

University Undergraduate Academic Council
January 19, 2022
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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

Absent: J.D. Wallace, D. Mayhall

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

Guests: M. Straughn, C. Riley, J. Ehrke

The meeting began at 3:35 p.m.

1. Call to order by J. Smith.
2. Prayer by J. Smith.
3. Approval of the minutes from 12.1.21

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

Action Items

4. General Education Revision Proposal

J. Smith reviewed the changes UGEC made to the proposal.

D. Kneip – I tried to capture some of the conversation that we had previously in a document. My proposed amendment is to combine History with Humanities so there would be a total of 9 hours (3 Literature, 3 History, and 3 Humanities Selection). The political science course would separate out and would be available to join the social science menu. This would simplify categories and add clarity since History is in the realm of Humanities. It matches what UGEC approved for associate's degrees. A. Sutherlin – With the Humanities selection, we initially talked about specifying fine arts. Are we broadening that? J. Smith – If we look at page 7 where Humanities is defined, you can see the broader definition. The intent was to include fine arts on this menu but not limit it to fine arts. G. Broderick – So we would apply to be included and show that we meet the criteria, correct? J. Smith – Yes. I believe that setting the criteria will be the next order of business for UGEC. Thinking about cultures, time periods, and aesthetics all reflect a place for arts. If this committee wanted to further define the selection item as "Arts and Humanities Selection" to help protect that, we can do that. A. Sutherlin – I think that might be a good idea. G. Broderick – There are some who might argue that it is redundant since fine arts are humanities, but I like the idea of adding that

clarification. D. Kneip – Will it matter if courses are included from different colleges? Especially if CAS splits. J. Smith – There is discussion about separating CAS into two colleges, but I don't think it pertains to this discussion. In fact, there was talk of allowing Bible to petition for courses on the humanities menu which would already be a separate college.

D. Kneip – If we amend the proposal as we are discussing, would we need to adjust the outcomes since History and Political science are currently their own section? J. Smith – We should be able to remove the existing outcome mapping for History/Political Science. D. Kneip – I did check, and nothing is lost by removing that section pertaining to outcomes. They are all covered other places.

Motion to approve the revision of moving History to Humanities with revision of selection menu to read "Arts and Humanities Selection" by D. Kneip; seconded by A. Sutherlin; all in favor; motion passes.

Autumn Sutherlin – Do we need to adjust the mapping with this change we've made? J. Smith – Let's look at that. D. Kneip – B2 and C2 are already in the Humanities. A. Sutherlin – B1 would need to move to the revised Humanities section with its emphasis on history. D. Kneip – C1 is currently mapped in Cornerstone and Social/Behavioral Sciences. Is that sufficient? J. Smith – I feel good about assessment opportunities in the existing areas. So we would strike the History/Political Science section and move B1 to Humanities. A. Sutherlin – Should we move B2 to social sciences if that is where Political Science will live? J. Smith - There are some social science experiences that would address B2, but not all of them. For example, economics. So perhaps we won't move B2 to the social sciences area. C1 would simply fall away and be picked up in other areas where it is already mapped.

Motion to approve revisions of outcome mapping by striking History/Political Science section and moving B1 to Humanities; all in favor; motion passes.

J. Smith – There has been a change to the name of the Undergraduate Research Festival, so we might want to remove the specific wording of this example since names may change over time. Or we can change the name in this document. I don't want to come back every few years to reflect a name change. J. Jessup – I'm in favor of keeping it with the updated name. A. Sutherlin – I think we should just remove it. D. Kneip – Is this one of those things that if we mention it, we have to assess it? J. Smith – Since it is an example, I don't believe we have to assess it, but it does open the door. D. Kneip – If we are wanting to inform students, maybe we could utilize more general language. I don't want to box us in and create a problem, though. J. Smith – We will assess the outcome itself, so I don't think that will happen. A. Sutherlin – Is this a public document or internal? Will it actually inform students? J. Smith – It will be in the catalog with our outcomes and on the website.

Motion to strike the example wording "such as the annual Undergraduate Research Festival" from the document by A. Sutherlin; seconded by D. Kneip; 6 in favor; 1 opposed; motion passes.

J. Smith – We had conversed last fall about turning the general education selection into a free elective. A. Sutherlin – Having the extra flexibility would help transfer students. Keeping it general education reinforces what we value. Although, most of our transfer students bring in extra general education courses. E. Gumm – Choose any course not taken above doesn't quite reflect what we have currently. If we keep the general education selection, I would recommend changing the wording to "from the menus above" or "from the options above". M. Long - I think if we are trying to be 'transfer friendly' as our strategic plan emphasizes, then I think it should be a free elective. D. Kneip – Is there a downside to making this change? E. Gumm – Historically, we wanted to make sure the majors didn't hijack those elective hours. J. Smith – We had 2 members of UGEC who voiced their desire to keep the general education selection. The others were open to the idea of switching to a free elective. J. Smith – Some of our departments are particularly challenged by the large gen ed due to their accreditation requirements and sticking with the gen ed selection adds to that. Those programs would be substantially benefited by the free elective. K. Witemeyer – We currently do not allow the major to use the free elective. It is protected as separate. J. Smith – We could strike it all together and drop to 51 hours. E. Gumm – If we make that change, I believe all programs would have to come through for approval since all degree plans would be changing with the additional hours being given back. J. Smith – Even if we don't give it back to the major, having a free elective gives flexibility for students changing majors. S. Martinez – I like it to be as flexible as possible for the student. E. Gumm - Do we want to keep the language the same – "Any ACU course not required by your major"? M. Long – I like having it more universal because we as departments can always guide them within the department and still help them graduate on time. They can still take a course in the department, just not one required by the degree plan, correct? J. Smith – Yes.

Motion to change general education selection to a free elective (retaining the current catalog language for the free elective) by G. Broderick; seconded by A. Sutherlin; all in favor; motion passes.

Motion to approve amended version of the general education proposal by G. Broderick; seconded by M. Long; all in favor; motion passes.

5. MATH 101 – New Course

J. Ehrke – MATH 101 is an introduction to the math major. One of the biggest issues we face is community-building since our freshmen are starting at several different levels. Many will not have courses together until their junior year. Since we want a cohesive,

first-year experience for our students, this course will address that. This course also focuses on career path opportunities. We lose a lot of students after their first year because they don't know what a career path looks like as a Math major. If approved, we would add this course to each of our majors. D. Kneip – I think it is a great idea for building community. There is a lot of value in building this on the front end. J. Ehrke – This fits with our capstone experience really well in meeting the goals of our department. A. Sutherlin – I think this is great. Coming out of high school, students know so little about what careers are available. J. Ehrke – The average person has no idea what you can do with a Math degree. Fewer and fewer of our majors are wanting to be teachers, so we need to address students with other interests.

J. Smith – Adding this course to the degree plans will just reduce elective hours, correct? J. Ehrke – Yes. The 2 hours are added to the major and removed from the electives. We left every degree plan with at least 8 hours of electives.

6. BA MATH – Add MATH 101

See discussion above.

7. BS MATH – Add MATH 101

See discussion above.

8. BS MASC – Add MATH 101

See discussion above.

9. BS MATT – Add MATH 101

See discussion above.

Motion to approve items 5-9 by D. Kneip; seconded by G. Broderick; all in favor; motion passes.

Meeting ended at 4:58 p.m.