

Abilene Undergraduate Academic Council
March 19, 2025
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Adams Center Classroom

Present: K. Witemeyer, W. Crawford, B. Burton, R. Brown, T. Sensing, R. Ashlock, J. Drachenberg

Absent: R. Slaymaker, T. Womble

Ex-officios: A. Sutherlin, S. Hamm, E. Gumm (C. Riley was absent)

Guests: S. Jones, R. Milligan, C. Barbarick, J. Schroeder, K. Akers, M. Phillips, J. Smith, D. Kennamer

The meeting began at 3:32 p.m.

1. Call to order by W. Crawford.
2. Prayer by Rodney Ashlock.
3. Approval of the minutes from 2.19.25

Motion to approve minutes by Tim Sensing; seconded by J. Drachenberg; all in favor; motion passes.

Information Items

4. ENVR 354 – Drop Prerequisites, Add Junior Standing
5. ENVR 410 – Change Course Terms
6. ENGR 321 – Change Title, Description, Content, & Prerequisites
7. CIVE 362 – Change Prerequisites
8. CIVE 371 – Change Prerequisites
9. ENGR 331 - Change Prerequisites
10. ENGR 333 - Change Prerequisites
11. ENGR 338 - Change Prerequisites
12. ENGR 370 - Change Prerequisites
13. ENGR 372 - Change Prerequisites
14. ENGR 435 - Change Prerequisites

Action Items

15. Aging Studies Minor – Revise Course Selections (Revised)

K. Akers - The proposal was tabled before, asking if we could add SOCW 415 in place of SOCI 415. We are happy to add SOCW 415 as a research option within this minor. R.

Ashlock - Is this because of the impact of the closing of the Sociology major? W.

Crawford - I think that is part of it, yes.

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

16. BIBM 464 – New Course – Foundational Praxis of Children & Family Ministry

C. Barbarick - There has been increasing interest in Children's Ministry. In response, we've been developing more courses within our own department to support this track. This course will address the items that the menu served previously. W. Crawford - Can students still take those menu courses? C. Barbaric - Yes, as electives. J. Schroeder - Over the last few years, we've been examining how prepared our majors are for ministry. By developing our own course, we've been able to address the key elements taught in those menu courses while adding a focus on ministry. This course will better prepare our students.

Motion to approve by R. Ashlock; seconded by Tim Sensing; all in favor; motion passes.

17. BMV-BMCF – Add BIBM 464 to Children & Family Ministry Track

J. Schroeder - The new course will replace the menu we had previously.

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

18. CHEM 362 – New Course – Nuclear Chemistry

A Sutherlin - We have a new faculty member who is a nuclear chemist. With having NEXT on campus, there was a lot of student interest. We offered it as a special topics course, and the interest was overwhelming. We are looking to eventually add a Nuclear Chemistry track to our degree as well. We wanted to include as few chemistry prerequisites to the course as possible so our physicist students can take it as well.

R. Ashlock - The verb choices on the outcomes are a little questionable. They seem like actions instead of measuring words. J. Drachenberg - I think it is clear that they want to present scientific information. R. Brown - That is common in our field. A. Sutherlin - Doing a formal presentation is a different skill set. The word "inspect" might not be the best choice, though, for the first outcome. J. Drachenberg - It implies getting down to the details. The measurement seems appropriate to me. A. Sutherlin - Being able to

“inspect” something is deeper in our field. R. Brown - Would analyze be a better term? A. Sutherlin - I don’t know. W. Crawford - We need to be able to measure it. J. Drachenberg - The homework demonstrates how well they are able to inspect it. J. Smith - The term “inspect” refers simply to looking at something unless there is a field-specific emphasis. Perhaps even adding “effectively” as a qualifier for inspect. S. Hamm - Analyze can demonstrate growing mastery. A. Sutherlin - We are good with “analyze”.

Motion to approve with the change of “inspect” to “analyze” in outcome #1 by R. Brown; seconded by R. Ashlock; all in favor; motion passes.

19. BS Sociology – Close Program

W. Crawford - We’ve been discussing for a couple years how to handle the decline of the Sociology major. R. Milligan - This conversation predates me. We acknowledge that Sociology is an important part of a liberal arts education, so we want to keep it as a minor and continue offering certain courses as part of the general education menus. This is initiated by the provost and we are working together. R. Ashlock - The department is Communication and Sociology, correct? So it’s mostly Communication faculty. R. Milligan - There is one part-time faculty position but no full-time Sociology faculty. We are looking to bring someone on to support the minor and the general education courses. This program has been appealing to our athletes, but they don’t always stay. It is a flexible program. We have some intentional plans in place for those students who need that flexibility. It has historically been robust, but it has declined over time due to a loss of faculty. J. Drachenberg - How many students are currently majors? R. Milligan - I believe around 20. E. Grumm - There are many transfer students who come in as athletes who utilize this major. J. Smith - Graduation does not really reflect enrollment. It counts students who have entered the program as first time majors and graduate with that major. It does not capture transfer students. J. Smith - We have had around 10 students over the last 3 years conferred with this degree. D. Kennamer - We should be able to have current students with this major graduate with integrity. We have plans in place for them. J. Smith - We usually like to see the teach-out plan and Chris Riley’s input. W. Crawford - We can add that to the proposal. R. Ashlock - Will the department name change? R. Milligan - Not yet, because we still offer the minor

Motion to approve by R. Ashlock; seconded by R. Brown; 4 in favor; 1 opposes; motion passes.

20. ENGR 211 – Close Course

21. ENGR 251 – Close Course

22. ENGR 305 – Close Course

23. ENGR 351 – Close Course

24. ENGR 352 – Close Course

- 25. ENGR 353 – Close Course
- 26. ENGR 373 – Close Course
- 27. ENGR 422 – Close Course
- 28. ENGR 423 - Close Course
- 29. ENGR 431 - Close Course
- 30. ENGR 433 - Close Course
- 31. ENGR 450 - Close Course
- 32. ENGR 470 - Close Course
- 33. ENGR 481 - Close Course

R. Brown - This is clean-up. All the courses with “5” in the middle were part of our industrial engineering program that is no longer offered. Other courses have not been offered in quite some time. ENGR 373 and 470 were split into two courses to add specificity. R. Ashlock - You have changed so much. Do you have no interest in bringing Industrial Engineering back? R. Brown - We don't have the faculty for it, and there was not much student interest.

Motion to approve items 20-33 by B. Burton; seconded by R. Ashlock; all in favor; motion passes.

- 34. ENGR Subject Code Changes to CIVE, MECH, and ECEN

R. Brown - There is not an option to check on the approval chart for this, but this is a list of the changes we would like to make. As we split into these programs, there are courses that are very specific to certain disciplines. They are required for only one of our majors. Courses that could be taken by multiple majors will retain the ENGR prefix.

Motion to approve by J. Drachenberg; seconded by B. Burton; all in favor; motion passes.

- 35. CIVE 321 – New Course – Transportation Engineering

R. Brown - This is a sequence of courses that will be required in the Civil Engineering track moving forward. We need to have a certain number of sub-emphases for ABET, and this adds another for us. This focuses on analyzing.

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

- 36. CIVE 421 – New Course – Traffic Engineering

R. Brown - The subject matter is the same as 321, but this goes in depth on design.

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

37. ENGR 223 – New Course – Statics and Mechanics of Materials

R. Brown - We had separate courses for each of these topics. Now we are combining statics and mechanics into a 4-hr course. We are saving 2 hrs for our upper-level design. R. Ashlock - On the SLO's, the way they are worded is a little different. You are using different tools, so the SLO is to measure that they are using those tools to solve problems? R. Brown - Yes.

Motion to approve by J. Drachenberg; seconded by B. Burton; all in favor; motion passes.

38. BS CIVE – Revise Degree Plan

R. Brown - We are adding the new courses to the degree plan and moving things around a bit to add more flexibility. It is truly a 75-hr major since there are no 2-hr courses, so we weren't sure if having a 2-hr menu at the end was appropriate. E. Gumm - I like to say what we mean, but going above the 128 hours brings a different question. R. Brown - There are two labs in MECH that *could* be taken, so it's possible. E. Gumm - I'm good with keeping it as two hours, then. Also, for clarity, we might want to create a separate menu including the above courses from the second menu. R. Brown - That would be fine. B. Burton - Don't we generally try to have 6 hours of electives? E. Gumm - It is actually a requirement except when an outside accreditor requires extensive coursework that does not allow for electives. J. Smith - That is included in the notes on the approval chart.

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

39. BS ELEC – Revise Degree Plan

R. Brown - Adding some flexibility in the mathematics area and upper elective block. All the changes here are hour-neutral.

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

40. BS GENG – Revise Degree Plan

R. Brown - The biggest change here is that we didn't have enough math/science courses when we first approved this. We are adding those three hours to bring us back into compliance with ABET. We are removing some specificity to keep this as general as possible while matching our other degrees. We are also moving things around to reorganize to match our other programs. R. Ashlock - So the philosophy course will be

mostly for physics majors? R. Brown - We will still encourage students to take it.

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

41. BS MECH – Revise Degree Plan

R. Brown - We found one more hour and we have a lab we really want to add, so that's what we are doing. Previously we had three required courses that will change to a menu to allow more flexibility. We are removing PHYS options to focus more on design and practicality.

Motion to approve by B. Burton; seconded by T. Sensing; all in favor; motion passes.

42. BUSA 311 – New Course – Revised SLO's

M. Phillips - We had a request to revise the learning objectives. I think we have things aligned to what was requested.

43. BUSA 312 – New Course – Revised SLO's

See above.

Motion to approve items 42 & 43 by R. Ashlock; seconded by B. Burton; all in favor; motion passes.

Meeting ended at 4:42 p.m.