

University Undergraduate Academic Council
October 7, 2020
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Present: K. Witemeyer, J. Smith, G. Broderick, M. Long, B. Burton, D. McAnulty, D. Kneip, A. Sutherlin,

Absent: K. Cha, D. Mayhall, S. Martinez

Ex-officios: B. Fang, L. Merchant, E. Gumm, B. Carroll

Guests: J. Camp, L. Sharp-Penya, D. Kennamer, C. Riley, N. Coates, M. McCallon

The meeting began at 3:32 p.m.

1. Call to order by J. Smith.
2. Prayer by B. Burton.
3. Approval of the minutes from 5.13.20

Motion to approve the minutes by B. Burton; seconded by D. McAnulty; 5 in favor; 1 abstention; motion passes.

Information Items

4. BMIS 345 – Change Course Terms
5. BIBM 434 – Change Course Terms
6. COMM 499 – Add Prerequisite
7. FAM 232 – Revise Title & Description
8. FAM 251 – Change Course Terms
9. FAM 495 – Revise Title

Action Items

10. BA Bible & Ministry (BBMN) – Revision of Major – Add BIBL 367 & 466

D. Kneip – This is to correct an oversight in the catalog as well as to address a new direction for our curriculum. Several years ago, those two courses were taught by senior faculty and geared toward non-majors. Those faculty have retired, but now we have faculty who can teach majors sections as well. This way we will have consistency between our programs and there will be fewer substitutions required. J. Smith – These

are courses already being taught. We will just be adding them to an existing menu in the program.

D. McNulty – Is there a reason majors and non-majors don't take them together? D. Kneip – At this level, the question and goals students have as majors compared to non-majors is so different. Majors not only need to understand it, but they need to be able to teach it to others and go deeper in the cultural and theological backgrounds.

Motion to approve by B. Burton; seconded by A. Sutherlin; all in favor; motion passes.

11. COMM 225 – New Course

L. Sharp-Penya – We are wanting to add this course to the career portion of our degree plans. In this course we will focus on career development for our students. One problem we have is a lack of a clear career path with a degree in communication. You can pursue many different careers. This course will help us prepare our students for specific careers more effectively. We will be developing a career portfolio throughout the course of our major, and this will be the first course addressing that in the curriculum. This course will replace our interviewing course COMM 230 in the existing degree plan for both the BA and BS programs. We believe this course better serves our students. We have four different learning outcomes related to career preparation.

J. Camp – We believe this course will meet an urgent need to recruit majors. No one asks a nursing major what they are going to do with their degree. They do ask for students majoring in communication. We believe this change should be retroactive. That was a change from when it came through college council. J. Smith – Making this retroactive would mean that we would change catalog requirements for previous catalog years. The reason this is so rare is because it changes the "contract" we set with students when they enter under a specific catalog. This impacts accreditation when we change things retroactively. It is a practice that is not recommended and we have limited our use of that over the last several years. Chairs always have the option to make substitutions to the existing degree plans. J. Camp – So the council cannot discuss that element? J. Smith – We can, but I wanted to make sure the intent is clear.

D. McNulty – This looks like a great course. I didn't see anywhere where the other course will be removed. Can you not just handle that with advising? J. Camp – Our reason is that we have recently had faculty shortages and we do not have the faculty to teach both COMM 230 and 225. We believe COMM 225 will be an improvement for our students and help with recruiting. G. Broderick – Is COMM 230 going away? L. Sharp-Penya – It will not be required on the degree plan, but we are not closing it at this time. It could be taught potentially in the future. G. Broderick – Will you carry forward with the interviewing skills in other courses? L. Sharp-Penya – Yes. Several of the major assignments surrounding interviewing are included in the new course.

Motion to approve the new course by B. Burton; seconded by D. McAnulty; all in favor; motion passes.

12. BA COMM – Revision of Major – Add COMM 225

See discussion above.

J. Smith – We have had a number of requests for retroactive change in the last several years. We have not approved any in the last two years. How many students actually need it who have not already taken COMM 230? L. Sharp-Penya - I'm not sure how many students will need it. We have 29 students who will be sophomores by next year. Many of them will probably take it as a special topics course next semester. D. McAnulty – Are there any seniors or juniors who already have 230 who would then need to take 225 if this was made retroactive? L. Sharp-Penya – I wouldn't make them do that. We were trying to avoid a lot of substitutions. I thought the retroactive change would benefit the students. I would not want them to take 225 if they had already taken 230. A. Sutherlin – The real plan is who do you do the subs for – either the lower-level or upper-level. M. Long – The student always have the option to change catalog year. E. Gumm – Changing the degree plan will not help because as a special topics course, you will have to sub it anyway. Changing catalog years is the best solution. L. Sharp-Penya – Are there changes in general education that would have a negative impact on students who switch? E. Gumm – No. L. Sharp-Penya – I think changing catalogs would work. I'm fine with moving forward without the retroactive piece.

13. BS COMM – Revision of Major – Add COMM 225

See discussion above.

Motion to approve revision to both BA and BS to add COMM 225 and remove COMM 230 by M. Long; seconded by G. Broderick; all in favor; motion passes.

14. New Minor – Legal Studies

C. Riley – We had conversations over the summer with Dr. Hailey about recommendations for what we could do with a minor. With students having pre-law concentrations, we thought it would be a good idea to have a minor to have courses prescribed to students interested in pursuing law. G. Broderick – Is there a precedent for doing this with the courses not yet being developed? J. Smith – We work with departments to create a schedule for approving courses that have not yet been developed to ensure that the program will be ready before the catalog is published. Yes, there is precedence for this. B. Burton – Is there a reason to approve this now before seeing the new courses? J. Smith – Our process is to move forward in this manner so it doesn't slow development.

D. McNulty – Is this an 18 hour or 19 hour program? C. Riley – It is 18 *or* 19 hours. There is an internship course that can be either 2 or 3 hours. J. Smith – The catalog will show 18 because that is the minimum.

B. Burton – How will the new PLAW course be covered by faculty? N. Coates – We have several lawyers on campus who can help us in different ways. Chris and I both are excited about teaching this course. We are confident with the staffing we have in our department that the course can be taught as often as needed. Having a pre-law minor is so attractive to our department and a great draw for students. C. Riley – One of the benefits of approving the minor now, is that we can start marketing it to students as they get ready to select their courses for next semester. They can start planning their electives by seeing the approved minor. E. Gumm – From a curriculum perspective, this is a huge step. They've had advising but there has been no curriculum behind the pre-law concentration. Having the minor with set curriculum will be much stronger on the transcript.

Motion to approve by D. McNulty; seconded by G. Broderick; all in favor; motion passes.

15. IPE 301 – New Course

D. Kennamer – This is part of an intercollegiate initiative. It is an interdisciplinary course taught in a manner similar to honors colloquia. The audience is for those in the College of Education and Human Services and School of Nursing. We will restrict it to those students and allow others only by permission. We plan a "Topics In . . ." type of course as well. We are excited by the experiential learning and the interdisciplinary nature of these courses.

J. Smith – Will this be in the degree plans or are they just to support career goals? D. Kennamer – Some programs will be adding them to their degree plans. Others are using them as rich electives. M. Long – Many of our accrediting bodies are requiring continuing education opportunities. This fills that need and is also a huge recruiting tool.

C. Riley – What is the plan for credentialing faculty for these courses? D. Kennamer – The courses will always be taught by two faculty members because of the interdisciplinary nature and will speak to their disciplines. Credentials should not be an issue since our fields require interdisciplinary processes. C. Riley – Something that might help us show consistency is to create a definition. We do that with Cornerstone, and I can share that with you. That will give us a stronger position with SACS. It can be broad, but having a definition is helpful. G. Broderick – Will it make any difference to SACS if the course is not included in degree plans? J. Smith – SACS cares about whether or not we follow our own rules. The question here is should we approve this course. What we do with the course in the end – is it required in a degree plan or just an elective – that doesn't matter to them. They care about consistency in our procedures.

D. McNulty – I think seeing letters of support from other departments would be helpful for approving courses like this in the future. D. Kennamer – We can do that with the next course we bring forward. This is leading edge, and we are really excited about it.

Motion to approve by D. McNulty; seconded by A. Sutherlin; all in favor; motion passes.

Meeting ended at 5:00 p.m.