

University Undergraduate Academic Council
February 3, 2021
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Present: K. Witemeyer, J. Smith, B. Burton, D. Mayhall, M. Long, D. Kneip, D. McAnulty,

Absent: A. Sutherlin, G. Broderick, S. Martinez, K. Cha

Ex-officios: B. Carroll, L. Merchant, E. Gumm (B. Fang was represented by A. Boone)

Guests: A. Boone, M. Delony, T. Womble, J. Elliott, M. McCallon, J. Camp

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 12.2.20

Motion to approve the minutes by D. Kneip; seconded by M. Long; all in favor; motion passes.

Information Items

4. BIOL 355 – Revise Prerequisites
5. MATH/PHYS 463 – Revise Course Terms
6. ENGL 231 – Revise Description
7. ENGL 311 – Revise Course Terms
8. ENGL 351 - Revise Description
9. ENGL 497 – Revise Course Terms

Action Items

10. ENGL 285 – New Course – Environmental Literature

J. Elliott – This course is designed to go beyond technique into content. We read poems and the students reflect on that content and write responses. We travel to the locations where the poems were written to get into the mind of the poet. This ties into our experiential learning components. Having this as a sophomore literature class will open this experience to non-English majors as well. J. Smith – As a point of clarification, we are using the course description from the application not on the front of the chart. E.

Gumm – You use the term "texts" but it seems that poetry is the only genre used. Is that correct? J. Elliott – We wanted to allow flexibility so that if I am not the one teaching the course in the future we aren't locked into poetry only. E. Gumm – From a consumer perspective, I like the idea of students knowing up front that this is a poetry class, but I understand your need for flexibility. D. McNulty – Will this be a summer class? And is this a standard title for this type of course? J. Elliott – Yes, this is normal terminology. I could see this course being available in Study Abroad in a long semester, but in Abilene, it would need to be summer to allow for necessary travel.

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

11. ENGL 461 – New Course – Archival Research for English Students

T. Womble – The idea for this class came from our wanting to develop more experiential learning opportunities. In our field, special collections and archives are great way to do research. However, most students are not taught about this option. This will prepare them well for graduate programs. We already have wonderful special collections in our library. Students learn what archival research is, discuss best practices and strategies, and then conduct their own research. J. Smith – It looks like students will have experience both with in-person collections as well as digital archives. If it is digital, does that impact the experiential component? T. Womble – It changes the experience, but it is still experiential in nature. We will still strongly encourage our students to investigate in-person whenever possible. D. Kneip – The wonder is still there, even if the medium is different. J. Smith – I noticed that the prerequisite is only ENGL 111 and 112, so any student could take this course, is that correct? T. Womble – Yes. We can see students from History, Bible, etc. being interested in this course. J. Smith – Is the title still the most accurate then, designating it for English Students? T. Womble – That will be the emphasis for how it is taught, but I am open to suggestions. D. Kneip – I could see master's student interested in this as well. Would it be possible to have a 500-level version? J. Smith – Cross-listing in the future is always an option. D. McNulty – I think specifying the field of study is helpful. Archival Research in Psychology, for example, is something different, since we look at data more than documents.

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

Meeting ended at 4:05 p.m.