

University Undergraduate Academic Council
October 20, 2021
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Adams Center Classroom

Present: K. Witemeyer, J. Smith, K. Cha, M. Long, J.D. Wallace, D. Mayhall, A. Sutherlin, G. Broderick, S. Martinez, D. Kneip

Absent: R. Jessup

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

Guests: T. Shirley, R. Rama

The meeting began at 3:31 p.m.

1. Call to order by J. Smith.
2. Prayer by J. Smith.
3. Approval of the minutes from 5.5.21

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

Business Item

4. Council Orientation and Planning

J. Smith - We will be looking at undergraduate programs (new and revisions) from the Abilene residential campus, courses, admissions, general requirements for graduation, and general education items for both campuses. This year will be unique since we are in the process of approving a new General Education curriculum.

Our UGEC has already met twice this year. We anticipate voting on a few revisions to the General Education proposal next week. I hope that it will pass to us in the coming weeks. I would encourage you to carefully read the proposal that was shared with us in May. A lot of the details will be hashed out by the time it comes to us. It should be something that we can review relatively quickly and make a recommendation. The proposal team worked very closely last year to create this proposal. UGEC has examined it and is considering a handful of modifications. Should UGEC and UUAC approve the proposal, it would then go to Faculty vote. Once it is approved, we will need to look at each course placed on the multi-disciplinary menus. So it will be a couple of years before it is implemented. We will be voting on the general education requirements for a bachelor's degree. That is the biggest area of discussion. We will also be reviewing those

for associate's degrees and the expansion of student learning outcomes. Finally, we will consider if there are any additional requirements by degree. For example, BA degrees have additional literature and language requirements. Those are the questions that will be before us in the next few weeks.

G. Broderick - If we have questions about why revisions were made by UGEC, can we get information on that? J. Smith - We will have representatives here from the proposal team. You also might read the UGEC minutes to see how the discussion progressed. L. Merchant - Is the proposal on the blog? J. Smith - It is on the UGEC blog. The version we will vote on will be revised, so it will be a different document. It is a lot of information to go through, so accessing that history will help. We need to keep in mind that this applies to all students and should be appropriate for all students.

Action Item

5. Art History Minor – New Program

T. Shirley - The idea for this minor came from student requests. Every year we have a few students who are interested in minoring in this area. We have students from English, History, and Theatre who have shown interest in this program. We are not having to add any courses or faculty. We do see our course offerings expanding over the next few years, however. K. Cha - Proposed date of implementation says fall 2021. Is it already being offered? T. Shirley - No. The program proposal was started last year but didn't make it to council. J. Smith - It will go into effect in the 2022-23 catalog year. D. Kneip - Can you speak to how this is different from the Art minor? T. Shirley - The Art minor is more focused on studio courses. This one will be focused on Art History courses. It will also offer opportunities for student research. D. Kneip - I can see how this would pair well with the Public History major for students wanting to work in museums. J. D. Wallace - I was wondering about the few students you see projected yet you have this big expansion planned. T. Shirley - We see this as an area of potential growth since we will attract students from other majors. If Art History stays in the General Education menu, this will be an area where we can attract students. Since we live in a very visual society, this type of coursework trains them for visual literacy. That is a very attractive skill in today's society. It pairs well with many different degrees. When students get a taste of the topic in General Education, they often decide they are interested in the field and want to learn more. J. Smith - This is more scalable than your studio courses, correct? T. Shirley - Yes, we can easily go from offering to 20-100 seats since it is a different modality than the studio courses. J. Smith - This looks like a structurally sound curriculum plan.

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

Meeting ended at 4:06 p.m.