

Abilene Undergraduate Academic Council
November 1, 2023
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Adams Center Classroom

Present: K. Witemeyer, T. Baggs, J. Drachenberg, R. Slaymaker, R. Brown, R. Jessup, T. Womble

Absent: T. Sensing, J.D. Wallace, D. Mayhall

Ex-officios: (E. Gumm, J. Smith, J. Wisner, C. Riley, B. Reeves were absent)

Guests: L. Sharp-Penya, R. Morgan (via Zoom), L. Merchant, S. Eller, D. Kennamer, C. Miertschin, S. Jones, S. Hamm

The meeting began at 3:30 p.m.

1. Call to order by T. Baggs.
2. Prayer by R. Jessup.
3. Approval of the minutes from 10.4.23

With no corrections mentioned, minutes are considered approved.

Information Items

4. IS 442 – Add IS 432 Prerequisite
5. MGMT 439 – Remove MGMT 331 Prerequisite
6. COMM 101 – Change Course Terms
7. COMM 460 – Change Course Terms
8. COMM 499 – Change Course Terms

Action Items

9. BA COMS – Remove COMM 462 from COCN & COS Tracks

L. Sharp-Penya - We don't currently have a faculty member to teach this course. We want the catalog to reflect our current practice. It is only on a menu, so the impact to the degree plan is minimal.

10. BS COMS – Remove COMM 462 from COCN & COS Tracks

See above.

Motion to approve items 9 & 10 by R. Brown; seconded by R. Jessup; all in favor; motion passes.

11. HIST 275 – New Course – Introduction to Africana Studies

R. Morgan - We hired a new faculty member to help us create a minor in Africana Studies. We have several courses already in the catalog that we can use, but we want to add to those offerings. HIST 275 is an introduction to the field at the sophomore level. It will be the entry point for students interested in the minor.

T. Baggs - I would recommend that he add an AI policy to the syllabus. R. Slaymaker - Is there a statement faculty can access? S. Hamm - We are not acting on behalf of the Provost's Office. Our current practices of academic integrity still apply, but we recommend adding phrasing to include the use of AI within that broader plagiarism policy. It would need to be attributed as a source. R. Slaymaker - If we are asking departments coming through council to add a statement, we want all faculty to have the same information so we can have consistent messaging. S. Hamm - We have information on the Adams Center Blog. R. Slaymaker - Many of us are having these conversations and we are feeling overwhelmed. T. Baggs - We are hoping to send a recommendation to faculty.

T. Womble - You need to remove "odd years" from the fall section since you marked it no. Is Theodore the only person who can teach this course? R. Morgan - Yes. Another person could possibly fill in if needed. T. Womble - Would this go through a separate approval process for inclusion on General Education menus? K. Witemeyer - I believe so. Yes.

Motion to approve by T. Womble; seconded by J. Jessup; all in favor; motion passes.

12. HIST 329 – New Course – African American History to 1877

This course provides the early years of African American history that is not covered in our existing course. T. Womble - It looks like there should be a course term correction here too. R. Morgan - Thank you. It should be fall even years. T. Baggs - It mentions Arts & Sciences in the syllabi. R. Slaymaker - With discussing slavery and traumatic topics, is there any kind of warning in the syllabus? R. Morgan - That's a good question. We have had those conversations with other courses. R. Slaymaker - We have some statements in our syllabi, and we would be happy to share those with you if that would help.

Motion to approve by R. Brown; seconded by R. Slaymaker; all in favor; motion passes.

13. BA:HIST (General & Public History Tracks) – Add HIST 275 & HIST 329

R. Morgan - We would like to add these courses to our degree plan menus.

Motion to approve by T. Womble; seconded by R. Brown; all in favor; motion passes.

14. BA:GLST – Add HIST 275 to Menus & Clarify GLST Selections

R. Morgan - We received feedback from the study abroad office that the courses offered in the study abroad sites were not specifically listed in the Global Studies degree plan. So we are doing that instead of simply having a range. We also added HIST 275 to appropriate menus.

Motion to approve by R. Brown; seconded by R. Slaymaker; all in favor; motion passes.

15. Minor in Global Studies – Add HIST 275 & GLST 499

R. Morgan - We aren't sure why GLST 499 wasn't included in the past except that perhaps we didn't think students in the minor would want to take a capstone course, but we've had one student do it, so we would like to add that. We would also like to add our new course on the menu as well.

16. Minor in Gender & Multicultural Studies – Add HIST 275 and HIST 329

R. Morgan - We wish to add our new courses to the menus in this minor.

Motion to approve items 15 & 16 by T. Womble; seconded by R. Jessup; all in favor; motion passes.

17. New Minor Application – Africana Studies

R. Morgan - We are excited to be able to offer this interdisciplinary minor. We would like to help strengthen University offerings in the area of Black studies. HIST 275 will be offered as a special topics course this spring. You cannot take more than 9 hours from any one discipline. We want to keep the interdisciplinary nature strong. We hope to add to the course offerings as new courses become available across the university. T. Womble - HIST 275 - The name of the course needs to be updated.

Motion to approve by R. Brown; seconded by T. Womble; all in favor; motion passes.

18. FAM 328 – New Course – Introduction to Equine Assisted Psychotherapy

L. Merchant - This course has been taught a couple times as a special topics course. It has been very well received. They spend half the time in class and half at the ACU Farm working with the horses. T. Womble - Can you give us an idea of how this is different from strictly horsemanship? S. Eller - This is built on the idea of horses being used to help clients reach their therapeutic goals. Being out at the farm facilitates openness in clients. We partner with an equine specialist. L. Merchant - There are three members of the treatment team - the counselor, the equine specialist, and the horse. T. Womble - Have you used this through the ACU counseling center? S. Eller - Yes. L. Merchant - It will be an elective. T. Womble - You will have enough demand to offer it every spring? L. Merchant - Yes. We are also taking a version of the course through Graduate Council, so graduate students will be taking it too. R. Slaymaker - I would highly recommend my students to take this. C. Miertschin - What does the course fee cover? S. Eller - It goes to help cover the horse care as well as paying our equine specialist for his time. R. Jessup - Would it be appropriate to cross-list with Psychology? R. Slaymaker - It would be available as an elective, so not sure that would be a need. What happens if you are not available to teach? S. Eller - It would create a challenge. L. Merchant - We could look for another adjunct, or just not offer it for that semester.

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

Meeting ended at 4:26 p.m.