

University Undergraduate Academic Council
April 18, 2018
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
CEHS Dean's Conference Room

Present: K. Witemeyer, I. Shepherd, D. Williams, M. Delony, S. Stewart, S. Lewis, M. Daugherty, P. Roggendorff, S. Hamm, R. Ashlock

Absent: C. Bacon

Ex-officios: T. Head, E. Gumm, B. Fang

Guests: Tom Milholland, Tom Lee, Joshua Brokaw, Jessica Smith, Leslie Boiles, Mark Phillips, Andy Little, Lynette Sharp-Penya

The meeting began at 3:32 p.m.

I. Call to order by S. Lewis.

II. Prayer by I. Shepherd.

III. Approval of the minutes from 4.4.18

Motion to approve the minutes by S. Stewart; seconded by I. Shepherd; all in favor; motion passes.

Information Items:

IV. HIST 459 – Revise Prerequisites

V. FLEN 047 – Revise Title & Description

Action Items:

VI. BIOL 476 – Change Credit Hours from 2 to 3 and Title Changed.

S. Lewis – All of the Biology items are related, so please give us the overview.

J. Brokaw – This is the largest, most comprehensive change that we've had since the 1990's and it has evolved over several years. These changes weren't directly related to change in our faculty. Our sophomores will be the most drastically affected. Biology is divided into two major categories of botany and zoology. The field moved to more general biology courses, and we instructed sophomores to choose one of the two areas to focus on. We did a comprehensive review of other colleges and universities, and when

we compared ourselves to these other schools, one of the biggest difference was the lack of an early general genetics class. This pattern is out of step with other programs and is probably one of the most significant courses for the future of our science. However, we don't want to lose our botany and zoology classes because they sets us apart and prepare our students well for their future. We are planning to add genetics early on and put the botany and zoology off until the junior and senior years. We've created an additional requirement that all biology majors have to take a field course. For now, that is the Ecology Lab. It is the only one-hour course, but we plan to separate many of our four-hour courses into separate lecture and lab to create more options for this one-hour requirement. Statistics is another requirement we are adding. We tweaked our Math requirements as well, and David Hendricks believed it would not cause any difficulty for them.

Changing the hours of the Biotechnology course is also part of this process. It is currently a 2-hour course, but that doesn't fit many of the tracks. So increasing the lecture component, we will increase the hours to 3 hours (2 lab and 1 lecture).

The Business track didn't seem to be accomplishing its original intent. We had only one student enrolled and that student is switching to a different track. We plan to encourage students interested in business to pursue a business minor.

T. Head – How many more students will be taking calculus? J. Brokaw – Not that many. Most of our students know that they need calculus and are already taking it. It's probably about 4-5 students a year. J. Smith – Dr. Hendricks said capacity was not a problem.

Motion to approve action items VI – IX by S. Stewart; seconded by M. Daugherty; all in favor; motion passes.

VII. BIOB – Close Biology Business Track

See above.

VIII. Biology Program Revisions (BA, BS, and Health Professions Cooperative)

See above.

IX. BIOT & BTCS – Revision to Biology Teaching Programs

See above.

X. HIST 330 – New Course

J. Smith – This is African American history from emancipation through human rights. HIST 330 and 332 are designed to alternate years to give more upper-level electives as well as offerings for general education credit for non-majors. They are especially excited about the non-western aspects of the courses. This course was developed by a Language and Literature faculty member and fits within the parameters of our History requirements. R. Ashlock – Are there any faculty of color to teach this course? J. Smith – All the History faculty is currently tenured, so I don't know how much movement we will have there, but it is a good question.

Motion to approve items X – XIII by M. Daugherty; seconded by R. Ashlock; all in favor; motion passes.

XI. HIST 332 – New Course

J. Smith - This focuses on aspects of Caribbean nations, piracy, slavery, the intersection of European and African influences. This has been taught as a special topics course. E. Gumm – We removed the Cornerstone prerequisite in order to not keep transfer students without that requirement from being excluded.

XII. GLST and HSST – Revision of Majors

J. Smith – Revisions of the majors and minors are to include the new courses. S. Lewis – So the HIST degree is broken down by US History and non-US History so the HIST 330 would be US History and HSIT 332 would be non-US History.

XIII. ETWS – Revision of Ethnic and Women's Studies Minor

J. Smith – The menu has grown very short – down to three courses, so this will help round that up and give it more depth.

XIV. Information Systems – Revision of Major – Add Tracks

M. Phillips – We have the SITC now, but the IS program was developed before that school began. Some of the changes are being driven by the changes in SITC as well as changes from outside sources. The foundation core of this program is unchanged. We are giving students an option for their capstone. One is more business-focused, one is more technology-focused. All are capstone courses. We changed other wording for clarity in the catalog.

SITC has closed the IT program. The programs had a lot of overlap with IS, so we decided to move as much of the IT degree into the IS program as possible. In the old IT

degree, many students took business as a concentration, so this will be very similar to what previous IT students would do anyway. The hottest field in the business world is analytics and data science. We are adding a track that speaks to that need. We plan to add this to our other degrees in COBA as well in the future.

S. Lewis – As I'm looking at column 2, since that is the IS degree that already exists, are you planning for your current majors to change to a new catalog? Are you closing any courses? M. Phillips – We are not closing any courses. Students will have the option to change. T. Milholland – We are not creating any new major or closing anything currently existing, correct? M. Phillips – Correct. S. Lewis – Do we need a general designation for the track that represents the current IS program track? E. Gumm – It is more clear for the students and cleaner to scribe in Degree Works.

E. Gumm – I can't think of a degree plan where we have expanded the capstone offerings. Do we need to go back to UGEC? S. Lewis – I don't believe so, because UGEC decides on whether it meets the capstone criteria in general, not for a specific degree plan.

P. Roggendorff – One of the uses of capstone is assessment. How will that affect comparisons across your students? S. Lewis – These are all within your college. M. Phillips – Yes.

Motion to approve by S. Stewart; seconded by D. Williams; all in favor; motion passes.

XV. COMM 101, 231, & 241 – Inclusion on Social Science Menu of University Requirements

L. Penya – We are asking for these courses to be added to the Social Science menu. They are lower-level courses with no prerequisites, they have a broad appeal, teaching skills that employers seek. We included charts to show how they meet the social science criteria. S. Lewis – When UGEC met, there was no discussion about these courses not meeting the criteria. L. Penya – Intercultural Communication is on the Cultural Awareness menu. S. Lewis – There is the COMM 211 requirement for all students, but these are for the Social Science menu.

T. Milholland – I think COMM 101 fits the essence of general education. P. Roggendorff – Even though it does meet definitions, how is this a social science? L. Penya – Our field has two parts – Rhetoric and Quantitative/Qualitative Research. We have the research methods that define these as social science, which is why these courses are appropriate for the social sciences menu.

R. Ashlock – I have a few reservations about 101. I'm fine with the other two. I'm not sure the broader survey-type introductory course fits as well. L. Penya – If you look at the chart, you'll see the specifics of how COMM 101 fits the criteria. S. Lewis – What strikes me is that the course content requirement for social science should introduce

students to a discipline. So, my question is the opposite. R. Ashlock – Can a student step into those courses and not be lost? L. Peña – Yes. There are no prerequisites so it is introducing students to that material. S. Lewis – If small group is my only social science, would that be introducing me to the Communication discipline? L. Peña – Yes. J. Smith – There are other courses on the social sciences menu that are similar to these.

Motion to approve all three courses by D. Williams; seconded by M. Daugherty; 5 in favor; 1 abstention; motion passes.

XVI. NURS 308 – Cross-listing with CHEM 308, BIOL 308, & COMP 308 and Inclusion on Cultural Awareness Menu in University Requirements

S. Lewis – Global healthcare is a course that is taught among three departments right now (Biology, Chemistry, and Communication Sciences and Disorders) and it is usually taught in a setting that is not Abilene. Nursing is wanting to join this conglomerate through cross-listing. L. Boiles – This course really fits for our nursing students for an upper-level elective. We also currently do mission trips, and cross-listing would allow our faculty to teach it. We are not looking to change any of the competencies. T. Milholland – Does Dr. Powell oversee the course and ensure the syllabus remains consistent? S. Lewis – It is overseen collectively. E. Gumm – There have been no changes since it was approved a few years ago.

Motion to approve by M. Daugherty to cross-list and include on Cultural Awareness menu; seconded by R. Ahslock; all in favor; motion passes.

XVII. ITC 250 – Inclusion on Historical Literacy Menu of University Requirements

S. Lewis – You will recall we approved this course last time. It has been to UGEC and approved for the Historical Literacy menu and now comes to us to approve as well. There were some concerns about it possibly being too narrow, and he had a great answer to that. E. Gumm – The bulk of their depth is about the past 80 years, and he has the many primary source documents in use that is highly impressive as well as bringing in a lot of ethnic and gender diversity. He also addressed the assessment piece very well. M. Daugherty – If History of Theater is not too narrow then this course is not too narrow.

Motion to approve by P. Roggendorff; seconded by D. Williams; all in favor; motion passes.

Meeting ended at 4:52 p.m.