

Abilene Undergraduate Academic Council
January 21, 2026
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Adams Center Classroom

Present: W. Crawford, K. Witemeyer, S. Talley, K. Williams, R. Ashlock, T. Sensing, T. Baggs, R. Fowler

Absent: R. Brown, B. Burton

Ex-officios: M. McCallon (J. Camp, S. Hamm, Eric Gumm, C. Riley were absent)

Guests: G. Straughn, M. Barneche, Sheila Jones, D. Kennamer, Kathleen Lee

The meeting began at 3:34 p.m.

1. Call to order by W. Crawford.
2. Prayer by R. Ashlock
3. Approval of the minutes from 12.3.25

Motion to approve minutes by S. Talley; seconded by R. Ashlock; all in favor; motion passes.

Information Items

4. MUSE 116 – Change Title & Content
5. MUSE 332 – Change Title
6. MUSE 333 – Change Title
7. MUST 111 – Change Title & Course Number (within the hundred)
8. MUST 131 – Change Title & Course Number (within the hundred)
9. MUST 211 – Change Title & Course Number (within the hundred)
10. MUST 231 – Change Title & Course Number (within the hundred)
11. MUST 331 – Change Prerequisites
12. MUST 333 – Change Prerequisites
13. MUSM 431 – Change Prerequisites
14. MUSM 432 – Change Prerequisites

Action Items

15. GLST 101 – New Course – Introduction to Oxford

D. Kennamer - These courses are to address a gap in our summer study abroad programs. Our students take courses introducing the place and culture as a 3-hr course during the long semesters. There is not time to take a 3-hr course in the shorter summer terms. These will be 0–1-hr courses. M. Barneche - We have programmatic outcomes for our study abroad students, and these courses would allow us to assess those for our summer programs. We want our students to engage and learn about the culture they are visiting. The 200-series is looking at a wide survey of the country. These 100-level courses focus on culture and history of the city specifically. S. Talley - I think this is long overdue. M. Barneche - Our summer programs have changed over the last year. Instead of them being department led, they are now diversified so that a variety of students can join. These courses will provide a singular experience where all students will be together even if they are taking different courses than their fellows. W. Crawford - There is a growing movement to standardize the sites.

16. GLST 102 – New Course – Introduction to Leipzig

See above.

17. GLST 103 – New Course – Introduction to Valencia

See above.

Motion to approve items 15-17 by R. Ashlock; seconded by S. Talley; all in favor; motion passes.

G. Straughn - We've been working on these music revisions for about a year and a half. Music programs are dwindling across the country. We are looking to adjust and streamline our degree to address these concerns. We piloted our new freshmen courses in the fall, and everyone who started those are now back in the spring. So that is a positive indication. The change in freshmen courses allows us to get all students up to par during the first semester then jump in in the spring. We are trying to only have students take courses that they need for their credentialing. We are also cleaning up some courses that are no longer being taught. The Department of Education has changed the number of observation hours for our music education students. The management of the process is too big for someone in the Music Department. We want to partner more strongly with our Teacher Education peers. This is an attempt to give our music education students a stronger preparation. S. Talley - Music is the second biggest degree in our department. Having more time for these students to prepare before they student teach is very important. W. Crawford - The changes to the music education programs will be going through UGEC first before we consider them here.

18. MUST 112 – Change Title & Course Number (beyond the hundred)

G. Straughn - We've had 4 semesters of theory and 4 semesters of aurals for years. We are moving to a different system of elementary, intermediate, and advanced with a zero level in the freshman course. MUST 112 and 132 will become 200-level.

19. MUST 132 – Change Title & Course Number (beyond the hundred)

See above.

Motion to approve items 18 & 19 by T. Baggs; seconded by R. Fowler; all in favor; motion passes.

20. MUST 131 – Change Content & Credit Hours (from 2 to 3)

G. Straughn - We are expanding content and contact hours to allow for inclusion of different areas of music. Combining world and popular music.

Motion to approve by S. Talley; seconded by R. Fowler; all in favor; motion passes.

21. MUSE 334 – Change Credit Hours (from 2 to 3)

G. Straughn - We should have changed this long ago. We have had 3 contact hours for a long time, and it should reflect that in the credit hours. We aren't really changing the outcomes. R. Fowler - How does that impact course load? G. Straughn - It actually helps it to better align. T. Sensing - I see three courses that you are increasing hours. How does that impact the degree plans with the proposed reduction of Bible hours? G. Straughn - I hesitate to say this is a causal connection. We might have to make adjustments, but that means content would have to be adjusted as well. W. Crawford - So this is an attempt to get the catalog to reflect reality. T. Sensing - I hear that accreditors are putting pressure on you to reduce things. D. Kennamer - Education is unique. We live under state law. We don't just prepare students to be credentialed by an outside body, we credential them. It's not just the number of hours that change but what counts as an hour. W. Crawford - The increase impacts accreditation. We have to add some content to meet the standards. S. Talley - Music education students have to be prepared for both vocal and instrumental. It is a challenging exam. T. Sensing - We have to think about the future of Bible courses as well.

Motion to approve by T. Baggs; seconded by R. Fowler; all in favor; motion passes.

22. MUSC 217 – Change Title, Content, & Credit Hours (from 1 to 2)

G. Straughn - We have two 1-hr courses on diction. We are combining to form one 2-hr course. (We will need to close MUSC 218.)

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

23. MUST 212 – Close Course

G. Straughn – These closures are part of the restructure and for cleaning up the catalog. The current freshmen can change catalogs. Otherwise, we can do a substitution.

24. MUST 232 – Close Course

See above.

25. MUST 233 – Close Course

See above.

26. MUSM 132 – Close Course

See above.

Motion to approve items 23-26 by T. Baggs; seconded by R. Ashlock; all in favor; motion passes.

27. MUSM 101 – New Course – Foundations of Music Listening

G. Straughn - These are our new freshmen series. We had a timeslot that changed content M to W to F so students took basically three courses in one. We made some intentional connections. These three courses are designed to work together and give them the foundations of what it means to be a musician. Our accreditation body will be here in 2028, and we'll be able to show data on a new best practice model. R. Ashlock - It seems like it will meet a higher percentage of students where they are. S. Talley - It evens the playing field by not assuming everyone knows the same material.

28. MUSC 101 – New Course – Foundations of Musicianship

See above.

29. MUST 101 – New Course – Foundations of Music Theory

See above.

Motion to approve items 27-29 by S. Talley; seconded by T. Baggs; all in favor; motion passes.

30. MUSE 335 – New Course – Choral Literature

G. Straughn - This is a chance to offer to our vocal students a course to match what is offered on the instrumental side. It also serves as an elective in the BA. T. Baggs - How do these workload hours work? They don't seem to match. 2 credit hours, 3 lecture hours, 1 lab hour for 2 workload. G. Straughn - We made it match the credit hours of the instrumental literature. The lab hours might be a mistake. The contact hours and workload are typical for music courses. Let's table this one to check on these hours.

Tabled.

31. MUSM 236 – New Course – Music in Leipzig

G. Straughn - We have offered this as a special topics course several times. This is also for students with no background in music.

Motion to approve by K. Williams; seconded by S. Talley; all in favor; motion passes.

32. Music Minor – Revise Minor Requirements

G. Straughn - These degree plans show the culmination of all the changes we have been discussing. You can see the side-by-side comparison. The minor hours moved from 22 to 20, which is more in line with the university.

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

33. BA:MUSI Major – Revise Degree Requirements

G. Straughn - This is our most flexible degree. The biggest change is in the introductory courses. We added some upper-level courses for electives. We've maintained a good number of electives.

Motion to approve by R. Fowler; seconded by S. Talley; all in favor; motion passes.

34. BM:VOCP Major – Revise Degree Requirements

G. Straughn - The first semester revisions are the biggest change. The upper-level experience is very consistent with what is has been. K. Williams - The supplemental courses, are they being closed? G. Straughn - We are closing some and some have been retitled and renumbered. The piano courses, for example, we are looking to see what our new faculty's skills are, so we paused on that. We might look at closing them at some time in the future. We can substitute them if a student has a strong interest.

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

Meeting ended at 4:39 p.m.