

University General Education Council
April 11, 2018, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Adams Center Classroom

Present: K. Witemeyer, L. Boiles, L. McCurley, G. Brooks, D. Mendenhall, K. Hendrick, E. Gumm, J. Wallace, K. Tippens,

Absent: G. Straughn, B. Rix, D. Kneip, M. Lynn, K. Pybus, S. Talley

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

Guests: Jessica Smith, John Homer, Lynette Sharp Penya, Lauren Lemley, Susan Lewis

The meeting began at 3:32 p.m.

I. Call to order by E. Gumm.

II. Prayer by E. Gumm.

III. Approval of the minutes from 11.29.17

Motion to approve minutes by J. Wallace; seconded by K. Hendrick; all in favor; motion passes.

Action Items

IV. Add COMM 101, 231, and 241 to the Social Science Menu

L. Penya – COMM 101 is an introduction to the field of communication, 231 is small group communication, and 241 is interpersonal communication. COMM 101 is a freshman-level course with no prerequisites and we believe it will have broad appeal. We offered it as special topics and we had students across several majors participate. J. Smith – The courses have also been approved by UUAC. E. Gumm – You looked at the definition, but there is a list of disciplines and communication is not listed. There is an option to consider other disciplines, but you might need to speak to that. Since the social science menu is already long. J. Smith – I would note that CAS considers communication a social science. J. Wallace – Communication courses tend to be affiliated either with humanities or social science. We veer toward social science. L. Lemley – When you look at what employers are looking for in their candidates, it is the ability to speak and communicated well. E. Gumm – If we want as a council to review the criteria at a future date, we can. We recently did that 2 years ago. I would hypothesize that social science was defined without communication because there is already a required category for communication on the University Requirements menu. D. Mendenhall - JMC 100 was added three years ago and Mass Communication is not on that list. L. Penya – We are all social scientists within the department. Much of the research we do is quantitative and the core of our discipline. E. Gumm – The question is

not whether your discipline is a social science but whether or not it fits for the social science menu. D. Mendenhall – Looking at all three courses, I think they are a good fit.

L. Peña – COMM 231, the small group course, is lower division. It has no prerequisites. It should have a broad appeal. The ability to work well in teams is one of the qualities most sought by employers. J. Wallace – I teach this course to our broader student body and can attest that they come in with many misconceptions. They need to be introduced to the research that shows how groups really work. A better use of group resources. The cost for doing things in groups. In the short term, for other courses they are taking with group work, this would be a great tool. Then it would also extend out to the work force and spiritual ministries. L. Peña – I think we meet the definition at both levels. It looks at the groups as a whole but also at how the individual functions within the group which fits the criteria regarding group dynamics.

L. Peña – Interpersonal Communication (COMM 241) has no prerequisites. It introduces students to relationship development. This is a foundational course. K. Hendrick – How often do you have someone not in your field take that class? L. Peña – We do have students from other areas. This course has concepts like intrapersonal communication that deals with identity development as well. E. Gumm – I think students will ask if they take one of these courses, can they substitute it for their Communication requirement (COMM 211). L. Peña – I believe the university wants to keep the focus on public speaking, so at this point, we would not substitute it. K. Hendrick – Does having so many courses on the menu, have an effect on the student? E. Gumm – There will be an effect, but that doesn't need to be a reason to keep a course from being added to the menu. E. Gumm – COMM 101 sounds like the number they would see at other schools, and there might be confusion from students thinking they are taking their communication requirement. L. Lemley – When we taught COMM 101 as special topics, we had a lot of advisors who were trying to get their transfer students and athletes into the course as a good last-minute fit.

Motion to approve by D. Mendenhall to add all 3 courses to the social science menu; seconded by G. Brookes; all in favor; motion passes.

V. Add ITC 250 to the Historical Literacy Menu

J. Homer – Computers have had a huge impact on culture over the last 70-80 years. It affects our history and our perception of it. In this course we focus a lot on the 1930's to the present day. The developments, those who impacted change, how culture and politics have been affected. We want to explore these aspects in this course and examine patterns we are still experiencing. J. Wallace – I see the impact of technology, but how is this course going to be attractive to students from majors outside of technology? J. Homer – This is so involved in culture, I think many students will be attracted to that. J. Wallace – What about gaming? J. Homer – There will be an element of that. J. Wallace – It certainly impacts our society. I don't see any trouble with the material, just curious about the interest level. D. Mendenhall – We have a similar course and there is a broad interest from students. S. Lewis – You might talk about how the competencies meet the

criteria. J. Homer – We are going to talk about all the same elements that you see listed on your criteria. Although we can talk about cultural access, once you're on the inside, technology is no respecter of rank or person. People across many ethnic types and genders have accomplished impactful things in the history of computing. The students are going to engage this in a biographical paper, including topics such as how expectations may or may not line up with what actually happened. We have first person accounts of how things have changed over the course of their lifetime.

Motion to approve by J. Wallace; seconded by D. Mendenhall; all in favor; motion passes.

VI. Add Cross-Listed NURS 308 to Cultural Awareness Menu

L. Boiles – We've discussed this in our curriculum group and we feel that this is a great fit for our curriculum. This course has been taught in Study Abroad settings as well. It was already approved as a Cultural Awareness menu item in its cross-listed form for BIOL, CHEM, and COMP. We are really striving to help our students be global-minded, and this would be a great fit for them. K. Hendricks – Are there competencies somewhere? E. Gumm – Just to clarify, this is the same set of competencies to the course already being taught with BIOL, CHEM, COMP. This approval is conditional upon UUAC approving the cross-listing. We are just deciding to add it to menu.

Motion to approve the addition to the Cultural Awareness menu on the condition that UUAC approved the cross-listing by K. Tippens; seconded by J. Wallace; all in favor; motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.