

University Undergraduate Academic Council
December 2, 2015
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Adams Center Conference Room

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

Absent: S. Wages

Ex-officios: W. Paris, B. Fang, E. Gumm (P. Vardiman and J. Weaver were not present)

Guests: Lynette Sharp-Penya, Tom Milholland, Bruce Scott, Greg Straughn

The meeting began at 3:31 p.m.

- I. Call to order by S. Lewis.
- II. Prayer by V. Williams.
- III. Approval of the minutes from 11.4.15

Motion to approve the minutes with change to 18 hours under XV and quotation mark revision by J. Reese; seconded by S. Jones; all in favor; motion passes.

Action Items:

- IV. Accelerated MSSW Degree Program

S. Lewis - Refresh your memory by looking at the minutes for the discussion at our previous meeting. I. Shepherd – Can I ask about fiscal impact? W. Paris - We intend to recruit enough students to overcome any financial deficit that occurs from awarding graduate credit to undergraduate students. We break even by recruiting one additional student to the program. This is part of a 3 part MSSW enhancement plan placed before the provost and dean. That is why we included the financial information even though it is not under the purview of the UUAC. It is an element of accountability. S. Lewis - This proposal is unique because it goes both to undergraduate and graduate council. We are considering the impact this plan has on *undergraduate* majors. I. Shepherd - I worry that we are taking slices out of the graduate school revenue. W. Paris - When you look at the numbers, the number of ACU students our grad programs currently retain is minimal. This is a way to accommodate students who wish to pursue social work without changing their major and gives them the opportunity to complete their degree and retain for our graduate program. It should increase our retention of ACU students as well as bringing in outside students. B. Scott - The graduate school supports this program because it opens up new fields for us to recruit students that we haven't been

able to recruit in the past. This will add to the bottom line and increase our revenue along with other programs that Social Work is putting together. We *are* looking at financials. We think it is viable. S. Stewart - No one borrows 24 hours. That is too many in my opinion. W. Paris - These are all elective hours. S. Stewart - 12 is the maximum I'm willing to support. Degree integrity is an issue.

J. Reese - I move to approve it. S. Jones - I second.

S. Lewis – Discussion? C. Bacon - Is there a fallback position that would accomplish what you want to accomplish with less than an 18-24 hour window? W. Paris - It is similar to Psychology. There are very few students who have 24 hours open to them in their junior year. Most students would only have 9-12 hours available to use toward this program. S. Lewis - The key difference between this option and Psychology is that the Psychology program is designed for their majors, so the courses the students take already fit into their degree. This program is for non-Social Work majors. I. Shepherd - Will there be an assessment process to see if the program leads to negative revenue? B. Scott - We are already working on that. T. Milholland - It is the Provost's responsibility. There must be a minimum of 150 transcribed hours between undergraduate and graduate.

C. Pruett - Can you explain the difference between the one-year and two-year programs? W. Paris – The 2 year program has one year of leveling work for students without a social work degree. We have not captured many of our ACU students in this 2 year program because of cost and other factors. A master's degree in social work is considered a terminal degree. That is why we get so many from other programs like Sociology. The students in this new program would go into the 2-year program will some hours already completed as undergraduates.

S. Lewis - As you are thinking about this, remember this affects all students except social work. S. Stewart – Will they change to an Interdisciplinary degree to have more room for electives? S. Lewis - No. They complete their current degree. B. Scott - They commit to our graduate program while they are still here on campus. E. Gumm - They can take advantage of block tuition.

Motion to approve by J. Reese; seconded by S. Jones; 5 in favor; 2 opposed; 1 abstention; motion passes. (J. Reese last meeting V. McCracken replacing her.)

V. ART 494 – Senior Exhibition – Approval of Capstone Requirements

S. Lewis - We approved this course before. It went to UGEC for capstone approval and was approved. C. Bacon - This was well constructed. I see no issues.

Motion to approve by C. Bacon; seconded by I. Shepherd; all in favor; motion passes.

VI. Change to University Requirements: ACU's acceptance of transfer credit.

S. Lewis - a couple of these changes are interesting in dealing with MATH and COMM. The AP piece is strictly for clarification. The policy is not really changing. Focus on items 5 and 6.

G. Straughn - We are working on being more transfer friendly in response to our directive. As a result of committee meetings and focus groups, we came up with the proposal we presented to you earlier in the semester. There is an increase in the number of students who bring in credit as well as the number of hours they are bringing in. That trend will likely continue. The broad statement we started with - If you have an accredited course at another university that met university requirements there, it will meet ours as well. UGEC wanted to bring in some more specifics to restrict the broadness of the statement. Math doesn't want a blanket statement, so to raise the bar slightly - if you enroll at the university and you bring in College Algebra before you come, that will transfer in. If you come here and you don't have transfer credit for College Algebra when you come, you have to take MATH 120 or transfer in its equivalent. Communication is similar. There are a few occasions when a foreign language or composition course or theatre class could fulfill the speech requirement at another institution. We want to only accept speech classes. So we have a couple of restrictions.

C. Bacon - On #5, the language didn't make it clear. Your explanation makes sense, but the language here is not clear. Having "Math that meets the university requirement at another accredited institution" would make it clearer. S. Lewis - There are fairness issues. College Algebra counts for one student but not the other just because one took ACU courses beforehand. S. Stewart - It lowers the standard. S. Lewis - Only for those coming in, maintaining the standard for those already here. G. Straughn - This affects about 0.4% of ACU's population. J. Reese - Let's try it and reevaluate after a period of time. S. Jones - Do most other universities accept College Algebra? G. Straughn - Many do. The visiting committee recommended that we accept it.

C. Bacon - I don't think Math and Communication should get special treatment. Allowing certain departments to carve out exceptions has not served us well as an institution over the years. I say it should be all or nothing. If we are going to accept all transfer courses that meet general education requirements at another institution, there shouldn't be exceptions. G. Straughn - Would you approve the original intent to accept any credit that comes in? C. Bacon - Possibly. I appreciate the desire to be more transfer friendly, and I appreciate the desire to be an institution of higher standards. But whatever we decide, it should be the same across the board.

G. Powell - In the parenthetical statement at the end of item 5, we should change from i.e. to e.g. S. Jones - If the point of our core is to have higher standards, I don't like this because it lowers the standard. S. Lewis - Only for pre-enrolled students. Are we wanting to open the door a little so transfer students can have our superior experience for two years? J. Reese - It's not that different from the transfer student who only has to take BIBL 103 instead of BIBL 101 and 102. S. Stewart - This makes our job more

challenging with professional licensure degrees and makes for some hard conversations with students who can't meet the competencies because their transfer work was of lower quality. Do you think this is advantageous for the university? G. Straughn - Yes.

Motion to approve by G. Powell with the changes discussed; seconded by V. Williams; 5 in favor; 2 opposed; 1 abstention; motion passes.

Meeting ended at 4:43 p.m.