

Abilene Undergraduate Academic Council
April 5, 2023
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Adams Center Classroom

Present: K. Witemeyer, J. Smith, M. Long, A. Sutherlin, D. Mayhall, D. Kneip, J.D. Wallace, K. Cha, R. Jessup, J. Drachenberg

Absent: T. Womble

Ex-officios: S. Hamm, E. Gumm (L. Merchant and S. Jones were absent)

Guests: S. Macaluso, R. Brown, M. Wiggins

The meeting began at 4:00 p.m.

1. Call to order by J. Smith.
2. Prayer by J. Smith.
3. Approval of the minutes from 3.29.23

With no corrections mentioned, the minutes were considered approved.

Action Items

Proposals to Accept Gen Ed Recommended Changes

4. BS-PHYS – Physics (3 Tracks)
5. BFA-THEA (6 Tracks)
6. BM-VOCP – Vocal Performance
7. BA-MUSI - Music

Motion to approve items 4-7 by M. Long; seconded by D. Kneip; all in favor; motion passes.

Proposals to Revise Beyond Gen Ed Recommended Changes

8. BSE-ENGR – Engineering (5 Tracks)

J. Smith - If we accepted the general recommendations, the total hours would have gone over 128. They opted to remove the Calculus Lab to keep the program at 128 hours. D.

Kneip - What is the function of that course? R. Brown - ABET previously required 32 math/science hours and that extra hour helped us meet those requirements. Now they only require 30 hours, so losing the math lab won't hurt with that. The content was useful to students but not necessary. We use python instead of maple in our department, so the content is not as applicable as it once was.

Motion to approve by J. Wallace; seconded by R. Jessup; all in favor; motion passes.

9. BS-PHYS-PHYM – Medical Physics

J. Smith - This is a similar situation with changes needed to keep the program at 128 hours. J. Drachenberg - We wanted to make a change that would be comparable to other programs. During our benchmarking, we saw that CS courses were less prominent than physics, biology, chemistry, etc. We still incorporate programming elements in our classes, so students will still receive exposure to that content. Students can take it as an elective. R. Jessup - What languages do you use? J. Drachenberg - We focus on python but we use some C++ in our research courses. D. Kneip - Does this affect accreditation? J. Drachenberg - No. ABET is just for Engineering.

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

Proposal to Add New Program Track

10. Add User Experience Track to Graphic Design, Advertising (BS-ARTC)

J. Smith - We have worked through the revision for our existing tracks in Art. This proposal is to add an additional track to our Graphic Design major. This comes out of the minor that we have. M. Wiggins - We have been putting students out into the field of user experience for about 10 years but we've never had a formal track. The minor has worked well, but we want to be available as part of our degree program. The field is really growing, and it is nice to have the name in the degree plan. We plan for this track to evolve as relevant new courses are created. J. Smith - All of the art courses will serve as the core, common to both tracks. K. Witemeyer - Do you want to create an Advertising Track or leave the main program unspecified? M. Wiggins - That might be a good idea for clarity. K. Witemeyer - That is the most common way to handle it. E. Gumm - We would need to add all the incoming majors to the new Advertising track. R. Jessup - Why is History of Computing included? M. Wiggins - That was recommended by our colleagues in the SITC for students to gain a better understanding of the programming world as a whole. It is an option, not a required course. R. Jessup - Why are there not any DET courses? R. Jessup - There weren't any that fit what we wanted to do. Those are more game design and less of a fit for the user experience specifics. D. Mayhall - I was impressed that only two other Texas universities have a similar program. It's good to be at the top. J. Smith - There are plenty of elective hours as well for students to have flexibility to explore other areas or to deepen their exposure. R. Jessup - I don't see any psychology courses, which would seem to be a good fit for a

program that is centered on how humans relate to technology. M. Wiggins - We have not investigated if there are specific psychology classes that would fit with what we are trying to do. D. Kneip - There is a social psychology course or Cognition and Learning. R. Jessup - That seems like a good fit to me. J. Wallace - You have elective room, so advising students to take those types of classes could be a good idea.

Motion to approve by A. Sutherlin; seconded by K. Cha; all in favor; motion passes.

Meeting ended at 4:28 p.m.