

University Undergraduate Academic Council
April 6, 2016
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Adams Center Conference Room

Present: C. Pruett, S. Lewis, C. Bacon, V. McCracken, I. Shepherd, S. Jones, S. Wages,

Absent: S. Stewart, G. Powell, V. Williams

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

Guests: Bruce Scott, Lynette Sharp-Penya, David Christianson, Robert Green, Suzie Macaluso, Kyle Dickson, and Jessica Smith

The meeting began at 3:32 p.m.

- I. Call to order by S. Lewis.
- II. Prayer by C. Bacon.
- III. Approval of the minutes from 3.2.16

Motion to approve the minutes by S. Jones; seconded by C. Bacon; all in favor; motion passes.

Information Items:

- IV. EDUC 211 – Prerequisite Change
- V. BIBM 493 – Prerequisite Change
- VI. FAM 485 – Prerequisite Change
- VII. CS 330 – Prerequisite Change
- VIII. JMC 233, 302, 352, 438, 441, 495 – Description Change

As these were information only, there was no discussion.

Action Items:

- IX. Definition of General Education vs. Additional Requirements in University Requirements Menu

The graphic in the memo attached to the proposal shows this clarification best. This is to designate General Education boundaries within the University Requirements menu. We tend to use General Education, Core, and University Requirements as synonyms, but they are not. University Requirement includes General Education and Core. This proposal is to show which menus are used to meet the SACS requirement for General Education. Writing-intensive and capstone are housed within the departments. This brings us in line with the SACS definition of General Education. For example, not all of our Cultural Awareness courses meet the definition of General Education.

S. Jones – So any upper-level courses that are approved as University Requirements are no longer part of University Requirements? S. Lewis – They are allowed in the bigger umbrella of University Requirements not the General Education. C. Bacon – This doesn't move us toward a 120 hour degree plan, correct? S. Lewis – This is NOT related to that. This was brought to light because of the Historical Literacy menu with upper-level courses wanting to be included. There is no reduction in University Requirements hours.

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

X. Adding THEA 490 to the Historical Literacy Menu for University Requirements

S. Lewis - This is one of the courses up for approval for the new Historical Literacy menu. E. Gumm – The course competencies align very well with the menu criteria. It came up several times with the UGEC only because it was upper level and restricted mainly to one major. With the new definition of General Education vs. University Requirements, UGEC felt confident in approving it for the menu.

Motion to approve by C. Bacon; seconded by S. Jones; all in favor; motion passes.

XI. FAM 432 – Change Course Number to FAM 232

S. Wages – The rationale is to increase financial literacy for students. Research shows courses such as this one are having an impact on student behavior, manifesting in decreased student debt and increased financial awareness. It would be nice to be able to point to a course for students and parents when they are here for orientation. There are no real prerequisites for this course. It fits well with the Child and Family Services degree plan with our sequence. S. Jones – Can freshmen take it? S. Wages – It will be mostly a sophomore-level course, but there is nothing that would keep a freshman from taking it. I. Shepherd – Is there a projected student loss for students taking this earlier in their college career and deciding that ACU is not a good financial fit? S. Wages – There is no way to project that, but we focus on being smart about ways to budget and manage those loans, and building appropriate security over time.

C. Bacon – If Steve will not be around forever to teach this course, who will sustain this course when he is gone? Will College of Business worry about this course being within the Family Studies area? S. Wages – This is a required course for our licensing board.

We've also had a great relationship with COBA. We need to be collaborative not territorial. I'd love to see 5 of these courses available across the various departments. Greg Brooks will teach this next year, and he is licensed and trained in resource management. The course will be in good hands. There are some distinctions between what we offer and what COBA emphasizes – we aren't doing tax planning and estate planning, etc.

S. Lewis – Will the 400-level material be too difficult for a sophomore-level maturity? S. Wages – There are no difficult computations. We discuss a lot of facts and strategies for decision-making. A lower-level student will be able to handle it. I. Shepherd – Why 200-level instead of 300-level? S. Wages – We want to catch the students early to change behavior as early as possible. S. Lewis – There should be a degree plan change attached to this to reflect the change to the degree plan. E. Gumm – And it should be made retroactive to apply to past catalog years.

Motion by C. Pruett to accept the change in number and that such approval will include the appropriate changes in the CFS degree plans and be made retroactive; seconded by I. Shepherd; all in favor; motion passes.

XII. ART 425 – New Course

S. Lewis – This course is the last course in the change to the degree plan enacted a couple years ago. R. Green – In 2014 we revised our learning outcomes and made them more rigorous. We created two courses in response to that. Senior Exhibition and this course, Art Theory. This is a foundational course that allows students to build upon with a knowledge of art theories as they move forward into future coursework. S. Lewis – You are aligning your department with the accreditation requirements but aren't actually applying for accreditation, is that correct? R. Green – Yes, this course is in line with those criteria. I. Shepherd – Does this require a change in faculty or addition of new faculty? R. Green – No. We've realigned some courses to adjust faculty load to allow for this course. C. Pruett – It looks like a strong course.

C. Bacon – One question about the syllabus – a writing assignment that calls for “scientific, sophisticated language.” I would recommend you do away with the word “scientific” since this is an art class. R. Green – I would agree with that.

Motion to approve by I. Shepherd; seconded by S. Wages; all in favor; motion passes.

XIII. MSMA, MSLA, SPEL, IDSC – Revised Social Science Designations

C. Pruett suggests grouping items 13-19 together for a single motion. C. Bacon moves to do so. V. McCracken seconds. All in favor.

Proposals were straightforward. No discussion took place.

Motion by C. Pruett to approve all items 13-19; seconded by C. Bacon; all in favor; motion passes.

XIV. MSSA – Degree Revision (Remove EACH 363)

(see above)

XV. MSLA – Degree Revision (Remove EACH 363)

(see above)

XVI. MSMA – Degree Revision (Remove EACH 363)

(see above)

XVII. MSMA – Degree Revision (MATH 247 Change)

(see above)

XVIII. SPEL – Degree Revision (PEAC Change)

(see above)

XIX. IDSC – Degree Revision (PEAC Change)

(see above)

XX. Psychology – Revision of a Major

L. Sharp-Penya – This is an attempt to change the psychology selections from specific courses to a range of acceptable courses numbers to allow for more flexibility when new courses are approved or old ones are closed. I. Shepherd – Hours remain the same? L. Sharp-Penya – Yes.

Motion to approve by S. Jones; seconded by I. Shepherd; all in favor; motion passes.

XXI. KNOT – Revision of a Major (Remove CHEM 133/131)

S. Jones – We've had discussion with Hope Martin regarding the MSOT program here. No programs in Texas require General Chemistry, so we are deleting the requirement. B.

Scott – It was putting some of our students at a disadvantage GPA wise. S. Lewis – And accreditation calls our undergraduate program to fit with the requirements for our graduate program.

Motion to approve with the change of elective hours from 17 to 18 to make the hours equivalent in the proposal by C. Bacon; seconded by C. Pruett; 5 in favor; 0 opposed; 1 abstention; motion passes.

XXII. SOCI 495 – New Course (Capstone approved by UGEC)

S. Macaluso – We are creating a capstone unique to Sociology instead of continuing to use the SOCI 415 course that is used by multiple other majors. This new course will focus on social theory and research methods in a meaningful way. We would remove the capstone designation from SOCI 415. This also increases the total hours into the major. I. Shepherd – Will SOCI 415 still remain active? S. Macaluso – Yes. And it is a prerequisite for the 495 course. V. McCracken – With the tiered grading system – does a student's grade reflect the lowest level achieved? S. Macaluso – Yes, but students have the chance to revise and resubmit. V. McCracken – I would recommend that a definition of that be included so students understand clearly what is expected along with the ramifications.

S. Lewis – Do we want to vote on this separately or add it to the votes for being included on the menus? Council agrees to consider them together.

Motion to approve course by C. Bacon along with the following alterations to the degree plan menus for major and minor with the removal of the capstone designation from SOCI 415; seconded by S. Jones; all in favor; motion passes.

XXIII. Sociology – Revision of Major Requirements

(see above)

XXIV. Sociology – Revision of Minor Requirements

(see above)

XXV. Film Minor – LALI & JMC

C. Bacon – I move to consider the minor and the three following courses together. C. Pruett – Second. 5 in favor. Motion passes.

K. Dickson – We’ve had students for years on this campus piecing together a minor without any official way to demonstrate their efforts on their transcript. ACU has graduates who have placed themselves really well in the film industry, and we want to create a program that reflects this education.

K. Dickson – The intention is that students moving through the minor will get experience writing for film, producing film, and appreciating film. We aren’t going to outshine programs in southern California, but we are going to give students a rich starting place so they can move forward in their specialization of choice. V. McCracken – The CCCU allows you bring in 9 hours, would that replace some of the other requirements? K. Dickson – There are suggested courses that the CCCU courses substitute for. E. Gumm – It is confusing having a separate line for the CCCU courses and not knowing where those fit. I would suggest getting rid of that line and just absorbing it into the other categories and adding a note explaining it. We can also add to the course descriptions on the CCCU courses “may be used to fulfill film minor – film production elective” etc.

E. Gumm – Is this housed in LALI? K. Dickson – Yes. C. Bacon – Is there a reason it can’t live in two places? S. Lewis – It could be listed in the Interdisciplinary area of the catalog. C. Bacon – I want it to be listed in the places that garner the most attention. If we list it two places – more students will be exposed to it. S. Lewis – So if I’m a student and want to talk to someone about this minor, who do I talk to? K. Dickson – Both departments should be able to talk to students about it. E. Gumm – The student is probably most likely to find it on the website by doing a search for “Film” for example. So the department where it lives won’t make a big difference. J. Smith – Multimedia majors will be hugely interested in the program. E. Gumm – You cannot minor in what you major in. K. Dickson – We just finished film fest with 600-700 students attending, this is not part of the degree requirement, but might there be a paragraph that would identify opportunities such as film fest for film production?

S. Lewis – Some places in your proposal call it Film Studies and some places it's just Film. Which is correct? K. Dickson – I would strongly recommend it be called “Film” not studies.

Motion to approve by S. Jones to accept the Film minor with the changes we talked about with CCCU in the degree plan box and in the back of the catalog and to accept all three new courses supporting this minor (items 26-28); seconded by V. McCracken; all in favor; motion passes.

XXVI. ENGL 321 – New Course - Screenwriting

K. Dickson – The creative writing program at ACU has been doing great work for a number of years. Screenwriting has been taught two times, and it has filled the first day it opened. This pairs well with ENGL 331 in different areas of writing for media. They support programs like DET. S. Jones – I think the competencies are great.

XXVII. ENGL 332 – New Course – Introduction to Film Studies

K. Dickson – Intro to film was offered this last fall for the first time. It is the only required course in the minor. It is a gateway-type course to provide foundation for film production and analysis. This course will be offered under special topics this next fall. C. Bacon – I appreciate that the course requires a good deal of rigor. This is clearly not the same as the film appreciate course we've had in the past. C. Pruett – I like the strong faith and learning statement. S. Lewis – You said you co-taught it with Al Hailey. Will it continue to be co-taught? K. Dickson – It will not be a requirement that it be co-taught in the future. We team taught as we developed the course.

XXVIII. ENGL 333 – New Course – Studies in World Cinema

K. Dickson – This will give students an awareness of what's going on beyond Hollywood. Leslie Reed will be joining us as a German professor, but she also has a great background in world cinema. She will probably be the one to teach it in the future. We will co-teach it in the fall for the first time as an apprenticeship as a way to mentor new faculty.

Meeting ended at 4:53 p.m.