

**University General Education Council
November 29, 2017, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Registrar's Conference Room, ADM 306**

Present: G. Straughn, L. Boiles, K. Hendrick, B. Rix, D. Kneip, K. Tippens, E. Gumm, D. Mendenhall, M. Lynn, J. Wallace, K. Pybus

Absent: G. Brooks, S. Talley, L. McCurley

Ex-officios: T. Milholland, (T. Lee and C. Riley were absent)

Guests:

The meeting began at 3:33 p.m.

I. Call to order by E. Gumm.

II. Prayer by E. Gumm.

III. Approval of the minutes from 4.12.17, 4.26.17, and 11.8.17

Motion to approve all minutes by K. Hendrick; seconded by K. Pybus; 6 in favor; 0 opposed; 2 abstention; motion passes.

Action Item

IV. Adopt Core Complete for Transfer Students

G. Straughn- In Fall 2015 we made changes to communication and mathematics, to be aligned favorably to Texas education. Core complete is not significantly different from current plans, can also be a marketing tool. Education strategic taskforce made proposal to do degree completion online out of Dallas. Articulated agreement for general ed. Will facilitate transfer student process; many transfer students have college experience and a lot of general education 5 or 6 courses in Texas common core in speech that we would accept all of. Want to be more open to transferring hours. Third, with putting a history requirement back in, it allows students to transfer that in. Labels our general education as what state schools call core complete. Opportunity to make an intentional engagement with community colleges. Transfer population has been declining. Engage with students who want to attend here and get a degree from ACU. Gives us the ability to market more in a common language across Texas. Keeps the Bible curriculum in place, potential for kinesiology to be impacted because it is not included in Texas core complete

D. Kneip- So rather than a student coming and checking off course, it's the home institution saying core complete is done?

G. Straughn- It will still be done checking off courses for banner purposes.

E. Gumm- A student will still have to take degree specific requirements. So, a student would have added hours to complete those courses for a degree plan.

K. Hendrick- Still have math and English test for students to take?

G. Straughn - No, because you have to make a C or better for the course to transfer.

E. Gumm- They should not have a developmental course requirement because they will have had to pass the course.

M. Lynn- Is 42 hours the number for the core complete?

G. Straughn- 6 categories.

E. Gumm- There is flexibility in each of the 6 categories, with a 7th one.

D. Mendenhall- This won't affect some departments or minors?

E. Gumm- It could affect some students, but it wouldn't stop any degree plan from having those requirements.

J. Wallace - We would be accepting foreign language and etc. as communication.

G. Straughn- We already have other options for speech; we would be tolerating other options and accepting some.

J. Wallace - We would be lowering our standards in the hopes to get more transfer students, not a healthy proposal, doesn't help the general education requirement, will diminish our quality. No benefits substantiated by the proposal. What distinguishes ACU is that our classes are of better quality, if we diminish that by allowing diluted classes then we lose.

G. Straughn- I don't think that this is radically altering what we're doing now.

J. Wallace - If it's not radically changing, then why?

G. Straughn- So that we can create a general education structure that does not overstress faculty.

J. Wallace - So that we don't have to stress faculty, we'll diminish the quality? If we're doing this to gain transfer students, nowhere does this increase quality of education at ACU. We're making this model to our peril. How is core complete better for general education at ACU?

G. Straughn- I'm not sure that's the right question to ask.

J. Wallace - That's exactly what we're supposed to ask, that's what we're here for.

G. Straughn- Is our general education appropriate to the education here at ACU? I'm not sure the potential for students to bring foreign language vs speech is not significantly different.

J. Wallace- We're saying people can take an AA degree and wipe out general education at ACU.

G. Straughn- We do that already.

J. Wallace - But it's a lot more difficult to do right now. We disagree. I think this diminishes the quality of general education. It will impact and cannibalize our transfer population. And the quality will be less, and we will have to remediate those students. There's no numbers that project the increase in transfer students. I have serious concerns about this proposal.

D. Kneip- If we adopt it, do we have to adopt it for the whole university across the board?

G. Straughn- We can have differentiated requirements for different degrees.

T. Milholland- SACS wants whatever the faculty agrees to.

D. Kneip- Has core complete been around a while?

E. Gumm- It has been around since 1997; state schools have to indicate on a transcript that a student is core complete.

K. Hendrick- Homeschoolers and junior colleges are using core complete, but universities still have certain requirements they want.

E. Gumm- Most of our degrees want specific social sciences within a degree.

D. Kneip- The gate for acceptance is at admissions, not class by class?

E. Gumm- Correct. It's not a wholesale change to what we have been doing.

M. Lynn- Communication up front is advertising that we are core complete, but then there are specific things within a major that require more hours. So, what might happen with that?

G. Straughn- The proposal is for the university overall to consider it.

E. Gumm- The current proposal is not a distinctive degree. The communication could be an issue- but there will be a portal where students can look at their courses and see how

they would transfer. We will not technically be certifying students as core complete so it would not be the same if they left us and went to a state school

D. Mendenhall- Whatever faculty voted on would be campus-wide at this point.

E. Gumm- Yes, applies to all bachelor's degrees. We could change it to be for specific groups.

T. Milholland- This is an expensive and complex decision.

M. Lynn- We are working on behalf of students to make it easier for them to move wherever they fit. But it also seems like a single program in Dallas is asking all of our campus to make huge changes. I'm not seeing the upside for Abilene.

G. Straughn- One thing that hasn't happened is our outward engagement with community colleges saying "send us your students". There are a lot of students in junior colleges and very few are coming to ACU. This would give us an easy way to communicate with them. This would be a way for us to re-engage with those schools.

M. Lynn- There would be a lot more erosion of hours from students than more transfer hours. That might be to the benefit of students, but it could also be a financial problem.

K. Hendrick- It would be harder to take care of the students who are behind.

E. Gumm- We can change the university requirement for a specific degree, but we can't change the way we articulate specific courses. We can't distinguish between what courses are okay in one program and aren't in another. We can certainly look at university requirements for a certain degree and change that.
What other questions?

M. Lynn- What other private schools are looking at this?

G. Straughn- Our Lady of the Lake.

J. Wallace - Can we adopt this for degree completion and just see how it works there?

E. Gumm- What we could do is have a new set of general university requirements for blank.

J. Wallace - Can we change the motion and have that language crafted for review?

G. Straughn- Why could it not say "students in the degree completion program who have done their core complete..."

T. Milholland - It would function the same way it currently functions.

M. Lynn- Is there any difference in the maximum number of transfer hours?

E. Gumm- Yes.

K. Hendrick- Is this just for Texas?

J. Wallace - It's a regional thing to partner with community schools.

G. Straughn- If we can come to an agreement to reword this then I think that is sufficient.

K. Hendricks- We're calling that a degree completion but in one sense all students are in that.

T. Milholland - There's a nuance in the SACS catalog about what degree completion is.

M. Lynn- Is there an expiration on core complete?

E. Gumm- There is no expiration on transfer courses or core complete. Theoretically, we can modify the proposal with this language, just change the language to specify the market terms. We can use Degree Completion Program within the context of this conversation.

J. Wallace- That's the motion I want to make.

D. Kneip- Will students be able to shift between residential and degree completion program?

G. Straughn- You would have to apply to that program.

D. Kneip- If they come from Dallas to Abilene, would they be able to transfer this in?

E. Gumm- There are forms for this to approve on a case-by-case basis, while trying to help students.

D. Kneip- We would need to be very specific about what applies to who.

E. Gumm- I think we are proposing 3 changes here.

1st- A modification in the first section of transferring credit- "students in the degree completion program."

2nd- Degree requirements section- we would eliminate all the red letter and add in exceptions.

3rd- General education requirements- students in the degree completion program. This would be another footnote.

Is this the proposal everyone thinks we're making?

G. Straughn- I wrote that in as you articulated it

Motion to approve with revisions for core complete to only apply to degree completion programs by J. Wallace; seconded by K. Tippens; All in favor; motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.