

**University General Education Council
December 11, 2019, 3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Adams Center Classroom**

Present: K. Witemeyer, J. Smith, L. McCurley, R. Green, D. Kneip, M. Rogers, B. Rix, D. Flanagan, C. Flanagan, J. Prather, (M. Ice sent proxy votes ahead)

Absent: M. Straughn, C. Flanders, K. Wick, K. Jang

Ex-officios: (B. Carroll, C. Riley, E. Gumm and S. McDowell were absent)

Guests: Greg Straughn, John Homer

The meeting began at 3:47 p.m.

I. Call to order by J. Smith.

II. Prayer by J. Smith.

III. Minutes from 9/11/19

Motion to approve minutes by D. Kneip; seconded by B. Rix; all in favor; motion passes.

Action Items

IV. MUSM 234 –Inclusion on Historical Literacy and Cultural Awareness Menus

G. Straughn - This course has been designed to meet a growing need for more historical literacy courses beyond those from the History department. This allows us to think differently about a typical introduction to music class, focusing on the 19th century at the height of music's history. If it was just an intro to music course, we would only seek addition to the Cultural Awareness menu, but since it goes deeper into historical aspects, I feel confident that it will meet the Historical Literacy requirements. It focuses mostly on European history, and UUAC asked that we add "Europe" to the title to show this emphasis.

D. Kneip - Thinking of how HL and CA menus overlap - are you looking for extra interest from your majors? G. Straughn - Our majors already have their CA requirement met by other required courses.

C. Flanagan - How does this fit in with study abroad? G. Straughn - Leipzig and Oxford would be a great fit for this course, and there are several faculty members who could teach it besides me.

R. Green - What is the climate like for adding new courses that are aimed at general education and not specific to a particular major? J. Smith - I think there have been times where there was a one-in one-out model. However, that is not a restriction we have to live by. UUAC already approved the course itself being added to the catalog.

J. Prather - Has this course ever been taught before? How many students do you expect?

G. Straughn - We have not taught it before. I put a limit at 50 students since that is comparable to the numbers we used to have enrolling in our introduction to music courses.

Motion to approve to add MUSM 234 to both menus by C. Flanagan; seconded by M. Rogers; all in favor; motion passes.

V. ITC 125 –Inclusion on Social Science Menu

J. Homer - As we integrate computers more thoroughly into our society, the question of human-computer interaction becomes vital. Our communication is no longer person-to-person, but person-to-technology-to-person. We look at this from an interdisciplinary perspective: art, graphic design, psychology, sociology, anthropology, etc. It is an introductory class that has no prerequisites. It is a growing field with increasing relevance to all of us. We believe it will be attractive to students from many different disciplines.

D. Kneip - Are there any credentialing issues for faculty without social science backgrounds? J. Homer - There is overlap, but this is a significant topic within our field. J. Smith – Faculty members are credentialed by course, and there are several faculty members on campus with background to teach this course.

M. Rogers - Is there any reason why we wouldn't approve this addition? J. Smith - Only if you feel it does not meet the criteria. J. Prather - One of the considerations made while creating this course was looking at how to design this course in such a way as to apply the knowledge gained in the course to any major.

D. Flanagan - Will there be any level of skill for proficiency for students? If a student has no experience, can they be successful? J. Homer - We are not assuming any skill. J. Homer - We do have an upper-level course, and the students in that course are more skilled. Our introductory students will be interacting with these upper-level students. D. Kneip - So this course will eventually be a prerequisite for that upper-level course? J. Homer - Yes. J. Prather - We will have the upper-level students designing projects and the lower-level students serving as the test users.

Motion to approve by D. Kneip; seconded by B. Rix; all in favor; motion passes.

VI. Revise General Requirements for Bachelor's Degrees (high school foreign language deficiency)

J. Smith - At least going back to the 1990's, the admissions committee wanted to admit students who had completed two years of high school foreign language. Students who did not have these two years could be admitted with a deficiency, and those students would have to take foreign language at the university. Foreign language requirements have become more consistent in high schools, and our enrollment committee recently voted to remove this deficiency. The list of requirements for bachelor's degrees speaks to how to address the deficiency, and that is no longer pertinent, so we are looking to strike that content. We are also cleaning up some other language issues, such as removing the "in residence" terminology that can be misleading to online students and those taking online courses.

M. Rogers - Students who took a foreign language in high school, does that count toward their college courses? J. Smith - Only in preparing them for credit by examination.

D. Kneip - Since the BA requires language, are we letting students know this in other places? J. Smith - When you look at the University Requirements page, there is a table that shows clearly that all BA degrees require foreign language.

R. Green - The decision has already been made by the enrollment committee, so a student who took no foreign language in high school could graduate from ACU with no exposure to foreign language? I think we need foreign language, but we don't have any say in that decision, correct? J. Smith - Correct. That decision has been made. R. Green - Could we change our general education to require foreign language for all bachelor's degrees? J. Smith - Doing something like that has so much collateral effect, we would need to be careful. Making recommendations is part of our responsibility, however.

C. Flanagan - Didn't the committee make this decision because all high schools are requiring foreign language so there would be fewer incidents of deficiency? B. Rix - We discussed this on the enrollment committee. There are very few students per year who fall into this deficiency.

J. Prather - The broader question is should we as a council mandate a change? We should table that, though, until a later time.

D. Kneip - Does the state of Texas require 2 years of foreign language? B. Rix - Yes. D. Kneip - Does TEA oversee private schools, homeschool, etc.? That would be good information to have. It could lead to larger numbers of students coming in without exposure to language if not. B. Rix - I think we are just changing the deficiency language. In University Requirements, it is still mentioned under cultural awareness menu. J. Smith - That will be edited out at the time of catalog revision. Those changes do not require this committee's approval.

D. Kneip - Does this apply to #4 as well with Associate's degrees? J. Smith - Yes. Good catch.

Motion to approve by J. Prather with an added edit to the general requirements for associate degrees section; seconded by R. Green; all in favor; motion passes.

VII. University Requirements Revision of Language to Include *Humanities*

J. Smith - This is a change that is made to stay in line with SACS about how we label things. Instead of labeling it Sophomore Literature, we need a label of Humanities. No actual change to the requirements is happening. The literature requirement fulfills the humanities requirement.

J. Prather - Aren't we creating a new menu? J. Smith - In label only, not in practice. J. Prather - Could someone propose a course be added to the humanities? J. Smith - We are not creating outcomes for this menu. We are restricting it to only sophomore literature. This is how we handle the Math menu, Communication menu, etc. J. Prather - Why wouldn't it open up? There's no reason why other humanities courses shouldn't count. J. Smith - At this time there are no criteria or outcomes for a new course to map to. It is the same for the math requirement. Theoretically, any department that offers a statistics course could argue to be added, but there is no criteria for them to apply to so they cannot be added.

Motion to approve by D. Kneip; seconded by L. McCurley; 6 in favor; 3 against; motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.