

Abilene Undergraduate Academic Council
April 15, 2026
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Adams Center Classroom

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

Absent: B. Burton, R. Brown

Ex-officios: M. McCallon, J. Camp, K. Williams, Eric Gumm (C. Riley was absent)

Guests: S. Jones, J. Ehrke, M. Deeg, R. Jessup, S. Hurley, K. Pybus, T. Shirley, K. Tippens, B. Reeves, D. Perkins, D. Flanagan, D. Kennamer, J. Smith

The meeting began at 3:31 p.m.

1. Call to order by W. Crawford.
2. Prayer by W. Crawford.
3. Approval of the minutes from 4.1.26

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

Information Items

4. CS 316 – Change Course Terms
5. DET 230 – Change Title
6. DET 260 – Change Prerequisites
7. DET 320 – Change Description
8. DET 330 – Change Title, Description, Prerequisites
9. DET 410 – Change Prerequisites
10. ANSC 496 – Change Prerequisites
11. PHP 320 – Change Title and Description
12. KINE 420 – Change Description, Prerequisites, & Content
13. NUTR 328 – Change Course Terms
14. NUTR 421 – Change Course Terms

15. MATH 377 – Change Course Terms
16. MKTG 495 – Revise Content
17. PHYS & ENGR – Separate into Two Departments

Action Items

18. BS SDS – New Program – Data Science and Statistics

J. Ehrke - We have long needed this degree. When you look at a Data Science degree at the undergraduate level, there are different ways to go. We feel that the best way to go is the interdisciplinary route. We look at business analytics, mathematics, and biosciences. These are huge areas where data science and statistics are used at a deep level. We might expand into other areas in the future.

W. Crawford - Our approval of this will be contingent on approval by the college council. We had to take it early because of the faculty vote. We could come back in May if we need to make changes.

R. Fowler - If the main professor left, could the program continue? J. Ehrke - I can teach these courses if need be. We also have a new hire for the fall. R. Ashlock - What overlaps are there with ACU Dallas? J. Ehrke - They are very interested in this program. They are looking for us to start the program and then possibly share some courses. J. Smith - That would be more at the course level than the program level. J. Ehrke - They did ask if our faculty could develop the curriculum for them. They have many corporate partners which could be a strength. That is a future development.

Motion to approve (contingent on it passing OCSE council) by T. Sensing; seconded by S. Talley; all in favor; motion passes.

19. MATH 278 – New Course – Computational Mathematics Lab

J. Ehrke - I've been wanting to strengthen our technology skills for our students. The MATH 187 course using Maple is no longer relevant to the career market. This new course will use Python, which is used more often in graduate school and in industry. This will also strengthen things for our Calculus III course preparation. It will also save us money and reduce needed IT support. Students will benefit from this change. It is also consistent with what is happening in Engineering and Physics. T. Braggs - One the 2nd SLO, there are two different verbs. Do you want to go with "implement?" J. Ehrke - Yes. It is correct on the syllabus. We will be teaching them basics in the course that will lay a foundation for the data science courses.

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

20. MATH 187 – Close Course

J. Ehrke - This change has a cascading effect, but it really needs to happen. It exists in a variety of locations. It is core to technology outcomes in the department.

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

- 21. MATT – Remove MATH 187, Add MATH 278
- 22. MATH – Remove MATH 187, Add MATH 278
- 23. MATH-APMA – Remove MATH 187, Add MATH 278
- 24. MATH-PURE – Remove MATH 187, Add MATH 278.
- 25. MASC – Remove MATH 187, Add MATH 278
- 26. Math Minor – Remove MATH 187, Add MATH 278
- 27. CSMT – Remove MATH 187, Add MATH 278
- 28. CS_CT – Remove MATH 187, Add MATH 278

J. Erhke - We need to swap out the old course and add in the new course. This change should be pretty seamless from a pedagogy standpoint.

Motion to approve items 21-28 by S. Talley; seconded by R. Fowler; all in favor; motion passes.

- 29. New Minor – Interdisciplinary Studies in Applied Artificial Intelligence

T. Shirley - The honor's college has proposed this new minor. The idea is to provide an opportunity for students to learn about AI, but not just the scripting side or writing better prompts, but to cultivate wisdom around this new technology. They will take a class on ethics, on creativity, and computer science courses, and then have a menu of selections. W. Crawford - This is a great way to bring all the colleges together to look at this issue through various lenses. R. Fowler - On the menu, how did you land on ENGL 472. It seemed a bit of an outlier. T. Shirley - That came from conversations with the department. We asked if there were courses where they were already engaging with AI and they mentioned this one. R. Fowler - Is there a plan to update this menu? T. Shirley - Yes. J. Smith - I think it comes down to who is teaching the course on whether AI is addressed or not since it is not covered in the outcomes. J. Camp - I did notice some endorsements from Chairs for courses that I don't see in the menu. COMM 412, for example. T. Shirley - That was an oversight on my part. W. Crawford - This field changes so rapidly that this menu will likely change over time.

Motion to approve with addition of COMM 412 to the menu by R. Fowler; seconded by S. Talley; all in favor; motion passes.

- 30. CS 112 – New Course – Foundations of Artificial Intelligence

B. Reeves - I'm recommending that non-majors take this course as well. It teaches how LLMs work. R. Ashlock - Anyone could teach it in your department? B. Reeves - Yes. W. Crawford - This is the nuts-and-bolts class in the minor. The outcomes look strong.

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

31. Leadership Studies - Revise Minor & Change Department

T. Shirley - This is a revision of an existing minor. It currently has 3 students in it. We would like to refocus it and make it more interdisciplinary to attract more students. We would like to move it from the Communication and Sociology Department to the Honor's College. It will be open to all students, not just honors students. Lynette is on our college council and supportive of this move. W. Crawford - So for the first time, we will have two programs within the Honor's College. J. Smith - How will you signal to students that it will be open to all? T. Shirley - We are looking at renaming the college to include a component that expands beyond just honors.

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

32. New Program – BS in Sports Media

K. Pybus - Since the university constructed the new football stadium, we have been using ACU TV to cover more and more athletic events and staffing the media with students. We want to codify this experience for students through an academic degree. It takes portions of journalism and multimedia with a focus on sports media. We see it as a good opportunity to expand with only needing to develop one new course. It is already being taught as part of the Topics in Journalism course. R. Ashlock - Can you talk about the market? K. Pybus - This is a growing degree at other universities. I've been conservative predicting the number of students we will have. We are basically splitting the multimedia area. In the fall, we had 10 students interested. J. Smith - We need to get the market analysis that was left off of this proposal. It is actually uncommon as an undergraduate degree. W. Crawford - The admissions team was excited about the program. K. Pybus - I will send that analysis to Karen. R. Ashlock - If this is hinged on one faculty member, what would happen if he leaves? K. Pybus - We have other faculty who can teach the multimedia courses, but we would likely need to hire a new faculty member to replace that position. We do have a substantial number of alumni working in sports media. We haven't yet tapped our Dallas resources in the professional sports world, but that is a possibility as well.

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

33. JMC 339 – New Course – Sports Journalism

K. Pybus - This course has been taught as special topics and as one of our topics in journalism courses. It is about telling sports stories. This would make it an official,

stand-alone course. Depending on demand, we might increase offerings beyond every other year.

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

34.ACCT 322 – New Course – Ethics and the Accounting Profession

D. Perkins - The new course is driven by changes from the state board. The state used to require 150 credit hours, but now they are letting students sit for the exam with only 120 credit hours. They are not making the exam any easier. We want to make our students eligible but also prepared to do well on the exam. We've had a graduate ethics course for a long time and are moving it to the undergraduate level. The content is driven by the requirements of the state board. W. Crawford - The content is basically the same. D. Perkins - We are phasing out the graduate course.

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

35.ACCT – New Track – Professional Accounting

D. Perkins - We are starting a new track to allow for students to sit for the exam. The exam required 27 upper-level credit hours. Students had been meeting this with the integrated MAcc program. This new track allows them to take 9 MACC hours without having to be part of the integrated MAcc program. We've also been talking to Dallas about using those hours toward an online MBA as well. This will allow them to move straight into the workplace. E. Gumm - This will fulfill Business Selections not free electives, correct? D. Perkins - Yes. We no longer have to offer the Business and Professional Writing course, so this ethics course will slide into that slot. J. Smith - In approving a track like this, you are making an exception to a university policy, allowing students to take 9 graduate hours. D. Perkins - We did discuss it with Chris Riley and Eric Gumm. T. Sensing - Students were already doing this in the integrated program, correct? E. Gumm - Yes.

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

36.ACCT – General Track – Revise Major

D. Perkins - These are minor changes to add the new ethics course and the COBA changes. L. Phillips - We are moving ENTR 120 into the tracks. K. Tippens - And allowing students to take the Finance capstone as an option.

37.ACCT – Analytics Track – Revise Major

Same as above

Motion to approve items 36-37 by T. Sensing; seconded by S. Talley; all in favor; motion passes.

38. FIN 316 – New Course – Commercial Real Estate

K. Tippens - We are now teaching this as a special topics course. It has proved popular with students. We are planning to offer this every spring. We have a lot of alumni connections as well. R. Ashlock - The CLOs are different on the application and syllabus. K. Tippens - I might have missed that. S. Talley - I like the ones in the application. W. Crawford - Let's table this one for next time.

Tabled.

39. FINA – All Tracks – Revise Finance Core

K. Tippens - Some of these changes are the same. We are removing ENTR 120 and using a finance course as our introductory class. L. Phillips - Everyone will still take the BUSA 120 course. K. Tippens - We do want to add the new ACCT 322 to the menu. We also would like to earmark some upper level Bible courses as ethics courses for our students. R. Ashlock - If Cliff signed off on it, it should be fine. We do have a couple of faculty who can teach ethics. K. Tippens - We are making the same changes to all four tracks.

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

40. MGMT – All Tracks – Revise Degree Plans

M. Deeg - We are adding some courses to our Management Core. We want our students to have access to HR content. We shifted some things around to make room for this. We are also combining the Leadership and HR tracks to make sure students are well-prepared for the workforce. W. Crawford - Leadership has become a catch-all term that doesn't really mean anything. L. Phillips - That is part of the reason behind the change. We wanted to be more focused and intentional.

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

41. MKTG – All Tracks – Revise Degree Plans

R. Jessup - We are making the same change as the other COBA programs. We are adjusting some of our tracks. We need to add the digital marketing course to the track. L. Phillips - We approved that Marketing could have their own capstone. We are putting MKTG 495 through UGEC to be approved as the capstone.

Motion to approve contingent on capstone approval by T. Baggs; seconded by R. Ashlock; all in favor; motion passes.

42. IS – All Tracks – Revise Degree Plans

L. Phillips - Same thing with the COBA changes. We would like to have IS 405 in the core and have shifted things around to accommodate. We are changing some track names to help market them. R. Fowler - COMM 412 was also missing.

Motion to approve contingent on COMM 412 being added to menu by S. Talley; seconded by R. Ashlock; all in favor; motion passes.

43. KINE 406 – New Course – Facility and Event Management (previously tabled)

S. Jones - We tabled it to get the SLOs matching. I watched Odies copy and paste, so they should be the same. R. Ashlock - They are.

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

44. KSRM – Add KINE 406 & Revise PEAC Menus (previously tabled)

S. Jones - The track is changed to add KINE 406 and to reflect the closure of the PEAC courses.

Motion to approve by S. Talley; seconded by T. Sensing; all in favor; motion passes.

45. BMSC (Gen, Pre-Dent, PA, & Pharm Tracks) – Replace BIOL 492 with BIOL 494

D. Flanagan - BIOL 494 is a new course, human physiology. Since our programs focus on human health, we think this course is a better fit. The PVET track will have an option. S. Jones - Do you think we should change that in our degree plan as well? D. Flanagan - Yes.

46. BMSC – PMED Track – Replace BIOL 492 with BIOL 494, Add BIOL 495 to Menu

D. Flanagan - I left BIOL 495 off the menu, so this will update that.

47. BMSC – PVET Track – Add BIOL 494 Option

See above.

48. BMSE – All Tracks – Replace BIOL 392 with BIOL 494

See above.

Motion to approve items 45-48 by R. Fowler; seconded by R. Ashlock; all in favor; motion passes.

49. CMGT – New Course – Construction Safety

S. Hurley - These courses are similar to courses offered by other universities with this program. This is a study of safety at the job site. Students will develop safety plans.

50. CMGT 364 – New Course – Mechanical Electrical and Plumbing Construction

S. Hurley - This covers how to read the plans.

51. CMGT 375 – New Course – Construction Law, Accounting and Finance

S. Hurley - They will sign contracts and deal with that side of things. R. Ashlock - So an Engineering faculty will teach this? S. Hurley - Yes. That is consistent with what is done at other institutions. S. Talley - That is common in our discipline too. You just need to know the legal knowledge of your field.

52. CMGT 499 – New Course Construction Internship

S. Hurley - This is standard. We have an accrediting body, so all the outcomes are tailored to meet those. The students will often do their internship over the summer. There is a requirement of 250 hours of site work. K. Williams - I see credit/no-credit, but a letter-grade scale in the syllabus. You need to be very clear what constitutes credit. E. Gumm - There should not be a letter grade scale for a credit/no-credit course. If the student doesn't complete their hours, they would need an incomplete grade contract. S. Talley - The clearer you can be in the syllabus, the better for you.

Motion to approve items 49-52 by T. Baggs; seconded by S. Talley; all in favor; motion passes.

Meeting ended at 5:08 p.m.