

Abilene Undergraduate Academic Council
May 1, 2024
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Adams Center Classroom

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

Absent: D. Mayhall

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

Guests: C. Miertschin, S. Jones, M. Roberson, N. Coates, S. Talley, C. Barbarick, L. Steffek, D. Kennamer, S. Hamm

The meeting began at 3:30 p.m.

1. Call to order by T. Baggs.
2. Prayer by J. Drachenberg.
3. Approval of the minutes from 4.17.24

With no corrections mentioned, minutes are considered approved.

Information Items

4. FIN 420 – Change Course Terms
5. POLS 250 – Change Prerequisites
6. POLS 490 – Change Title
7. HON 121 – Change Title & Prerequisites
8. HON 123 – Change Title & Prerequisites
9. KINE 399 - Change Prerequisites & Course Terms
10. KINE 473 - Change Course Terms
11. KINE 485 - Change Course Terms
12. KINE 498 - Change Course Terms
13. PSYC 233 - Change Prerequisites

Action Items

14. PSYC BS – Expand Biology Options

L. Steffeck - We would like to allow BIOL 121 & 122 or 123 & 124 to be options in our program. This would reduce substitutions.

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

15. MUSM 235 – New Course – A Journey into American Music

M. Roberson - This will include case studies with documentaries of live performances.

R. Brown - This will be for a gen ed menu? Does it serve any other programs? M.

Roberson - We hope to get it approved next year for inclusion on gen ed menus. We might include it in menus in our programs at some future date. T. Womble - Do you have the faculty to teach it every fall? M. Roberson - Yes. J. Drachenberg - I see access to Disney+. Is that required for the students to purchase? M. Roberson - Right now we have found free options for most of the items, so that might not be needed. We will provide links to everything each semester.

Motion to approve by R. Brown; seconded by T. Womble; 6 in favor; 1 abstention; motion passes.

16. EDUC 430 – New Course – Classroom Management and Methods

S. Talley - This new course will be used in the new education minor. This is for students who would like to work in education-adjacent fields. This would not have a field component. This would be a good fit for students interested in children's ministry or similar fields. No one has it in load at the moment, but three faculty members will be sharing the overload. It is a senior-level course. If a student in liberal arts wishes to take this, they might need it as writing-intensive and/or capstone, but that can be determined at a later date. This is not available to our majors.

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

17. Education Minor – New Program

S. Talley - We have strong interest from other departments like social work, Bible, and family studies. There is also a GPA component that must be maintained in our teacher certification programs. For students who are not able to meet that GPA requirement, this would allow them to still gain education knowledge and experience to take with them. D. Kennamer - Students might also be able to pursue alternative certification. S. Talley - This serves students in the sciences as well. Giving them a minor will open new doors for them. It also allows us to have an option for liberal studies instead of CIND. T. Baggs - If a student didn't pass student teaching, would they have to take EDUC 430

later? S. Talley - We would sub EDUC 431 or 432 instead.

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

18. POLS 262 – New Course Politics of Israel

N. Coates - We have taught this as a special topics three times. There has been lots of interest. This is a country that is regularly in the news. In the times we have taught this, we have had 30 or more students enrolled. J. Wallace - Have you experienced tensions in classes? N. Coates - Not really. Students write a journal article so that they wrestle with things on a personal level. I think it would be odd not to have this class at a Christian university.

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

19. POLS 281 – New Course – Politics of Asia

N. Coates - We don't have a course on campus that focuses on China and India. We think it is needed. It covers economy, military, agriculture, values, US involvement. We taught this once as a special topics course.

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

20. Politics and Public Policy Minor – Revise Course Selections

N. Coates - We would like to make this minor more focused, including skills-related courses. R. Brown - It's a lot more restrictive. Did you think the old minor struggled to have an identity? N. Coates - Sometimes students are overwhelmed by a lack of direction. It used to be a broader general Political Science minor. This is more specified toward public policy.

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

21. Political Science Program – Change from BA to BS, Add Tracks, Require MATH 123, Change to GOVT Subject Codes

N. Coates - We would like to change our department from Political Science to Government. This will be helpful for potential careers. There is also a negative connotation with "Politics." We will add three tracks to allow more focused targeting of career paths. We would like to require MATH 123 to prepare them for research. Students have the option to include foreign language, but it is no longer a requirement. This allows students to double major more easily. E. Gumm - I see a lot of courses outside of your department. Are those departments willing to provide capacity? C. Riley - We have talked with Math, and they are on board. We talked with Economics also. N.

Coates - Our faculty would be comfortable in keeping both BA and BS, but we are pretty sure that students would choose the BS route, that's why we are opting to change to that degree.

Motion to approve by J. Drachenberg; seconded by J. Wallace; 6 in favor; 1 opposed; motion passes.

22. Peace and Social Justice Minor – Close Program

N. Coates - This was created about ten years ago and it has not been a minor that has generated as much interest as we had hoped. Social Work has a plan to rework it as a new minor, so we are closing it in our department.

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

23. HRJ 201 – New Course – Introduction to Human Rights and Justice

R. Slaymaker - This is a one-hour course that is an introduction to the topic. We have several faculty who can teach this course. Having the HRJ subject code would also allow faculty from other areas to be credentialed. T. Braggs - Can students take this who are not in the minor? R. Slaymaker - We don't expect much demand for this outside the minor, but we would welcome students to take it to get a taste of what the minor might entail. J. Wallace - This is mostly based on readings? R. Slaymaker - Yes, and lecture components.

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

24. HRJ 455 – New Course – Experiential Learning Capstone

R. Slaymaker - This is a 2-hour course as the capstone for the minor. They will have worked with the advisor for the project-based piece along the way so that once they start the course, they are already in the project organization ready to work. Our department is very used to helping students find placements within the community. J. Smith - "Experiential Learning" and "Capstone" both have terminology that mean something at the university level that is not really reflected in this course. Perhaps there is a better title we could use. I would recommend a more subject-related title. The present name doesn't tell the students much about the content. R. Slaymaker - We would be open to changing the name.

Motion to approve with the caveat with an adjusted course name without capstone by T. Womble; seconded by R. Brown; all in favor; motion passes.

25. Human Rights and Justice Minor – New Program

R. Slaymaker - We worked to reimagine what this minor might look like. We landed on Human Rights and Justice. We removed the social justice piece because there are some negative connotations to that term. We didn't think calling this a social work minor was a good plan because social work requires licensure. We also incorporate a skills menu with applications for students in addition to knowledge-based areas. We wanted to be as flexible as possible for students in various majors.

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

26. Bible, Missions and Ministry Minor – Add Biblical Language Options

C. Barbarick - We would like to add first year Greek to the menu of courses that students can take toward a Bible minor. They are 200-level courses, but we believe these are worthy because they gauge the New Testament at a deep level. E. Gumm - We can change the title to "Additional Selections" instead of "Upper-Level Selections" since Greek is not upper-level. J. Smith - Should we change the language from University Requirements to General Education? C. Barbarick - Yes.

Motion to approve with changes in wording as discussed by R. Brown; seconded by J. Wallace; all in favor; motion passes.

27. BS in Christian Ministry – New Program

C. Barbarick - We would like to create a pathway for students to double major if they wish. This program would be available only for double majors. We don't want it as a stand-alone BS. E. Gumm - We don't have a way to enforce the requirement of a second major. This would have to be manually enforced by advising and our office staff. If a student has both and they drop the other major, then we can't stop them from doing that. J. Smith - "In combination with another major" is not supposed to be part of the major title. It wouldn't look right on the transcript. E. Gumm - We can explore adding the second major requirement in the "Other Graduation Requirements" section of the degree plan. C. Barbarick - This is not for students who are going into professional ministry. We would want them to take the BA for that. R. Slaymaker - Is there a demand from students? C. Barbarick - We don't expect a large number of students, but we think it fits with the mission of the university. T. Sensing - It doesn't increase load since all of the courses are already being taught. C. Barbarick - We have a vocational ministry track in the BA program that works well for students in other BA programs for double majoring, but that doesn't work as well for BS students. Foreign language is the biggest difference.

Motion to approve by J. Drachenberg; seconded by R. Brown; 5 in favor; 2 abstentions; motion passes.

Meeting ended at 4:44 p.m.