

**Abilene Undergraduate Academic Council**  
**April 16, 2025**  
**3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**  
**Adams Center Classroom**

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

Absent: R. Brown, T. Womble

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

Guests: S. Jones, D. Kennamer, D. Flanagan, P. Roggendorff, J. Jones, K. Tippens, R. Green, M. Long, J. Smith, B. Rix, J. Huddleston, C. Miertschin, C. Powell

The meeting began at 3:31 p.m.

1. Call to order by W. Crawford.
2. Prayer by Wes Crawford.
3. Approval of the minutes from 4.2.25

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

*Information Items*

4. ENTR 419 – Change Description, Course Terms, Prerequisites
5. FIN 311 – Change Prerequisites
6. AENV 371 – Change Course Terms
7. ENVR 341 – Change Course Terms
8. SPAN 301 – Change Title
9. SPAN 360 – Change Prerequisites
10. SPAN 361 – Change Prerequisites

*Action Items*

11. BS MATT – Drop MATH 334 & 483, Add MATH 371 & 473

K. Witemeyer - These are the same changes we approved for the non-teaching programs back in February. We had to wait for the Teacher Education Council to meet in order to approve the changes in this program.

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

12. SPAN 305 – Close Course

P. Roggendorff - We are closing the classes that were taught in Montevideo. Since we are closing that study abroad site, the courses will no longer be offered.

13. SPAN 345 – Close Course

See above.

14. SPAN 365 – Close Course

See above.

15. SPAN 444 – Close Course

See above.

**Motion to approve items 12-15 by R. Ashlock; seconded by B. Burton; all in favor; motion passes.**

16. BA SPAN – Revise Degree Plan

P. Roggendorff - Our program requirements started with SPAN 222. We decided to add SPAN 221 back into the degree plan. We also wanted to keep the number of hours in the major as small as possible because most of our students are double majors. We have to capture students once they are here. We adjusted the categories to allow for this, adding more ranges. R. Slaymaker - I appreciate the flexibility for students. R. Ashlock - Do you think interest in Valencia will help with this? P. Roggendorff - Having more flexibility built-in makes it easier for incorporating new opportunities like this new study abroad site.

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

17. BA SPNT – Revise Degree Plan

P. Roggendorff - This program had not been updated in quite some time. We are working with our education colleagues to give our Spanish education students the same exposure as our non-teaching majors are getting. We want to give more flexibility to students.

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

#### 18. Spanish Minor – Revise Degree Plan

P. Roggendorff - We want to include SPAN 221 in the minor. We also want to reward students who have a strength in the language and can test out of some of the minor requirements. It helps to draw students in. Students in the minor can feed the major as well. W. Crawford - You are also updating the proficiency expectations? P. Roggendorff - Yes. We expect a certain proficiency, and it helps inform the students about what they are aiming for. We have added in more proficiency exams in the classes. R. Ashlock - How many students are in the minor? P. Roggendorff - In the 20's. The pandemic hit us pretty hard. That's when our numbers started dropping. R. Ashlock - I would love to see fewer barriers so more students can participate in this minor. I think these changes will help with that. P. Roggendorff - The numbers of students in foreign language programs have been dropping by about 40% all across the nation.

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

#### 19. FIN 120 – New Course – Introduction to Finance

J. Jones - We've had a significant increase in our number of students. This course will give students a chance to learn about different career options to help them determine what might be a good fit for them. It will help with retention without slowing our students' progress toward completion. It will be taught in overload, but it is just a one-hour course. It is tied to a stewardship mindset. W. Crawford - Great idea. I see two sets of outcomes. J. Jones - One set is the course outcomes, the others are our COBA outcomes.

E. Gumm - For one-hour intro courses, please do not schedule it to conflict with Cornerstone. J. Jones - We have it scheduled for the afternoon.

R. Ashlock - I'm not sure how you measure "explore." J. Jones - It's the lowest level of Bloom's taxonomy. They will take an exploratory personality test and do personal reflections.

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

#### 20. FIN 489 – New Course – Advanced Financial Management

J. Jones - This will also be our new capstone course. We will be the first discipline in COBA with our own specific capstone course. It will also be writing-intensive. We have been missing industry-specific ethics. We are incorporating a lot of business and personal ethics in this course. This should meet the requirements of the CFA Institute. We also have a large research component. This will allow us to increase our number of

FIN courses in the program. This will also help alleviate some of the scheduling issues with the current COBA capstone. We have outcomes that will map back to foundational curriculum. R. Ashlock - These outcomes look good. Do you need more faculty? J. Jones - We have other faculty who can teach the course, and we hope to hire at least one more faculty member.

**Motion to approve by R. Ashlock; seconded by B. Burton; all in favor; motion passes.**

21. BBA FINA (All Tracks) – Add FIN 120 & 489, Remove MGMT 439

J. Jones - This is just adding the new courses to our program. Students will lose one-hour of electives. The capstone just replaces the existing capstone.

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

22. BS KINE – Add Coaching Education Track

M. Long - We have a coaching track already, and it is well-attended. However, we are finding that about 50% of students are looking for alternative certification. So we are proposing a track that will give them that certification here at ACU. We want to retain the original coaching track as well for now. This will be a separate expansion. There are no new courses involved. B. Burton - How many students? M. Long - I have 22 incoming applicants. If they are interested in it, we can discuss it with them. We have 90-100 students in our department. R. Slaymaker - You are requiring SPED? D. Kennamer - It is required by the state. R. Slaymaker - I think that is super helpful. M. Long - Something to notice is that students in teacher education programs are typically under-enrolled their second semester senior year because of student teaching, but our students will have student teaching (6 hrs) along with a coaching internship (6 hrs) that will allow them to be fully enrolled. R. Ashlock - Education has enough capacity? D. Kennamer - We have a large number of adjuncts who would be available to help teach if needed.

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

23. BFA ART – Close Painting and Sculpture Tracks

R. Green - We would like to close these two tracks and replace them with a new track called Studio Art. It will allow greater flexibility for students. Primary motivator is that student numbers are very low. Our upper-level courses have 2-3 students in them. We can't continue this with our given faculty. This studio track is similar to what our competitors are offering. E. Gumm - Currently, there is one sculpture student and 6 painting students.

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

24. BFA ART – Add Studio Art Track

See above.

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

25. BS INAD – Add Engineering Track

R. Green - This is the opposite problem. We are flooded with students, and we are specifically getting students coming in asking for a construction science degree. This would be something similar to that. We worked with Engineering to develop this track. It should bring us a lot of students. W. Crawford - What jobs are open to students with this degree? R. Green - This is a professional degree but not on an engineering level. There are plenty of career options for those students.

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

26. PHP 305 – New Course – Medical Missions Seminar

C. Powell - This is a medical mission seminar class. We've taught it several times. This formalizes the training we have been doing. We collaborate with the Halbert Center. We talk about theology of mission and best practices of medical missions. The key part is a medical missions trip. We hope it will count as an experiential learning course. The number of students in the course depends on how many students can be accommodated by the trip. R. Ashlock - You can scratch out "learn to" and go straight to "define." C. Powell - We can do that.

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

27. PHP 310 – New Course – Clinical Healthcare Internship

C. Powell - This is specific for students interested in healthcare professions, our pre-professional programs. We've had several partnerships with professional groups. Students can do internships. We hope to incorporate it as experiential learning in the future to increase student enrollment. The students who have participated have really gotten a lot out of the experience.

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

## 28. BS CHEM – Add ACS Nuclear Chemistry Track

A Sutherlin - We recently approved our new nuclear chemistry course. With the work at NEXT, we have students interested in this field. We would like to add this track. We are approved by the American Chemical Society. This track will still be within that. It requires more physics courses. R. Ashlock - What makes it nuclear? There's only one course. A. Sutherlin - It requires more physics and math. J. Drachenberg - There are nuclear physics courses. A. Sutherlin - This is a pretty unique program at the undergrad level. We are trying to grow our chemistry majors.

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

## 29. BS Biomedical Sciences – New Program

D. Flanagan - This is unique because it will be shared between Biology and Chemistry and Biochemistry. We have two departments working together to benefit all our areas. We will create a standing committee within the college with a shared governance model. There is an emphasis in biomedical ethics. The general track is more geared toward students interested in biomedical science research at graduate school. They can tailor their advanced courses to fit their research interests. For the pre-med track, there will be courses required for Texas medical schools. We did this for all of the track specializations. There is also an elective menu with courses that are highly recommended to students in their areas of emphasis. There is also space for a student's special interests. All tracks require physics except for the pre-PA track. The only way we could create this track to fulfill all the PA requirements, was to shrink the number of physics hours.

R. Slaymaker - On the social and behavioral sciences courses required - I would like to recommend that social work be considered as well. D. Flanagan - Psychology and sociology are the courses recommended to prepare for the MCAT. C. Powell - The specific content is psychology and sociology on the exam. D. Flanagan - We encourage our students to pursue the health humanities minor as well. T. Sensing - What about pharmacy students who can enter those programs as a sophomore? D. Flanagan - This path will better-prepare a student for pharmacy school. A. Sutherlin - We also want students to be prepared to pivot if they don't get into med school. R. Ashlock - Is this driven by recruiting? D. Flanagan - Yes. We want to give students what they are looking for. It will help us be more competitive. We also want to introduce students to different career paths.

J. Huddleston - ACU has been preparing students for pre-health professions for years. This just allows us to communicate what we do much better to students. It also is a great opportunity to update our pathways. D. Flanagan - We created multiple tracks so that students can switch between tracks as interests change. E. Gumm - We are making it more visible. A. Sutherlin - This will really help with advising too. C. Powell - We are

sharing students, not losing them from our departments. This is the adaptation we are seeing at other institutions. R. Ashlock - Can you handle the increased demand for Biomedical Ethics? D. Flanagan - Cliff Barbarick has some ideas about how we can increase offerings. Many of our students are already taking it, so I don't anticipate a huge increase immediately. J. Smith - We need to get step 1 of the application included in the proposal for creating the program.

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

### 30. BA Biomedical Sciences – New Program

D. Flanagan - The target audience for the BA is a student who wishes to pursue a path with fewer science requirements. We are asking students to choose a concentration. This is a slightly less rigorous option. The general track allows them to tailor their education to aid them in finding work separate from professional programs. R. Slaymaker - Where is the social determinant of health? D. Flanagan - It's incorporated in our coursework. R. Slaymaker - We have courses that are specifically geared toward those requirements. D. Flanagan - We have elective room for students interested in those courses. T. Sensing - The foreign language courses, I know we teach German and Spanish, but we don't have French or Latin. E. Gumm - They are still active courses in the catalog, and we would accept transfer work for the credit.

S. Jones - I appreciate you taking out the PT option. If we could strike that from the Texas Wages chart on page 8, that would be great. It's listed as a track at the bottom of the table. D. Flanagan - The track language can be stricken.

**Motion to approve with the PT track language omitted by J. Drachenberg; seconded by T. Sensing; all in favor; motion passes.**

Meeting ended at 5:08 p.m.