

Abilene Undergraduate Academic Council
April 17, 2024
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Adams Center Classroom

Present: K. Witemeyer, T. Baggs, R. Brown, D. Mayhall, J.D. Wallace, T. Womble, T. Sensing

Absent: R. Jessup, J. Drachenberg, R. Slaymaker

Ex-officios: B. Reeves (voting proxy for R. Jessup), E. Gumm, J. Smith (C. Riley and J. Wiser were absent)

Guests: C. Miertschin, S. Jones, J. Huddleston, N. Coates, K. Elliott, M. Long, J. Carpenter, D. Kennamer

The meeting began at 3:34 p.m.

1. Call to order by T. Baggs.
2. Prayer by T. Womble.
3. Approval of the minutes from 4.3.24

With no corrections mentioned, minutes are considered approved.

Information Items

4. MGMT 423 – Change Subject Code to BUSA 423
5. POLS 221 – Change Title
6. POLS 315 – Change Title & Description
7. POLS 493 – Change Title & Description

Action Items

8. Create new History BS Program

K. Elliott - We would like to open a BS in History. This is not replacing the BA but is another option we would like to offer students. We have noticed a trend of students committed to history but they struggle in foreign language. Having a BS will allow these students to remain in our department. We will have a lot of electives in this program, which will be very transfer friendly, especially for students in athletics who had been using the Sociology degree in the past. T. Womble - Was there spirited conversation at the college level? K. Elliott - Not really. We appreciate foreign language, and students who want to go on to grad school will need the BA. This will better serve a good portion

of our students. B. Reeves - Is there any market data to support that students will be able to find jobs in the field without the foreign language component? K. Elliott - It is increasingly common in the field. We have students who are now working in the field who had to switch to Liberal Arts who do not have foreign language.

Motion to approve by D. Mayhall; seconded by B. Reeves (for R. Jessup); all in favor; motion passes.

9. KINE-KNOT – Add ANTH 101 as Sociology Option

M. Long - We would like to add ANTH 101 as a menu item since SOCI 111 will not be offered as often. Looking at schools that our students apply to, they will accept anthropology as well. This will help transfers and will offer students more flexibility. T. Sensing - Who teaches Anthropology? J. Smith - Suzie Mascaluso. M. Long - It is also offered in the summer, which is a plus. T. Sensing - There is an adjunct in History with a doctorate in Anthropology.

10. KINE-KNPT – Add ANTH 101 as Sociology Option

See above.

Motion to approve items 9-10 by J. Wallace; seconded by R. Brown; all in favor; motion passes.

11. KINE 205 – New Course – Introduction to Kinesiology

M. Long - We don't have an intro to Kinesiology class. Our central advisor came to us requesting this class. Many students come through and don't really know what Kinesiology is. Being introduced to the major as well as what careers are available would be helpful. We have 30 students taking this class in a pilot version right now. We asked the professors of courses that follow about what they wished students knew coming into their course. We also have guest speakers from the field come into the class. R. Brown - Is there a plan to require this in your curriculum? M. Long - Right now, no, since we have some pretty tight degree plans, but it might be an idea for the future. Right now it counts as a Kinesiology selection for their major. T. Womble - Is there demand for offering it every fall and spring? M. Long - Yes. We have over 200 students in our program. T. Womble - Would it be added to someone's load? M. Long - It will be taught by our central advisor as an adjunct.

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

12. PEAC 299 – New Course – Axe Throwing

M. Long - This is a new PEAC course. We own the axe throwing business, so I was hesitant to bring this through, but we need PEAC courses, and my department asked us to bring it to council. We offered it as a special topics course, it was capped at 30, and we

had at least 15 more students e-mail to ask if they could be added. We will have a course fee of \$65 which is standard for the equipment. Arthur Brant is the adjunct for this. He is the world axe throwing league regional rep for this area. T. Womble - If gen ed doesn't require PEAC courses, why are students taking it? M. Long - Many are looking for the 1 hour course to get to full-time status or to complete a degree. T. Baggs - I would recommend that the word "familiar" be removed from the outcomes. That's a little hard to quantify. It might be better to find a different term.

Motion to approve by T, Womble with the contingency that the outcome be reworded; seconded by R, Brown; all in favor; motion passes.

13. JMC 265 – Add Embedded Lab

D. Kennamer - The embedded lab is to add experiential learning and to provide the structure for students to ensure student participation.

14. JMC 347 – Close Course

J. Smith - We used to have two separate courses that have been combined into a new course. This is one of the old courses that is no longer offered or needed.

Motion to approve items 13-14 by R. Brown; seconded by D. Mayhall; all in favor; motion passes.

15. ENVR 458 – Increase Credit Hours from 3 to 4

J. Carpenter - This is a follow-up course to a 4-hour course. For certification, students need 12 hours in the wildlife ecology field. By increasing this by one hour, it will allow more flexibility for those requirements and will give us the extra time to cover all the necessary material.

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

16. ENVR-ENVW – Revise Degree Plan

J. Carpenter - The change to ENVR 458 causes an increase in major hours. We also recently had AGBR 261 approved for the gen ed menu, so we are changing our gen ed designation to that course from POLS. We are adding some additional things to clean up the degree plan.

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

17. ENVR-ENVS – Revise Degree Plan

J. Carpenter - This incorporates many of the same changes as described above. These changes will simplify things for students.

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

18. BIOT-BIOT – Add Experiential Learning & Revise Course Selection

J. Huddleston - These are our teaching tracks. We are adding the experiential learning on this piece as well. We are also limiting one of the ranges so they do not take courses that don't apply to their teaching field.

19. BIOT-BTCS – Add Experiential Learning & Revise Course Selection

See above.

20. BIOL-BIOW – Add Experiential Learning & Revise Course Selection

J. Huddleston - This program also incorporates the change in hours for the ENVR 458 course. It also adds the experiential learning component that we discussed in our previous meeting.

Motion to approve items 18-20 by D. Mayhall; seconded by R. Brown; all in favor; motion passes.

21. POLS 361 – Change Number to POLS 261

N. Coates - Our department would like to make some changes. Some are on today's agenda and others will come through at the next meeting. We want to make these courses more accessible to sophomores. They would also be good options for study abroad.

22. POLS 358 – Change Number to POLS 258

R. Brown - What is the new title for this course? I don't see it on the form. Russia and East European Politics should be the title.

Motion to approve items 21-22 with name change on 258 by J. Wallace; seconded by T. Womble; all in favor; motion passes.

23. POLS 120 – New Course – Politics, Citizenship, and Community

N. Coates - We have never had an Introduction to Political Science course. We would like to add one. We taught a pilot this semester and it was well-received. R. Brown - Looking at the learning outcomes, typically each outcome is linked to the specific artifacts. Are those mapped or left open? N. Coates - The chart in the application is a little different than in the syllabus. I can add the mapping from the application in the syllabus for greater clarity.

Motion to approve contingent on updating syllabus with mapping from the application by R. Brown; seconded by D. Mayhall; all in favor; motion passes.

24. POLS 271 – New Course – Government and Politics of Latin America

N. Coates - We currently have no course at ACU addressing this region. This will fill that gap and would make sense in having it as part of study abroad. It could also be utilized in the Latin American minor and in support of the university's Hispanic initiative.

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

25. POLS 371 – New Course – Women in Politics

N. Coates - It is high time to offer this specificity in a course here. T. Wensing - Will these new courses fit in a menu? N. Coates - Currently, our degree is very open. We will be presenting a revision to offer three tracks that have more specified emphases. This course will be in one of those new tracks.

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

26. Health Sciences BS – New Program

S. Jones - We've had a recruitment and retention committee working on this project. This is actually in the strategic plan and the provost has been pushing it this year. We have so many students coming in who declare Nursing, but only about 20% complete that degree. Many end up in Liberal Studies. This is an answer for students who want to be in healthcare but don't have the GPA to stay in Nursing. This also applies to our Allied Help group. All of the courses in our core are focused on the helping industry. We have 4 of the 7 allied help degrees in our department, so it makes sense that this degree be offered within our department. We're excited about the flexibility of this menu. It should be able to take care of a lot of our students. J. Wallace - So this is kind of like a Liberal Studies degree with an emphasis in health? S. Jones - For now. We hope to offer more specific tracks in the future. T. Womble - All of these courses already exist? S. Jones - No new courses and no new faculty. E. Gumm - A student who chooses to declare this, they will not have a concentration to reflect their emphasis. There will be no designation on the transcript about their emphasis as it stands right now. S. Jones - I think students would like having Health Sciences on their transcript. J. Smith - There are cross-listed courses on this degree plan where some are on gen ed menus and others are not. How will that be enacted? E. Gumm - We will create a range.

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

Meeting ended at 4:35 p.m.