

University General Education Council
November 9, 2022, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

Present: K. Witemeyer, J. Smith, R. Brown, K. Carroll, S. Sanders, T. Naldoza, L. Sharp-Penya, J. Jones, S. Talley, M. Atkinson, R. Ashlock

Absent: R. Rama

Ex-officio: B. Reeves, E. Gumm (G. Mihills, C. Riley, M. Allen were absent)

Guests: N. Coates, G. Brooks, K. Jernigan, J. Carpenter, D. Counts, J. Camp, M. Phillips, D. Kennamer, D. Morrison, G. Straughn

The meeting began at 3:30 p.m.

- Call to order by J. Smith
- Minutes from 10/26/22

No corrections, so minutes were accepted as approved.

Action Items

1. Add ANTH 101 to Cultural Literacy Menu

No discussion.

2. Add COMM 345 to Cultural Literacy Menu

No discussion.

3. Add SOCI 370 to Cultural Literacy Menu

J. Jones – Are these all general education classes? Many are upper-level courses. Will these fit the general education population? D. Morrison – There are no prerequisites, and we try to keep our courses accessible to a broad spectrum of students. The content is accessible to the general education population. J. Smith – Will the upper-level courses be appropriate for students without a background in the topics covered in the courses? D. Morrison – The way we frame these courses is to engage students from their own personal experience and using readings that while theoretical are not deeply academic in nature. J. Jones – My bigger question is are you able to have a valid assessment across these courses that range from a freshman to senior level? J. Smith – I think the multidisciplinary nature of these courses allows for some diversity in the assessment.

4. Add SOCI 380 to Cultural Literacy Menu

See above.

5. Add SOCI 442 to Cultural Literacy Menu

See above.

6. Add SOCI 460 to Cultural Literacy Menu

J. Jones – This might be helpful as an example for Engineering with their ethics course.

7. Add SOCI 480 to Cultural Literacy Menu

See above.

Motion to approve items 1-7 by R. Brown, seconded by S. Talley. All in favor; motion passes.

8. Add ENGL 373 to Cultural Literacy Menu

R. Brown – There are two active learning exercises for B3. That could probably be reduced to one. J. Smith – I just see one paper. R. Brown – I might have made my note on the wrong course.

Motion to approve by R. Ashlock, seconded by T. Naldoza. All in favor; motion passes.

9. Add COMM 310 to Arts & Humanities Menu

No discussion.

10. Add COMM 322 to Arts & Humanities Menu

R. Brown – A2 and C2 – the artifacts are the same. I would like to see some clarification on which portion of the artifact is meeting the outcome. L. Sharp-Penya – We did discuss the assignment capturing both outcomes. We can add more specificity there.

Motion to approve items 9-10 by J. Jones, seconded by R. Ashlock. All in favor; motion passes.

11. Add AENV 130 to Life & Physical Sciences Menu

R. Brown – I'd like to see greater specificity on the artifacts. J. Smith – Since it focuses on the final exam, are you wanting clarity on types of exam questions or topics covered? R. Ashlock – I agree that it would be nice to see some specificity. J. Jones – I think it is very similar to other Biology courses that we passed earlier.

Motion to approve by J. Jones, seconded by K. Carroll. All in favor; motion passes.

12. Add FAM 251 to Social & Behavioral Sciences Menu

J. Jones – I love both of these courses.

13. Add FAM 262 to Social & Behavioral Sciences Menu

No discussion.

Motion to approve items 12-13 by S. Talley, seconded by R. Brown. All in favor; motion passes.

14. Add ENGR 350 to Social & Behavioral Sciences Menu

J. Smith – This application comes forward with some revision to the course description.

R. Brown – They aren't changes to the course as much as clarification of what is being taught. R. Ashlock – Do you think this will have an appeal to students beyond

Engineering? R. Brown – Historically, it has served only our students. Any students

would be welcome to take the course, however. J. Smith – This is a very full major and it would be helpful to have this count as general education for their students.

Motion to approve by K. Carroll, seconded by R. Brown. All in favor; motion passes.

15. Add ANTH 101 to Social & Behavioral Sciences Menu

R. Brown – The artifact and the rubric for A2 and the content matter are the same. I don't know if that matters. J. Smith – It doesn't present a problem from the university assessment side.

Motion to approve by J. Jones, seconded by R. Brown. All in favor; motion passes.

16. Add COMM 101 to Social & Behavioral Sciences Menu

No discussion.

17. Add COMM 231 to Social & Behavioral Sciences Menu

No discussion.

18. Add COMM 241 to Social & Behavioral Sciences Menu

No. discussion.

19. Add COMM 415 to Social & Behavioral Sciences Menu

No discussion.

20. Add COMM 450 to Social & Behavioral Sciences Menu

No discussion.

Motion to approve items 16-20 by R. Brown, seconded by S. Talley. All in favor; motion passes.

21. Add SOCI 111 to Social & Behavioral Sciences Menu

No discussion.

22. Add SOCI 222 to Social & Behavioral Sciences Menu

No discussion.

23. Add SOCI 368 to Social & Behavioral Sciences Menu

No discussion.

24. Add SOCI 385 to Social & Behavioral Sciences Menu

R. Brown – This has a prerequisite of SOCI 111 which is already on the SBS menu. Could a student take this course without SOCI 111? D. Morrison – This is the only course on campus that focuses on social theory. A student could possibly have SOCI 111 waived. J. Smith – But that would necessitate breaking our general rule. L. Sharp-Penya – If a student transfers in SOCI 111, would they receive gen ed credit? E. Gumm – Yes, if it came in as equivalent to SOCI 111 it would fulfill gen ed. We have not had any cases where this has come in as an equivalent without granting gen ed credit. D. Morrison – We would like to keep it on the menu since the topic is so important. We are fine with assessing it. J. Jones – Why not just remove the prerequisite if a student can be successful in the course without it? D. Morrison – I'm not opposed to removing it. J. Smith – Courses free of prerequisites are preferred, not required. So we are left with a question of practicality. With the prerequisite in place, 99% of the time a student would already have the gen ed requirement met. Since we no longer have the gen ed selection requirement, we no longer have a reason to hit a menu more than once.

25. Add SOCI 415 to Social & Behavioral Sciences Menu

S. Sanders – This is a writing-intensive course. I'm concerned about approving a 400-level course that is rigorous with writing. If they haven't taken all their composition courses, they might not be prepared for this as a general education course. D. Morrison – The writing is scaffolded, so there is not just one paper. There are many opportunities for development and growth with smaller assignments for students. J. Jones – This a lot of assessment for general education across your department. D. Morrison – I have a lot of experience with assessment. S. Sanders – Can your small department teach all these courses? D. Morrison – None of these are new courses. They are all being taught with the current faculty load. Our program is very flexible, so we have more of a general education focus. J. Smith – Only SOCI 111 is offered every semester. The others, because of the rotation, offer flexibility to students depending on which term they are taking a course.

26. Add SOCI 450 to Social & Behavioral Sciences Menu

S. Sanders – I'm not sure how this fits the general education idea. D. Morrison – It is particularly appropriate for many students who comes from health-related majors. It is not technically heavy. It is a breadth of medical sociology with a more humanistic theme. J. Smith – Do you have students from other majors? D. Morrison – Students come from many majors. The MCAT is looking for Sociology content now. We have lots of pre-med and other science majors. It's a benefit to our pre-health folks. K. Carroll – As someone who works with kinesiology, I think this is an ideal gen ed course for those types of students.

Motion to approve items 21-26 by R. Brown, seconded by S. Talley. 8 in favor; 1 opposed; motion passes.

27. Add POLS 225 to Social & Behavioral Sciences Menu

R. Brown – Outcome C1 talks about the final project being different every semester. There should be some level of continuity that would hold true across years.

28. Add POLS 227 to Social & Behavioral Sciences Menu

No discussion.

Motion to approve items 27-28 by J. Jones, seconded by K. Carroll. All in favor; motion passes.

29. Add ECON 260 to Social & Behavioral Sciences Menu

S. Sanders – What is the cross-listed course? M. Phillips – It is the Dallas version. K. Carroll – In the rubric, A2 the numbers are different in shortcomings (p. 6) and points of excellence. J. Smith – What is included on p. 6 is an example it is not part of the actual application.

30. Add ECON 261 to Social & Behavioral Sciences Menu

R. Brown – There is a mismatch between the rubric and the application chart. If you can remove "homework and" that would take care of it.

Motion to approve items 29-30 by K. Carroll, seconded by J. Jones. All in favor; motion passes.

31. Add JMC 100 to Social & Behavioral Sciences menu

J. Smith – This is currently on the Social Sciences menu and often has students from various majors taking it.

Motion to approve by L. Sharp-Penya, seconded by K. Carroll. All in favor; motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Addendum to Minutes - 11/29/22

Email from Jessica Smith regarding SPAN 301 (for A&H menu) - please see attachment.



Karen Witemeyer <kmw03d@acu.edu>

UGEC - SPAN 301 on A&H menu

10 messages

Jessica Smith <jes98k@acu.edu>

Tue, Nov 29, 2022 at 8:59 AM

To: Robert Brown <rlb16c@acu.edu>, Shelly Sanders <mrw95v@acu.edu>, Ronnie Rama <ronnie.rama@acu.edu>, Lynette Sharp Penya <penyal@acu.edu>, Rodney Ashlock <ashlockr@acu.edu>, Jody Jones <jxj16c@acu.edu>, Stephanie Talley <srt03c@acu.edu>, Kathy Carroll <kkc20a@acu.edu>, Theresa Naldoza <tmn05a@acu.edu>, Melissa Atkinson <melissa.atkinson@acu.edu>

Cc: Karen Witemeyer <kmw03d@acu.edu>

Hello, UGEC members —

Thank you again for your hard work on the menu proposals this fall! We received the revisions requested on all proposals that you approved except one.

We reviewed SPAN 301 for the Arts & Humanities and Cultural Literacy menus on Oct. 12. You requested revisions to the application for the Arts & Humanities menu. Karen emailed Steven Moore three times and Paul Roggendorff and Steven together twice. Then I emailed Paul and Steven on Nov. 15 requesting that the revision be submitted by Nov. 21 so that we could finalize the menus for the degree plan work ahead, and I stated that the course would be dropped from the Arts & Humanities menu if we did not have it by that point. I did not receive a response.

SPAN 301 is required in two majors (Spanish and Spanish Teaching Certification) and one minor (Spanish). SPAN 301 will remain on the Cultural Literacy menu, and the department would be free to reapply to place SPAN 301 on the Arts & Humanities menu in future years.

I wanted to give you an opportunity to provide any recommendations and to document why SPAN 301 would not appear on the Arts & Humanities menu in the 2023-24 catalog after your review. Please let me know of any questions or concerns. Thank you!

Jessica

Jessica Smith, Ph.D.
Associate Provost for Curriculum and Assessment
Abilene Christian University
325-674-2024

Lynette Sharp Penya <penyal@acu.edu>

Fri, Dec 2, 2022 at 1:56 PM

To: Jessica Smith <jes98k@acu.edu>

Cc: Robert Brown <rlb16c@acu.edu>, Shelly Sanders <mrw95v@acu.edu>, Ronnie Rama <ronnie.rama@acu.edu>, Rodney Ashlock <ashlockr@acu.edu>, Jody Jones <jxj16c@acu.edu>, Stephanie Talley <srt03c@acu.edu>, Kathy Carroll <kkc20a@acu.edu>, Theresa Naldoza <tmn05a@acu.edu>, Melissa Atkinson <melissa.atkinson@acu.edu>, Karen Witemeyer <kmw03d@acu.edu>

Jessica,

I'd like to recommend extending the deadline for making the changes. I know it is a busy time of the semester but would like to see the course placed on both menus approved by the UGEC.

Thanks,
Lynette
[Quoted text hidden]

—
Lynette Sharp Penya, Ph.D.
Professor of Communication
Chair, Department of Communication & Sociology
Abilene Christian University
ACU Box 28156
Abilene, TX 79699-28156
Office: 325-674-2136
Email: penyal@acu.edu

[Click here](#) to book an appointment with me.

Jody Jones <jxj16c@acu.edu>

Fri, Dec 2, 2022 at 4:24 PM

To: Lynette Sharp Penya <penyal@acu.edu>

Cc: Jessica Smith <jes98k@acu.edu>, Robert Brown <rlb16c@acu.edu>, Shelly Sanders <mrw95v@acu.edu>, Ronnie Rama <ronnie.rama@acu.edu>, Rodney Ashlock <ashlockr@acu.edu>, Stephanie Talley <srt03c@acu.edu>, Kathy Carroll <kkc20a@acu.edu>, Theresa Naldoza <tmn05a@acu.edu>, Melissa Atkinson <melissa.atkinson@acu.edu>, Karen Witemeyer <kmw03d@acu.edu>

My concern is that sets a precedent for not turning in stuff on time
That is a recipe for disaster once you start
Collecting outcome assessment

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 2, 2022, at 1:57 PM, Lynette Sharp Penya <penyal@acu.edu> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Kathy Carroll <kkc20a@acu.edu>

Fri, Dec 2, 2022 at 4:52 PM

To: Jody Jones <jxj16c@acu.edu>

Cc: Lynette Sharp Penya <penyal@acu.edu>, Jessica Smith <jes98k@acu.edu>, Robert Brown <rlb16c@acu.edu>, Shelly Sanders <mrw95v@acu.edu>, Ronnie Rama <ronnie.rama@acu.edu>, Rodney Ashlock <ashlockr@acu.edu>, Stephanie Talley <srt03c@acu.edu>, Theresa Naldoza <tmn05a@acu.edu>, Melissa Atkinson <melissa.atkinson@acu.edu>, Karen Witemeyer <kmw03d@acu.edu>

I agree that it sets a bad precedent. I don't have a problem with it being on both menus, but to extend the time to get necessary changes submitted seems unwise.



Kathy K. Carroll, PhD

Assistant Professor and Program Director, Online Health and
Human Performance Program - College of Graduate and
Professional Studies

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[Faculty Council Communication Form](#)

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Abilene Christian University
16633 North Dallas Parkway, Suite 800
Addison, TX 75001

[Quoted text hidden]

Lynette Sharp Penya <penyal@acu.edu>

Fri, Dec 2, 2022 at 5:09 PM

To: Kathy Carroll <kkc20a@acu.edu>

Cc: Jody Jones <jxj16c@acu.edu>, Jessica Smith <jes98k@acu.edu>, Robert Brown <rlb16c@acu.edu>, Shelly Sanders <mrw95v@acu.edu>, Ronnie Rama <ronnie.rama@acu.edu>, Rodney Ashlock <ashlockr@acu.edu>, Stephanie Talley <srt03c@acu.edu>, Theresa Naldoza <tmn05a@acu.edu>, Melissa Atkinson <melissa.atkinson@acu.edu>, Karen Witemeyer <kmw03d@acu.edu>

I agree that assessment is important. However, that is not at issue here. When a course is on a menu, chairs will know from the beginning that their courses need to be assessed by a particular deadline, and it is a relatively long deadline. In this case, I'm concerned with the procedure. Not allowing the course to be on the menu would set a precedent of overturning a UGEC vote.

Both are important. However, I believe honoring the UGEC's vote is more important than extending a deadline. That is why I propose extending the deadline in this case.

[Quoted text hidden]

Jessica Smith <jes98k@acu.edu>

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 2:01 PM

To: Lynette Sharp Penya <penyal@acu.edu>

Cc: Kathy Carroll <kkc20a@acu.edu>, Jody Jones <jxj16c@acu.edu>, Robert Brown <rlb16c@acu.edu>, Shelly Sanders <mrw95v@acu.edu>, Ronnie Rama <ronnie.rama@acu.edu>, Rodney Ashlock <ashlockr@acu.edu>, Stephanie Talley <srt03c@acu.edu>, Theresa Naldoza <tmn05a@acu.edu>, Melissa Atkinson <melissa.atkinson@acu.edu>, Karen Witemeyer <kmw03d@acu.edu>

Hi, all —

Thanks for your patience with my response; I'm traveling home from the SACSCOC conference today.

When I contacted our LangLit representatives a week before the deadline provided, I noted that we needed to finalize the menu list because faculty were about to begin the process of revising all undergraduate degree plans based on the options available on the menu. At this point, the provost's office and registrar's offices have reviewed each degree plan two to three times, and deans and faculty have engaged their review process. Some degree plans have already been voted on by departments and college councils.

The deadline was not meant to be punitive but to protect appropriate time for faculty input at all stages of the revision and implementation process. The vote taken in UGEC was contingent on revision, so it does not cause a procedural problem to remove a course that was not revised.

Extending the deadline would be UGEC's prerogative, but it does compress the time allotted in this process for input from other faculty groups — department faculty working on program revision and AUAC's work with each degree plan.

Please vote **by noon Wednesday** whether you would like to extend the deadline for the SPAN 301 revision. If a quorum of members participates in the vote by the deadline, I will reach out to the LangLit faculty and extend their deadline to submit a revision to Friday. Thank you! -j

Jessica Smith, Ph.D.

Associate Provost for Curriculum and Assessment

Abilene Christian University

325-674-2024

[Quoted text hidden]

Stephanie Talley <srt03c@acu.edu>

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 5:44 PM

To: Jessica Smith <jes98k@acu.edu>

Cc: Lynette Sharp Penya <penyal@acu.edu>, Kathy Carroll <kkc20a@acu.edu>, Jody Jones <jxj16c@acu.edu>, Robert Brown <rlb16c@acu.edu>, Shelly Sanders <mrw95v@acu.edu>, Ronnie Rama <ronnie.rama@acu.edu>, Rodney Ashlock <ashlockr@acu.edu>, Theresa Naldoza <tmn05a@acu.edu>, Melissa Atkinson <melissa.atkinson@acu.edu>, Karen Witemeyer <kmw03d@acu.edu>

I understand the concerns. And, it could impact Spanish teaching majors negatively if not approved. I don't like students shouldering the consequences.

ST

[Quoted text hidden]

Stephanie Talley, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Chair, Department of Teacher Education

Abilene Christian University

ACU Box 29008

Abilene, TX 79699-9008

325-674-2116

Jessica Smith <jes98k@acu.edu>

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 7:16 PM

To: Stephanie Talley <srt03c@acu.edu>

Cc: Lynette Sharp Penya <penyal@acu.edu>, Kathy Carroll <kkc20a@acu.edu>, Jody Jones <jxj16c@acu.edu>, Robert Brown <rlb16c@acu.edu>, Shelly Sanders <mrw95v@acu.edu>, Ronnie Rama <ronnie.rama@acu.edu>, Rodney Ashlock

<ashlockr@acu.edu>, Theresa Naldoza <tmn05a@acu.edu>, Melissa Atkinson <melissa.atkinson@acu.edu>, Karen Witemeyer <kmw03d@acu.edu>

Hi, Stephanie —

The good news is that SPAN 301 is counting for the Cultural Literacy requirement for Spanish teaching majors, and SPAN 301's placement on CL isn't in question at all. The World Lit course requirements will satisfy the literature requirement and A&H requirement for Spanish majors. -j

Jessica Smith, Ph.D.
Associate Provost for Curriculum and Assessment
Abilene Christian University
325-674-2024

[Quoted text hidden]

Stephanie Talley <srt03c@acu.edu>

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 7:18 PM

To: Jessica Smith <jes98k@acu.edu>

Cc: Lynette Sharp Penya <penyal@acu.edu>, Kathy Carroll <kkc20a@acu.edu>, Jody Jones <jxj16c@acu.edu>, Robert Brown <rlb16c@acu.edu>, Shelly Sanders <mrw95v@acu.edu>, Ronnie Rama <ronnie.rama@acu.edu>, Rodney Ashlock <ashlockr@acu.edu>, Theresa Naldoza <tmn05a@acu.edu>, Melissa Atkinson <melissa.atkinson@acu.edu>, Karen Witemeyer <kmw03d@acu.edu>

Wonderful!

ST

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 6, 2022, at 7:16 PM, Jessica Smith <jes98k@acu.edu> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Jessica Smith <jes98k@acu.edu>

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 12:33 PM

To: Stephanie Talley <srt03c@acu.edu>

Cc: Lynette Sharp Penya <penyal@acu.edu>, Kathy Carroll <kkc20a@acu.edu>, Jody Jones <jxj16c@acu.edu>, Robert Brown <rlb16c@acu.edu>, Shelly Sanders <mrw95v@acu.edu>, Ronnie Rama <ronnie.rama@acu.edu>, Rodney Ashlock <ashlockr@acu.edu>, Theresa Naldoza <tmn05a@acu.edu>, Melissa Atkinson <melissa.atkinson@acu.edu>, Karen Witemeyer <kmw03d@acu.edu>

Hello, everyone —

The question about the SPAN 301 deadline received 5 votes from our 10-member council. This does not meet the quorum requirement to represent the will of the council, so we won't change the deadline to include SPAN 301 in the Arts & Humanities menu based on the vote.

The LangLit department will be welcome to bring the SPAN 301 application for the A&H menu forward again in the future. Having SPAN 301 on only the Cultural Literacy menu does not disadvantage students in either the Spanish or Spanish Teaching majors, as SPAN 301 can count for their CL requirement, and the multiple courses that these students are required to take in world literature and foreign-language literature will satisfy their sophomore literature and A&H requirements.

I appreciate your engagement on this question.

Jessica

Jessica Smith, Ph.D.
Associate Provost for Curriculum and Assessment
Abilene Christian University
325-674-2024

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