

University General Education Council
April 9, 2025, 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

Present: K. Witemeyer, J. Smith, S. Marshall, M. Isbell, L. Reed Senter, D. Kneip, K. Carroll, D. Jackson, A. Pittman, M. Deeg, A. Randrianasolo (did not vote during meeting)

Absent: None

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

Guests: D. Kennamer, S. Jones, D. Garcia, J. Carpenter, S. Hamm, T. Dahlman, D. Williams, D. Counts

The meeting began at 3:31 p.m.

- Call to order by J. Smith
- Minutes from 2/26/25

No corrections were presented, so minutes were accepted as approved.

Action Items

1. ENVR 410 – Remove Capstone Designation

J. Carpenter –ENVR 420 is also a capstone course. We decided that ENVR 420 was the best option for the capstone, so we would like to remove ENVR 410's capstone designation. Also, the ENVR 410 course is taught by an adjunct. We would prefer a course taught by our faculty to serve as capstone.

Motion to approve by L. Senter; seconded by D. Kneip; all in favor, motion passed.

2. SOCW 491 – Add Capstone Designation

S. Hamm – This is part of a larger redesign of the social work curriculum. This course was offered years ago, last time in 2010. We wanted to reopen it and change it to serve as our new capstone. This course will be offered alongside students' practicum. It is a culmination of the undergraduate program. We are trying to move away from being a research-heavy curriculum and towards a practice orientation. J. Smith – I noted that this course is set up as a one-hour course, the smallest of our capstone courses at ACU. Do you have concerns with meeting all the writing requirements within the one-hour time frame? S. Hamm – This course will not cover any new content. Students will be

compiling what they have been doing and having a case study and reflection. There will be an e-portfolio as well. D. Kneip – Our capstone is a three-course sequence, and the final course is a one-hour class that feels similar to this. Ours works pretty well for our students.

Motion to approve by D. Kneip; seconded by M. Deeg; all in favor, motion passed.

3. BCMO Courses – Add to Upper-Division Bible and Theology Selections

T. Dahlman – These BCMO courses are utilized on the Dallas campus. The courses in our program were originally all shared courses. We then began to build our own BCMO courses. Many of these would make a great fit for the upper-level Bible courses. J. Smith – When we proposed the new gen ed curriculum in 2020, the BCMO courses did not exist at that time. A. Pittman – These courses were created for your majors, right? And you are wanting them to be used as general education for any Dallas student, is that right? T. Dahlman – Correct. The Spiritual Formation course is most often chosen by Dallas students.

Motion to approve by K. Carroll; seconded by S. Marshall; all in favor, motion passed.

4. BUSA 311 – Add to Cultural Literacy Selection Menu

D. Garcia – All of these classes are international courses that require international travel. They will all count as International Business for our business students. These are designed to prepare students for the international experience here on campus before they travel. BUSA 311 will be taken on campus as preparation. BUSA 312 will be part of a study abroad program over the summer. BUSA 311 + BUSA 312 will give international business credit for COBA students in their major. This will allow the faculty to focus on the projects while abroad. J. Smith – BUSA 311 and 312 are 1.5 credit hours, so they would not fulfill the requirement on their own. We do have precedent with 2-hour music courses on other menus.

5. BUSA 312 – Add to Cultural Literacy Selection Menu

See above.

6. BUSA 423 – Add to Cultural Literacy Selection Menu

D. Garcia – Students will travel over spring break but then have extended assignments throughout the semester. This is a trip to Costa Rica. M. Deeg – I didn't see a syllabus for any of these proposals. Why is there no prerequisite for BUSA 423? D. Garcia – The

BUSA 423 is a longer course. There is preparation within the course itself before the spring break trip. D. Kneip – I see a junior standing prerequisite and instructor approval. Are students ever rejected? D. Garcia – There is an application process because these students are going to help real people in real businesses. Every trip is a different project. We want to make sure the students who go are prepared to assist with the project that will be addressed. A. Pittman – I understand that general education menus are open to non-majors. If COBA majors have trouble getting into this course, how is it a good fit for a general education course? D. Garcia – We do have non-majors travel with us on occasion. A. Pittman – General education should not be tied to a specific field. These consultant courses seem to be specific to the field of business. D. Garcia – The content of the course trains the students before the trip. We also cover missions as part of the class. The self-assessment, communicating with people in another culture, and experience with partners in another culture would be applicable to students in any major. The projects with the partners will be tailored to the students' skills. Students from other majors would bring a different set of skills that could be helpful. M. Deeg – Is BUSA 423 a new course? I don't see a syllabus for that course in the proposal.

J. Smith – We do need to consider how these courses fit the general education outcomes and how they are mapped with the specific outcomes pertaining to the menu in question.

D. Kneip – The classes seem to fit cultural literacy as a whole, but they do seem quite focused on COBA students. A. Pittman – The language of the learning objectives includes terminology about applying international business practices which focuses on business. I wonder if there is a way to revise the syllabus to reflect broader, cultural goals. L. Senter – I'm sold on the cultural literacy, I'm just not sold on the gen ed piece. J. Smith – We do have other courses like Engineering Economics that are fairly major-specific. D. Garcia – The international business courses that I teach have around 80 students and we have students from many different majors. More students take the classes when they are on the gen ed menu. What better setting to learn about cultural literacy than to travel to an international location? These classes are designed to study culture and understand how culture affects decision-making. These skills can be applied to any major.

M. Deeg – BUSA 423 – Seeing the syllabus now, I see 8 weeks of preparation before the trip. Why can't 311 and 312 do the same in a single course? J. Smith – They are wanting one course in spring and one course in summer. Since they are in different semesters, they needed two different courses to accomplish that. S. Marshall – BUSA 423 seems more generalizable where BUSA 311 & 312 seem more business focused. D. Garcia – We can use business as a vehicle to gain cultural understanding just as we can learn through a music course or a missions course. J. Smith – That is the key issue that we have considered in many meetings. Any course we approve will be seated within a particular discipline. A. Pittman – I agree that this is a great vehicle. I'm more concerned about the

objectives in the syllabi that point toward business objectives instead of cultural literacy objectives.

J. Smith – What do we need to see to have a decision at our next meeting? A. Pittman – I would like more time to examine the syllabi.

Motion to table items 4-6 by A. Pittman; seconded by M. Deeg; all in favor, motion passed.

J. Smith – We don't have time to discuss our English items, but I will give an overview of what to expect. After several years of piloting a workshop course, they propose a new ENGW workshop sequence similar to the MATW courses. We will remove ENGL 106/107 as part of this change.

D. Kneip – There is no ENGW course in the current catalog. J. Smith – They were new courses approved by AUAC last week.

7. ENGL 106/006, 107/007 – Remove from Written Communication Options

Not discussed

8. ENGW 111 – Add to Written Communication Options

Not discussed

9. ENGW 112 – Add to Written Communication Options

Not discussed

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.