

University Undergraduate Academic Council
November 4, 2020
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Present: K. Witemeyer, J. Smith, A. Sutherlin, S. Martinez, D. Mayhall, M. Long, B. Burton, K. Cha, D. Kneip, D. McAnulty

Absent: G. Broderick

Ex-officios: L. Merchant, B. Carroll, E. Gumm (A. Boone attended in place of B. Fang)

Guests: D. Flanagan, R. Mullins, A. Boone, T. Naldoza, C. Powell, K. Elliott, M. McCallon, D. Kennamer

The meeting began at 3:33 p.m.

1. Call to order by J. Smith.
2. Prayer by J. Smith.
3. Approval of the minutes from 10.7.20

Motion to approve the minutes by D. Mayhall; seconded by A. Sutherlin; 7 in favor; 1 abstention; motion passes.

Information Items

4. CS 332 – Revise Prerequisites
5. CS 356 – Revise Prerequisites
6. CS 365 – Revise Prerequisites
7. CS 381 – Revise Prerequisites
8. CS 467 – Revise Prerequisites
9. DET 315 – Change Course Terms
10. DET 330 – Change Course Terms
11. DET 365 – Change Course Terms
12. DET 370 – Change Course Terms
13. IT 325 – Change Course Terms

Action Items

14. HIST 201 – New Course

K. Elliott – This new class will fit with our newly approved Public History Internship class. We want to have a Public History track. Students are looking for career paths that take them into non-academic areas, such as museum curator or archive work. We will propose an additional course this spring as well. This course will introduce students to the profession of public history and will be the first course of that new track. D. Kneip – I felt a little torn about it being a 200 level instead of a 300 level course. What led to the choice of number there? K. Elliott – Part of the reasoning was to allow it to fit on the University Requirements menu, but mainly we wanted to give students interested in this track an option to experience this course as their historical literacy but with a topic that is more meaningful to them. We are also hoping to attract students from other departments. D. McNulty – Have you looked into an experiential component? K. Elliott – Long-term, the plan is for students to visit several local sites. Students will be connected to people all over Texas who are involved in this area. It's a very hands-on class.

B. Burton – In years past, we have avoided course titles with colons in them. Is that an issue here? J. Smith – Most course titles do not include a colon. However, there is no set institutional policy on this.

E. Gumm – We can adjust the abbreviated title to Intro to US Public History so it will fit in Banner. Also, please be sure to include the full title on the course syllabus. The pre-colon section does not appear.

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

15. NURS 326 – New Course

R. Mullins – This course is an experiential learning course. Nearly all of nursing is experiential, but this will allow us to quantify it within a single course. In order to add this one-hour course, we had to subtract an hour somewhere. We decided we could accomplish the objectives of the NURS 380 course in 2 hours, so we will make that adjustment. K. Gesling – This course will be required in our program. It will be a summer course. This will allow us to assess the students' reflections on their experiences. They can choose between 4 tracks to focus their interests across the profession. They will hear from other students who are experiencing tracks other than their own. J. Smith – Do you anticipate any problems in helping students decide on a track? K. Gesling – We hope that the criteria will add structure. We will work closely with the advisors so that students can be thinking about this from the time they enter as a freshman. T. Naldoza – If students come in a little behind, they will still have a year from when they are accepted into the program to decide. Especially for transfer students.

E. Gumm – Is that J1, J2 terminology something your students will be familiar with? R. Mullins – Yes. E. Gumm – Also the abbreviated title isn't quite short enough. Perhaps Nursing Experiential Learning. R. Mullins – That would be fine.

16. NURS 345 – New Course

R. Mullins – We have been teaching pilot versions of this course for quite some time and have seen students experience great success in their clinicals thanks to this course. This will replace NURS 370 in the degree plan.

17. NURS 380 – Change from 3 Credit Hours to 2 Credit Hours

See item 15 above.

D. McAnulty – By reducing this class to 2 hours, will this strand any current students?

E. Gumm – That will make a difference to when this is implemented. When the hours are changed, they are changed for everyone, no matter which catalog they enter under.

J. Smith – You can make it effective in the 2022-23 academic year if you encourage current freshmen to change catalog years. This will keep students from being stranded.

There is a problem in that a course cannot be both 2 hours and 3 hours at the same time. Therefore we will have to make it a variable credit course. We could move it to a 2-hour course in two years and bring it back through council. The hours will depend on the cohort taking the course.

18. BSN Program – Revision of Major

This enacts items 15-17 to revise the degree plan.

Motion to approve items 15-18 with amendment to variable credit for NURS 380 (2-3 hours) by B. Burton; seconded by K. Cha; all in favor; motion passes.

19. NURS 370 – Close Course

R. Mullins - This has not been offered for several semesters. There was some overlap with other courses, but we feel that NURS 345 is a better fit for our students so we would like to close NURS 370 and replace it with NURS 345. We have no intent to teach it again. We have been doing substitutions for quite some time.

Motion to approve by D. Kneip; seconded by D. McAnulty; all in favor; motion passes.

20. Health Humanities – New Minor

J. Smith – This is an interdisciplinary minor and designed to include courses from all over the institution. D. Flanagan – The health professions schools have started to shift in what they are looking for. They want to assess non-cognitive skills such as empathy, judgement, etc. Psychological and social foundations are now being assessed on the MCAT. Our students need to be building an academic foundation in these areas. Also in the past several years, there have been a significant increase of similar programs at other institutions. This minor will help us be more competitive. This isn't just for pre-med students. Nursing, Kinesiology, Speech Pathology students might also be interested. This will encourage students to take courses outside their main area of study. We have three broad areas for students to select from, a minimum of one course from each area. I think this will have a very positive impact for our students.

J. Smith – How did you come to the three competencies? D. Flanagan – There is a lot of variability across other institutions. I pulled from many different program models and looked at what would work best with the courses already being offered at ACU. We will not need to create any new courses. We think there is enough variety to allow students to select courses in any given semester without placing a burden on any one department. D. Kneip – Do you think we will need more sections of the one required course? C. Powell – We currently have plenty of space in that course. We usually run it with 30 students a semester. I don't think we would have more than 60 students per year who would need the course. D. Kneip – I see a fair amount of overlap with upper-division Bible and other University Requirements that could fulfill these minor requirements. Is that a concern? D. Flanagan – I don't have a problem saying that they couldn't double dip. Is there anything to prevent that? A. Sutherlin – I would think minors that utilize some general education courses are normal. J. Smith – The significant requirement for the minor is that there needs to be at least 6 upper-division hours. There is also a new rule that states you can't count more than 6 hours as both major and minor requirements. I don't think this will be a problem. C. Powell – The whole point of this minor is to expand their horizons. These courses are not required in their major, so there won't be double-dipping there.

D. McAnulty – I noticed that social psychology is missing from your list. I just thought I would mention it. D. Flanagan – I don't have a reason for not including it. It just didn't come up in our original discussion. I could certainly see how new courses could be added to this minor in the future. J. Smith – We will need to evaluate over time to see if new courses should be added and others pruned depending on how regularly courses are offered.

Motion to approve by A. Sutherlin; seconded by M. Long; all in favor; motion passes.

Meeting ended at 4:52 p.m.