

Abilene Undergraduate Academic Council
May 7, 2025
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Adams Center Classroom

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

Absent: R. Brown, B. Burton

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

Guests: S. Jones, D. Kennamer, L. Chrane, J. Brokaw, J. Huddleston, C. Miertschin, D. Flanagan, J. Carpenter, S. Talley

The meeting began at 3:33 p.m.

1. Call to order by W. Crawford.
2. Prayer by J. Drachenberg.
3. Approval of the minutes from 4.16.25

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

Information Items

4. BIOL 312 – Change Description and Prerequisites
5. BIOL 351 – Change Course Terms and Prerequisites
6. COMM 461 – Change Prerequisites
7. CSD 319 – Change Prerequisites
8. CSD 352 – Change Prerequisites
9. CSD 356 – Change Prerequisites
10. CSD 357 – Change Description and Prerequisites
11. CSD 371 – Change Prerequisites
12. CSD 380 – Change Prerequisites
13. CSD 471 – Change Prerequisites
14. CSD 493 – Change Prerequisites

15. CSD 494 – Change Prerequisites
16. KINE 360 – Change Prerequisites
17. ENGR 434 – Change Prerequisites

Action Items

18. BS COMP – Revise Admissions & Graduation Requirements

L. Chrane - For years we had requirements to apply to the CSD program. We are receiving students with so much dual credit that this process is hurting students and delaying their completion. We are simplifying and streamlining. We have discussed these changes with Dallas as well. We will let advisors advise. R. Ashlock - How do you track the 3.0 GPA requirement? L. Chrane - We keep a spreadsheet and monitor each student. If they slip below the 3.0, we counsel them to get more tutoring or to consider a different major. E. Gumm - If a student takes a science course not required by your degree, the 'C' or better grade would not need to be enforced, correct? L. Chrane - Correct.

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

19. Human Rights & Justice Minor – Remove SOCI 380 & 438

R. Slaymaker - We have some SOCI courses listed in this minor that will no longer be taught, so we need to revise our menu to remove them.

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

20. KINE-KCOA – Add KINE 291, Create KINE 342/480 Menu

S. Jones - This change is to create more flexibility for students. The total number of hours doesn't change. We also think our coaches should have experience with sports medicine. R. Ashlock - How similar are these two courses? You have been subbing them, correct? S. Jones - They are different, but similar. R. Ashlock - You wouldn't need them both? S. Jones - No.

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

21. KINE-KGEN – Create KINE 342/480 Menu

S. Jones - This is to help students graduate on time. There seems to be a backlog for KINE 480. R. Ashlock - I assume staffing is causing the limits on the course offerings. S. Jones - Yes.

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

22. PHP Courses – Change Department of Record

D. Flanagan - With the approval of the new Biomedical Sciences programs, and the fact that it is shared by Biology and Chemistry & Biochemistry Departments, we will be creating a new section in the catalog to house these program reflecting the shared governance, and we would like to move these courses to that area.

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

23. Health Humanities Minor – Replace SOCI 350 with GERO 350; Move to new Pre-Health Professions Department

D. Flanagan - This minor is currently listed in the Interdisciplinary section of the catalog. We would like to move it to the new catalog section with Biomedical Sciences. Also, the SOCI 350 course is being closed, so we will replace that with GERO 350.

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

24. Math Minor – Remove MATH 334/432; Add MATH 371/473

W. Crawford - They are removing the closed courses and adding the new courses in their place. R. Ashlock - Do we have others who can teach this course? C. Miertschin - She's the only one, but it is a menu, so students can take a variety of courses.

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

25. BIOL 313 – Close Course

J. Huddleston - BIOL 312 is Cell Biology, and we added it as a prerequisite to BIOL 352 our Genetics course, and there are some downstream effects to that change. We are proposing to close BIOL 313, the cell biology lab. We haven't taught this course in the past 14 years. R. Ashlock - Cells seem important. J. Huddleston - The lab is very expensive. J. Brokaw - The last time it was taught was in the late 1990's. This is also not the lab that reflects most of what the majority of biologists do.

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

26. BIOL 352 – New Course – Genetics Laboratory

J. Huddleston - We are trying to help sequence things better for our sophomore students. J. Brokaw - With the new biomedical sciences degrees, this felt like a good

time to add this Genetics Lab. It relates to all of our students, no matter their area of emphasis. This will focus on practical demonstrations. Biology careers will be using these things. We needed another lab in our sequence. This was the best option and covers the most outcomes in Biology. J. Huddleston - We used to have this lab in the past and we are bringing back the number. R. Ashlock - Can other faculty members teach this? J. Brokaw - They have the ability, yes, it is just hard to find time in their schedules.

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

27. BIOL-BICM – Remove BIOL 313, Add BIOL 352

J. Huddleston - All of our tracks that contain BIOL 351, we need to add the corequisite lab of BIOL 352. We will remove BIOL 313 from those programs where it is mentioned.

28. BIOL-BIOG – Add BIOL 352

See above.

29. BIOL-BIOH – Add BIOL 352

See above.

30. BIOL-BIOO – Add BIOL 352

See above.

31. BIOL-BIOV – Add BIOL 352

See above.

32. BIOL-BIOW – Add BIOL 352 and 312

J. Huddleston - We need to add the BIOL 312 since it is a prerequisite.

33. BA BIOL – Add BIOL 352

See above.

34. HPCO – Add BIOL 352

See above.

35. BIOT-BIOT – Add BIOL 352

See above.

36. BIOT-BTCS – Add BIOL 352

See above.

37. BCH-BCHV – Add BIOL 352

See above.

38.BCH-BCBS – Add BIOL 352 & CHEM 362

See above.

Motion to approve items 27-38 by R. Ashlock; seconded by J. Drachenberg; all in favor; motion passes.

39.ANSC-LP – Add BIOL 352, Designate AGRB 261 as Gen Ed

J. Carpenter - Since Genetics is a required course for some of our tracks, we had to modify those tracks to include the new lab. We also recently added AGRB for the gen ed menu, so we are adding that designation as well. T. Sensing - So there are two more hours of electives? J. Carpenter - Yes.

40.ANSC-PVH – Add BIOL 352, Designate AGRB 261 as Gen Ed

See above.

41. ANHP – Add BIOL 352, Designate AGRB 261 Gen Ed

See above.

Motion to approve items 39-41 by J. Drachenberg; seconded by T. Sensing; all in favor; motion passes.

42.IDSC – Revise History Requirements

S. Talley - This is for our elementary education majors, we worked with the History Department to clean up our menus based on what is offered. T. Womble - Is Texas history being offered frequently? S. Talley - We have worked with Dr. Elliott to offer it more frequently. She will have it offered once a year.

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

43.MSED-MSSO – Revise History Requirements

S. Talley - We are very prescribed in what we can do to meet our state requirements. One addition here is Social Studies Teaching Methods. This was for our secondary students, but it is good for middle school educators as well. We worked with the faculty of the different departments who have courses on the menu. We also looked at the certification exams to make sure we are preparing our students for the state standards.

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

44.MSED-MSSC – Remove BIOL 351, Add BIOL 362

S. Talley - This is tied to the Biology changes. It was determined that Genetics was more advanced in content than was required for the Middle School Science program. They decided BIOL 362 was a better fit for our students.

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

45. SPED 311 – New Course – Intermediate American Sign Language III

S. Talley - We have SPED 111 and 112 offered now. SPED 311 has been offered twice as a special topics course. Putting together the minor, we needed additional courses for that. We have two instructors who are themselves deaf. We think that will be an asset for our students. These will increase the depth of language competency as well as discussing the deaf culture. W. Crawford - They seem to have identical SLO's. S. Talley - The faculty member is picturing this as a full year experience. If we need to differentiate a bit we can. R. Ashlock - You want the second semester to be building on what came before, so there should be noticeable growth. W. Crawford - Most of these are not written as outcomes. They are more like principles. We want to see what a student will accomplish. R. Ashlock - They sound a bit like program learning outcomes. W. Crawford - We want more declarative statements - students will . . .

T. Womble - So this is not learning how to teach ASL, but learning ASL itself? S. Talley - Correct. We have a lot of student interest. It's a great fit for CSD students. Deaf Education is also a need in the state. This would be a stepping stone to see if interest is there for a future major option. T. Womble - Where is ASL housed globally? S. Talley - In state schools it is part of language programs. However, we are paying the faculty so we moved them into our department. T. Womble - If you hired a full-time faculty member, would that person be in language or in education? S. Talley - I will advocate for my department, but there are options that can be discussed with the dean. We could have a niche here.

W. Crawford - We could table this to give us time to address the SLO's and have an electronic vote.

K. Witemeyer - The titles might make more sense to have Intermediate I and Intermediate II instead of III and IV. S. Talley - That makes sense. I can change that.

T. Womble - I see you are opening it for 30 seats. Will you get that many? S. Talley - We get that many with SPED 111 and 112.

46. SPED 312 – Intermediate American Sign Language IV

See above.

Motion to table items 45-46 by R. Ashlock; seconded by J. Drachenberg; all in favor; motion passes. Tabled.

47. New Minor – Sign Language

S. Talley - This is a good mission fit for ACU. There is interest, and advisors mention that it is an option for Liberal Studies majors. The SPED 481 course content will be tailored for our ASL minor students. W. Crawford - We will need to note the name change in the degree plan. R. Ashlock - We have changed some of our Children's Ministry courses, so you might want to check for future offerings. R. Slaymaker - We have a new course too that might fit.

Motion to approve contingent upon the adoption of the new courses by T. Womble; seconded by R. Slaymaker; all in favor; motion passes.

Meeting ended at 4:30 p.m.

NOTE #1

Revised course applications for SPED 311 and 312 were sent to the council electronically on 5/8/25.

Motion to approve revised versions of SPED 311 and SPED 312 by T. Sensing; seconded by T. Womble; all in favor; motion passes.

NOTE #2

From Stephanie Talley:

Information Item: Change in Degree Name for IDSC

For quite some time, state policy did not allow universities to offer undergraduate degrees in education in Texas. This is why the early childhood elementary degree is designated as an interdisciplinary degree (IDSC) in the catalog. The state policy was revoked in 2019 so newer degrees we developed in Special Education and Middle School do not have the interdisciplinary name. Changing the existing degree just dropped off the radar during Covid. It is time for the degree to reflect accurately what students are actually studying. We would like to change the degree name to Elementary Education. There is not change to the degree plan, this is simply a change in name to more accurately reflect the nature of the degree.