

University Undergraduate Academic Council
September 16, 2015, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Adams Center Conference Room

Present: S. Lewis, C. Bacon, S. Jones, G. Powell, J. Reese, I. Shepherd, C. Pruett

Absent: S. Stewart, S. Wages, V. Williams

Ex-officios: E. Gumm, P. Vardiman, B. Fang

Guests: M. McCallon, L. Penya, G. Straughn, T. Milholland

The meeting began at 3:32 p.m.

I. Call to order by S. Lewis

II. Prayer by S. Lewis

III. Approval of the minutes from 5.6.15

Motion to approve by J. Reese; seconded by S. Jones; 4 in favor; 3 abstentions; motion passes.

IV. General Education Review Proposal

S. Lewis began by stating this proposal passed UGEC last week by a wide margin. The council doesn't have to vote on it today, but they can if they want to. She then mentioned that what G. Straughn presented at the faculty meeting was multi-faceted and not everything that was brought up at the faculty meeting was to be voted on that day. She also said that UGEC needed clarity on what the current general education requirements are, so she handed out copies of the general education requirements from the 15-16 catalog. J. Reese then asked about the criteria for the #2 in innovation award ACU recently received. She wanted to know if that award was tied to general education and if this proposal would effect that award. E. Gumm said the criteria is pretty broad and it includes use of technology and facilities. G. Straughn noted that ACU's never been recognized for its general education criteria, Baylor has.

G. Straughn then presented the proposal. He began by stating that the council was considering the proposed structural changes to the general education menus. He also noted that this proposal would supersede previous iterations of general education revisions. He then specifically addressed that the 6 hour foreign language requirement approved in 2007 would not be implemented. He then outlined the proposal changes: CORE 210 would move to the Cultural Awareness/Foreign Language menu; a 3 hour historical literacy requirement would be created; fine arts/humanities courses would be moved to the Cultural Awareness menu; and the general education elective would be raised to 6 hours (from 3 hours). The English, communication, science, math, social science, and kinesiology menus would remain as is. These changes would keep the

general education requirements at 56 hours and the total number of hours at 128. These changes will create more flexibility for students and will help ACU be more transfer friendly.

J. Reese then asked a few questions. She began by stating that there's an interest in creating vocational courses housed in different departments that could fulfill a Bible requirement; she asked if that would be considered a structural change and be part of a later faculty vote. G. Straughn replied yes. He noted that there are currently no changes to the 15 hours in the Bible menu. If a course was subbed for the last Bible requirement (business ethics, literature and belief, Christian art, etc.), that would go to a faculty vote. J. Reese then said that she's taught CORE 210 and she's not sure it's a good fit for the Cultural Awareness menu. She's concerned that the Cultural Awareness menu is being watered down. S. Lewis then asked where CORE 210 would better fit. J. Reese said it doesn't really fit with social science either. She would like to keep tiered courses but realizes that it's a problem financially. C. Pruett noted that he's not sure how a course on identity and community can be taught without a strong cultural content. The council then briefly discussed the criteria of the Cultural Awareness menu. S. Lewis noted that students should demonstrate ability in those things versus actually doing them. G. Straughn noted that CORE 210 meets the Cultural Awareness criteria more efficiently than the social science requirements. The placement of CORE 210 is a fair question. He then noted that it's a good fit for study abroad. T. Milholland then asked who will own CORE 210 if it's moved. S. Lewis replied that they don't know yet. G. Straughn noted that it makes sense for the general education office to own that course. J. Reese then asked if there is enough history faculty to teach courses in the proposed historical literacy menu. G. Straughn said it should be fine. He also noted that the historical literacy menu may not only be history courses; it could also include church history, art history, etc. S. Lewis noted that history courses are undersubscribed, not maxed. T. Milholland then stated that this proposal is not a substantive change for SACS.

C. Bacon then mentioned that the general education elective was created as a placeholder, so she's confused why it's being raised to 6 hours. She asked if those 3 or 6 hours could move to general electives or if the 128 hour requirement could be lowered. G. Straughn noted that the faculty survey did not have the context of looking at the number of students bringing in hours and how many hours are brought in, both of which are increasing every year. Having the general education electives gives students greater flexibility to reach 128 hours. Even though the number of true transfer students is small, lots of new true freshman bring in a large number of dual credit/AP hours. C. Bacon replied that the flexibility argument still works if these hours are added to general electives. G. Straughn then noted that departments may take the new electives and add required courses, which defeats the purpose of making them general electives. S. Lewis clarified that the general education requirements *could* reduce to 50 and 6 hours would be added to the number of electives in each degree plan. C. Bacon noted that the transfer student doesn't lose anything by this change, but the non-transfer student gains. G. Straughn then said that the notion of electives is a powerful liberal arts notion. He then pulled up the catalog and noted that an additional box *could* be added to the University Requirements for ACU degrees section that would say 6 hours of electives, then the University Requirements for all Bachelor's Degrees would add up to 50. J. Reese then

asked if this would have to go back to UGEC. G. Straughn said no. L. Penny asked that departments could not co-opt the 6 hours to departmental requirements. E. Gumm said that this would remove the opportunity to parenthetically note those 6 hours. T. Milholland then read the language from SACS about general education requirements; Core Requirement 2.7.3: "In each undergraduate degree program, the institution requires the successful completion of a general education component at the collegiate level that (1) is a substantial component of each undergraduate degree, (2) ensures breadth of knowledge, and (3) is based on a coherent rationale." G. Straughn then said they *could* leave the current 3 hours of general education selection as is and could put 3 hours in the not able to co-opt category.

Motion to amend the proposal to say 3 hours general education selection, 3 hours free electives by C. Bacon; seconded by S. Jones; 5 in favor; none opposed; 1 abstention; motion passes.

There was then a brief conversation about the amended language on the proposal. This change would have to be made on the proposal before it goes to faculty vote.

Motion to approve amended proposal by J. Reese; seconded by G. Powell; 5 in favor; none opposed; 1 abstention; motion passed.

C. Bacon noted that she liked how the Bible piece was explained at the faculty meeting. She thinks it's appealing to allow students to take a course outside CBS that is spiritually relevant to her/his major. J. Reese replied that could be a problem with SACS if a non-Bible professor was teaching a course with a Bible prefix. C. Bacon noted that she realizes the political implications of this. She hopes the Bible faculty will include everyone in this conversation. T. Milholland noted that in the past non-Bible courses could fit in the Bible menu. S. Lewis said that SACS doesn't see our divisions. G. Straughn stated that we have the ability to write that criteria, could be Bible and spiritual formation. J. Reese said she is not speaking for the department. She does not want vocational courses meeting the Bible requirement since that should be met in capstone.

The meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.