

University Undergraduate Academic Council
May 13, 2020
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Present: K. Witemeyer, J. Smith, D. Mayhall, R. Ashlock, D. McAnulty, B. Burton, M. Daugherity, M. Delony, S. Hamm

Absent: K. Hatfield, P. Roggendorff

Ex-officios: M. McCallon, M. Long, B. Fang, E. Gumm, V. McCracken

Guests: M. Straughn, N. Coates, C. Riley

The meeting began at 3:02 p.m.

1. Call to order by J. Smith.
2. Prayer by J. Smith.
3. Approval of the minutes from 5.6.20

Motion to approve the minutes by R. Ashlock; seconded by D. Mayhall; all in favor; motion passes.

Action Items

4. NURS – Create Pre-Nursing Track

M. Straughn – Students can declare nursing from the beginning, but there is a second admission process for entering upper-level coursework. Our accreditors expressed concern that it was not clear to students the difference between pre-nursing and nursing with the second admission process. We want to formalize the process to document students as pre-nursing until they are officially admitted into the program. The pre-nursing track will clean this up. This is similar to how many schools do this. You can declare pre-nursing, but you cannot get a degree from this track. You must either be admitted to the nursing program or change majors. This is to align our formal structure with the informal process already in use. No substantive change is needed with the Board of Nursing or our accreditors. Our colleagues in Dallas are looking at offering the pre-nursing track online, then they would have to complete the nursing degree residually in Abilene. J. Smith – We have other "pre" programs at ACU. They are set up a little differently. R. Ashlock – Is this a track or a major? It's a little confusing. I think of tracks representing multiple paths within a major. M. Straughn – It's not a certificate, it's not a degree. Students who wish to apply to nursing school anywhere are

going to take a certain package of courses. This addresses that package and where to make a clear division. J. Smith – From the university perspective, the major is the program. The tracks are not individual programs. This is more of a categorization of incoming students. S. Hamm – There is no difference between how courses are delivered or their order? It's just clarifying where the students are in the program? M. Straughn – Correct. They cannot take any NURS courses until they are admitted to the School of Nursing.

E. Gumm – The biggest different between this track and others in the catalog is that this doesn't end with a degree. I didn't think we were looking at publishing a non-degree track in the catalog. I thought it was more for the degree audit piece. The audit will clarify the pre-nursing track to the student. I'm concerned about delivering it at the catalog level. None of the other pre-programs are presented in the catalog that way, since they don't award a degree. M. Daugherty – Is this the right implementation? Or are we still hashing it out during this meeting? J. Smith – The fact that this is different from what we've done before does create questions that are good for discussion here.

M. Straughn – Everything that is needed for the accreditors is already there in the text in the catalog. The degree plan is up for discussion. D. McNulty – The "track" issue wasn't confusing to me. But I like the clarity of including it in the catalog. J. Smith – How it is presented in the catalog can be changed moving forward as long as we agree on approving the curricular piece of the pre-nursing track. M. Straughn – If students know they are "pre-" nursing, they know that they still have standards to meet.

E. Gumm – Students look at the Degree Works audit more closely than the catalog. This new track will be clearly designated in Degree Works as Pre-Nursing. This is where the clarity happens. Printing that as a separate major in the catalog creates confusion. This is actually more clear than our other "pre-" programs. Approving this track will allow the degree audit to show the pre-nursing courses.

M. Daugherty – If a paragraph of text in the catalog explains this, then that seems clear enough to me.

J. Smith – If we approve the track today, we can continue to work on how to best present it in the catalog.

R. Ashlock – Do we think this will set a precedent for other pre-programs? J. Smith – We have different programs doing different things. I don't think this has to be a defining moment for all programs, but it could create new ideas and future changes.

Motion to approve the creation of a track by R. Ashlock; seconded by S. Hamm; all in favor; motion passes.

5. POLS 315 – Revise Credit Hours, Title, Description & Course Terms

N. Coates – There are two methodology courses that our students use, POLS 315 and SOCI 415. We have not always been able to staff our POLS 315 course in the past. We are ready to support that course more fully and would like to make some changes to the course. D. McNulty – Why was there a lab and why was it eliminated? N. Coates – We have not actually been offering the lab for the last 4-5 years. We don't believe our students need that material prior to graduate school.

6. CJ (BA) – Revision of Major

N. Coates - We would like all of our majors to have the option to take either POLS 315 or SOCI 415. J. Smith – This brings a change to the electives for some of the affected programs.

7. CJ (BS) – Revision of Major

See above.

8. POLS – Revision of Major

See above.

9. POLS-IRCP – Revision of Major

See above.

Motion to approve items 5-9 by D. McNulty; seconded by R. Ashlock; all in favor; motion passes.

Meeting ended at 3:37 p.m.