

University Undergraduate Academic Council
April 21, 2021
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Virtual Zoom Meeting

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

Absent: A. Sutherlin, K. Cha

Ex-officios: B. Carroll, L. Merchant (B. Fang and E. Gumm were absent)

Guests: D. Kennamer, M. McCallon, J. Camp, R. Beck, S. Kaczmarek, R. Morgan, J. Huddleston, S. Jones, D. Jackson, C. VanMeter, A. Boone (for B. Fang), H. Pennington, C. Riley

The meeting began at 3:30 p.m.

1. Call to order by J. Smith.
2. Prayer by J. Smith.
3. Approval of the minutes from 4.7.21

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

Information Items

4. EDUC 476 – Revise Title, Description, & Prerequisites
5. READ 464 – Revise Prerequisites
6. SPED 374 – Revise Description & Prerequisites
7. ENGR 332 – Revise Prerequisites
8. ENGR 333 – Revise Prerequisites
9. MUSE 338 – Revise Prerequisites
10. MUSM 431 – Revise Prerequisites
11. MUSM 449 – Revise Prerequisites

Action Items

12. PSYC 211 – New Course – Human Development & Leadership in Residential Communities

S. Kaczmarek – We've been doing some studies over the last few years about what other universities are doing to equip their residence life staff. Many offer training with a course that offers credit toward their degree. This course will focus on mental health awareness as well as leadership development, spiritual formation, etc. R. Beck – This is an interdisciplinary course, but we love the idea of equipping our front-line staff with training for handling mental health issues. The course might be offered occasionally to interested students outside of student life, but that is the main focus.

D. Kneip – With the 200-level, what is the earliest a student could take this? S.

Kaczmarek – They could take it as early as the spring of their freshmen year, but they could also take it any time up until the fall of their senior year. D. Kneip – Who will be leading the small groups on Thursdays? S. Kaczmarek – The residence hall leaders. D. Kneip – Do you see this fitting in for a major or minor at some future date? For some kind of credentialing? R. Beck – There are certainly possibilities downstream, but right now it is strictly an elective. A lot of schools use classes like this as a leadership class.

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

13. KATP – Revise Chemistry Requirements

M. Long – We have Chemistry as a requirement in our program. At our last meeting, Chemistry made a change to the number of offerings for the Intro Chem Lab. This causes problems for us since our program is so accelerated. We are wanting to remove the CHEM 111 requirement from our degree plan. We currently have the option for CHEM 133/131, but very few students utilize that option. To keep things cleaner, we are asking to remove that option since it has a required lab component. Should a student bring in that credit, we can do a substitution. Our accreditors do not require a lab, so this will still meet their requirements. D. McAnulty – Is the Chemistry department all right with students not taking the lab? M. Long – They teach the course without the lab currently, so we assume it is fine. J. Smith – There is no corequisite. The catalog also states that it can be credited without the lab. S. Jones – Nutrition and nursing majors take it without the lab as well. M. Long – If a student wants to take the lab, they can. They will now have 1 elective hour in the program, so that would be a way to fill that elective hour.

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

14. NDPD – Revise Admission Requirements

S. Jones – The NDPD is our dietetics accredited program. There is an interview process to be formally admitted into the program. We have looked at creating a fast-track option to move students into the master's program. To make this a possibility, we want to reduce the number of hours a student must complete before they can be formally admitted into the program. C. Riley – How many courses are going away? S. Jones – No

courses are going away, we are just admitting earlier in the sequence. This is for the committed student who wants to graduate early. J. Smith – It also serves as a testing ground for how students progress. D. Kneip – Would there be any pressure on students to submit early? S. Jones – We are hoping they will apply earlier, but they can wait. There is a GPA requirement, so if they aren't quite there, they have time to meet that requirement.

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

15. EDUC 335 – Increase Credit Hours from 3 to 4

D. Kennamer – We are wanting to add an additional field for grades 4-8. This allows us to give students larger breadth for their education and gives them additional credit hours. We checked our current students and none of them will go over their block with this increase in hours so we can make the change immediately.

16. MSED-MSLN – Revise Degree Requirements

D. Kennamer – There is a new state assessment and we are aligning curriculum with it. Hence the addition of a course that will better prepare them. We also want to give them more exposure to additional literature courses. We think this will benefit them and give them more choice in their program. If they are going to teach middle school literature, they need to be exposed to literature that will appeal to those age groups. D. Kneip – I love how this will allow students to match their mission with their courses.

17. MSED-MSMT – Revise Degree Requirements

D. Kennamer – When the state changed the requirements for middle school, we were able to really build their content. In some of the programs like Math, it became difficult to complete because of the sequencing. We don't have a lot of middle school majors, so it took us a few years to figure out what we needed to tweak.

18. MSED-MSSC – Revise Degree Requirements

J. Smith – You're adding flexibility here. D. McAnulty – Why was it limited to Ecology before and why are you expanding now? D. Kennamer – We visited with Biology about which courses would best address the necessary standards. Those courses provide a different kind of experience that in some cases align better with what will be taught at the middle school level. They all still meet the standards. We defined the courses a little too narrowly initially.

19. MSED-MSSO – Revise Degree Requirements

J. Smith – Here you are responding to changes made in History to add additional course options. D. Kennamer – We checked with the department, and since we don't have many students in this program, there won't be any worries about available seats in these additional courses. M. Long – Will HIST 310 be added? D. Kennamer – No, we didn't add it in, because the topics will vary. However, students can take HIST 310 and we can sub it into the topic area where it fits. The HIST 201 course will relate very well to how our students teach history.

Motion to approve items 15-19 by G. Broderick; seconded by B. Burton; all in favor; motion passes.

20. Close CCCU Courses

J. Smith – The "Best Semester" programs are study-away programs where our students can take courses in other places to enrich their degrees. The program most popular among our students has been the Los Angeles Film program. We have about one student per semester attend. The CCCU program had to close indefinitely because of COVID. They have reopened some of their programs, but not all of them. We have also been looking at standards from SACS, and in this situation, faculty are hired by CCCU, but ACU provides the credit. The challenge is that any credit we offer, we need to engage with at a high level. We would need to provide oversight and credentialing. That level of oversight would be very difficult to achieve. This seemed like the right moment to close these courses. We still want our students to participate in these programs. Students can apply as a special student at the university where the credit is being offered and would then transfer the credit back to ACU. When these courses were originally added to the catalog, they were added as a block at the request of the Provost's Office. We are asking to close them in the same way. This will impact very few students. We've had about 13 students in the last 5 years participate. It's hard to advertise it as an option when we have no control over what CCCU does.

D Kneip – I have a question about transferring credit in. With the limits on how much credit a student can transfer in after ACU enrollment, would that cause difficulty? J. Smith – At this point, I think it would be a rare student that would have difficulty. We could look at an exception for that student.

Motion to approve by B. Burton; seconded by G. Broderick; all in favor; motion passes.

21. BIOA 302, 311, 322, 345, 362, 471 – Close Courses

J. Huddleston – This is a similar situation as the CCCU issue. We have Biology Au Sable courses. These courses are offered in Michigan and are predominantly field courses. Dr. Lee used to make the trip there and teach some of these courses, but he hasn't done that in the last 6-7 years. Students will still be able to take their courses as experiential

learning opportunities, should they wish, and transfer them back in. We haven't had a student attend since 2016. We still want to maintain our relationship with Au Sable, however. J. Smith – What we are doing is not out of the norm for the other schools that Au Sable works with. D. McNulty – Are these all courses that would be taken away from ACU? J. Huddleston – Yes, the students needed to cover their own expenses to get there, but their block tuition would cover the cost of the courses themselves. J. Smith – Au Sable bills us, ACU passes the fee on to the student so they can utilize their block tuition.

22. BLOW – Remove BIOA 362, Add ENVR 241

J. Smith – The only program in which a BIOA course was required was in the wildlife track. J. Huddleston – The ENVR 241 course is relatively new course and will fit the needs of the program well. We think it is a good move so that students will not be required to travel to Michigan. D. McNulty – There seems to be a trend to handle everything ourselves, and I wonder if that runs the risk of impoverishing our students. Is there something we can do as an institution to advertise opportunities to our students? J. Smith – I think that is a helpful conversation to have. Maybe we should talk to departments to learn what programs are out there, then find ways to work out accreditation, then marketing. When we have seen success, it is when we have faculty involvement. D. McNulty – This doesn't cause a problem with upper-level requirements, does it? J. Huddleston – No, it does not.

Motion to approve items 21-22 by D. Kneip; seconded by D. Mayhall; all in favor; motion passes.

23. BSN – Revise Admission Requirements

D. Jackson – Currently, our students have to have a certified nursing certificate before they can be admitted to our school of nursing. When COVID hit, this became incredibly difficult for them to fulfill. We've been waiving the requirement for certification. They still take the course online. The purpose of the certification was to ensure students knew the content. In our evaluation process, we have discovered that there is no difference in our students' performance if they just took the course vs. being certified. We would like to change the requirement so that students would not have to take the certification exam unless they choose to. It is a costly process and difficult to manage with COVID still causing scheduling difficulties.

S. Martinez – How are the students getting that hands-on experience that they would have gotten through the certification process? Getting that experience seems so important to help students decide if this is really what they want. D. Jackson – Students are still required to take the course, it is only the certification—the test—that we are asking to omit. The experience in the nursing home is still part of the course itself. The choice to work as a CAN is their choice. They will still be getting the hands-on experience before they reach us. It is just the testing that will be different. D. McNulty

– How is the class content assessed outside of the test? D. Jackson – In the first semester of nursing school, they will come in to do skills testing for us that would be the equivalent of a CAN certification exam. M. Long – So they present you with proof of taking the course? D. Jackson – Yes. And we will validate the essentials to ensure patient safety. We had students traveling across the state trying to find testing sites this past year.

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

24. HIST 310 – New Course – Topics in Public History

R. Morgan – This new course will allow us to give students content in different regional areas of history through the lens of public history. Every spring we will have an offering for a different topic to enrich the content for our students.

25. BA HIST – Revision of Major – Revise Course Selection

R. Morgan – In order to create a track for Public History, we had to restructure the existing program to provide a shared core to allow tracks. D. Kneip – There seems to be different hours in the track. Is that just made up in the electives? J. Smith – Yes. R. Morgan – There will be fewer hours of electives in the Public History track. They can take their focus in business, art history, digital media, etc. D. Kneip – Is HIST 222 going away? R. Morgan – It will still be available for general education, but it will no longer be part of the degree plan. HIST 201 will replace it. It will still cover much of the same material just from a more modern standpoint.

26. BA HIST – Create Public History Track

R. Morgan – We have noticed in our discipline and among our students, more and more interest in careers outside of academics. Students are seeking master's degree in public history. The chair of that program at Baylor was the chair of our visiting committee and advised that we strengthen our program to better prepare students for this focus. These changes will add more structure and experience for our students.

Motion to approve items 24-26 by D. Mayhall; seconded by M. Long; all in favor; motion passes.

Meeting ended at 5:00 p.m.