. Gumm - How does this have a practical application to expand the number of courses being accepted? G. Straughn - Because if we are still limiting, then there is no need to add this item to the catalog. The original purpose was to have a clearer but BROADER definition of what we accept. We are not effectively changing anything with this working, so we should just drop point #6. C. Niccum - The extra definition might be helpful for clarity even if not expansion. M. Garver - I like adding the matriculation piece mimicking math. That way we are more open to transfer students while keeping our students taking the courses we want them to take. (More editing of statement.)

E. Gumm - Let's table item 6 for a minute and move to item 7. We want to make sure transfer students understand that just because they earned AP credit at their transfer institution, that credit does not automatically transfer into ACU. They must submit their AP scores and follow our AP policy. Only scores that meet our requirements will be granted credit. The credit might be different or fewer hours than what they were granted at their transfer institution.

B. Hammack. moves to approve new wording. J. Xu seconds. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes.

E. Gumm - Back to item 6 - Further refining of statement to keep it in line with math.

New Statement:

6. Matriculated students who do not bring in Speech or Communication as part of their pre-enrollment credit must take COMM 211 at ACU or transfer a course equivalent from a regionally accredited institution to meet the university requirement for communication. Students who bring in Speech or Communication as part of their pre-enrollment credit must do so from Speech or Communication courses from a regionally accredited institution. Courses such as English Composition, Foreign Language, Theatre, or Journalism will not satisfy ACU's communication requirement but may be applied to other portions of ACU's university requirements.

Motion to accept new wording by B. Hammack; seconded by M. Coco; 8 in favor; 1 opposed; 1 abstention; motion passes.

V. ART 494 – Senior Exhibition – Capstone Elements

E. Gumm – We are looking at the capstone elements. Capstone requirements are met through this new course when combined with the existing course, ART 495. The course itself was approved by UUAC.

Motion by C. Niccum; seconded by J. Wallace; all in favor; motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Appendix A

Recent Business Surveys

A few of the most recent surveys on top skills companies want in hires:

Adams, S. (Nov. 12, 2014) “The 10 skills employers most want in 2015 graduates”, Forbes Magazine. **Oral (Public Speaking) skill is listed as number 2.**

Hansen, R.S. and Hansen, K., (2015) “What do employers really want? Top skills and values employers seek from job-seekers”, Quint Careers. **#1 skill is Public Speaking, #2 is Listening, #3 is working in Teams.**

University of Kent, (2015), UK employability skills, Survey of UK companies.
#1 skill is Public Speaking, #2 working in Teams.

GMAT Blog Survey, (2014), “Employers want communication skills in new hires”, The Official GMAT Blog. **Survey of 600 companies found the top 4 skills wanted are Communication skills; Public Speaking, Listening, Presentational, & Team Work.**

Proposed wording:

Students may only satisfy ACU’s Communication requirement through transfer credit from Speech or Communication courses that meet the university requirements at another accredited institution that has Public Speaking as a principle component. Courses such as English composition, Foreign Language, Theater, or Journalism will not satisfy ACU’s Communication requirement but may be applied to other portions of ACU’s university requirements. Examples from the Texas common course list that would be acceptable are SPCH 13101, 1311, 1315, and 1321.