

**ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY DALLAS
ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

July 17 2023

3pm CST

<https://blogs.acu.edu/cgpsacademiccouncil/>

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the ACU Dallas Academic Council was called to order at 3:00pm, on July 17, 2023 on Zoom video conference, by Dena Counts

OPENING CEREMONIES

The invocation was given by Joe Feliciano.

ROLL CALL

Members in attendance: Alicia Ramirez, Alline Sada, Brandy Chalmers, Brian Cole, Dena Counts, Jackie Bluitt, Joe Feliciano, Jon Wiener, Karen Maxwell, Kathy Carroll, Kipi Fleming, Marcia Sotelo, Meghan Hope, Nancy Kucinski, Sara Salkil, Scott Self, Stephanie Wanamaker, Tiffany Dahlman

Members absent: Brenda McAdoo, Nannette Glenn

Guests present: Alison Pirtle, Jessica Smith, Karen Witemeyer, Lori Anne Shaw, Sheila Jones, Julie Lane

QUORUM

A quorum was present.

MINUTES

The minutes from June 26, 2023 were approved as presented.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. The first topic is the description, title, and prereq changes to GRAD 791, 792, 793, and 794. Dr. Julie Lane explained the change.

Discussion: None

Brian Cole moved to approve and Joe Feliciano seconded the motion to approve the noted changes to GRAD 791, 792, 793, 794. The motion carried with 16 yes and 0 no votes and 1 abstention.

2. The chair invited Dr. Aline Sada to explain the changes to the MED in Instruction and Learning. These changes were split up for discussion and voting. As a reminder, a thorough explanation of all these changes are on the blog. First, Aline explained the changes to the core of this program.

Discussion: None

Jackie Bluitt moved to approve and Kipi Fleming seconded the approval of the changes to the core as explained in our blog and by Aline for the MED in Instruction and Learning. The motion carried with 15 yes and 0 no votes and 1 abstention.

Next, the chair invited Aline to give an overview of the proposed removal of the Conflict Management track and addition of the Education and Teaching track from the MED in Instruction and Learning.

Discussion: Karen Maxwell asked if we are in the process of offering teacher/administrator certifications. Aline commented that we've been working through EEPA with different pipelines to develop these tracks (undergrad, masters, and doctorate.) We can't do it on our own through TEA right now, so we have been piggybacking on Region 13 at this time. Meghan Hope questioned the removal of the Conflict Management track. It seems to be a consistent thread throughout many of our programs and upholds our mission. Why is it being removed? Were there marketing efforts to keep it going? Aline explained that as they've been visiting with school districts and going to different conferences and offering our tracks (Emerging Technologies, Educational Leadership, and Conflict Management), but there has been very little interest in the Conflict Management track. We want to publish courses that we actually have students enrolled in. Education is highly politicized lately, so we are open to and hoping to have Conflict Management embedded in all courses in the future. It is still currently offered at the doctoral level and is not a shutdown forever. This version right now is not what the industry is looking for. Kipi Fleming asked how it was presented to the school districts and at the conferences, as she was never asked about it or asked to talk to anyone who might be interested. Aline explained that her team

presented the catalog (showing the 3 track options) and there was no interest at the masters level, but there was interest at the doctorate level. Nancy Kucinski asked if there are any negatives to just leaving it in the catalog as opposed to removing it. Scott Self clarified that if it's not being used and we don't anticipate using it in the near future, then we should remove it in order to gain efficiencies in the catalog. Jessica Smith explained that too many options in the catalog can be confusing to students, especially if there are options that aren't being used. Tracks can be reconsidered in the future. Karen Maxwell mentioned that in the past we would "hide" an option from students' view instead of completely removing it from the catalog. Jessica Smith said that a track can lie dormant but we wouldn't necessarily hide it. If there truly are no students in the track or showing interest in the near future, it's best practice to close the ones that are not active. Meghan Hope expressed concern that Dr. Fleming wasn't consulted because those are her courses. Is there an opportunity for these courses to stay? Alline explained education at the masters level has changed after the pandemic. The teacher shortage is a big problem that school districts are trying to solve. Districts want to pay to create teachers. The Conflict Management track creates great leaders, but not necessarily great teachers. Because of the TEA requirements of how to move forward in the school system, Alline feels that the CONR package is not what the school districts are wanting at this time. Alline respects the Conflict Management program, but doesn't feel that having a track is the way to go right now. She truly feels that Conflict Management needs to be embedded in the courses, not a separate track. Sara Salkil recommended that we have separate motions for the removal of the Conflict Management track and the addition of the Education and Teaching track.

Joe Feliciano moved to table the removal of the Conflict Management track and Alicia Ramirez seconded. Joe's reasoning for the moving to table was to allow more time for discussion in the next few weeks, as the removal of the track does not appear to be a time sensitive issue. The motion carried with 15 yes and 0 no votes and 1 abstention. The removal of the Conflict Management track will be tabled until the next meeting. The addition of the Education and Teaching track is more time sensitive, so the council continued to move forward with that proposal today.

Alline reviewed the proposed addition of the Education and Teaching track for the MED in Instruction and Learning. This track targets students who are changing degrees/careers. It is only a skeleton at this time and we are not currently pursuing a certification.

Discussion: Brian Cole asked why a certification isn't being pursued at this time. Alline explained that TEA rules say once you have the EPP program, you can only choose one certification at one grade level. We are focusing on undergrad for now and we are still awaiting approval by TEA to be able to run that program. After one year of that program running successfully, we can submit a second proposal for an EPP program, which would be a masters degree. This is why we are partnering with Region 13 for now.

Kipi Fleming moved to approve and Jackie Bluitt seconded the addition of the Education and Teaching track to the MED in Instruction and Learning. The motion carried with 15 yes and 0 no votes and 1 abstention

Next, Alline gave an overview of the two new courses, EDUO 610 and EDUO 659, for the MED in Instruction and Learning and the shared course, EDUO 691.

Discussion: Karen Maxwell asked how diversity issues are being addressed in this program. Alline explained that diversity topics are embedded in all courses. More specifically, diversity is addressed strongly through courses on Special Needs Populations as well as courses that teach/encourage school leaders to celebrate diversity within their communities. Sara Salkil noticed a mistake on the course application which indicates these courses fall within the "School of Educational Leadership" instead of "School of Organizational Leadership". Alline confirmed that the School of Educational Leadership does not exist and this was a typo which should be corrected.

Sara Salkil moved to approve of EDUO 610, EDUO 659, and EDUO 691, contingent upon the change of "School of Educational Leadership" to "School of Organizational Leadership" in the paperwork, and Joe Feliciano seconded. The motion carried with 16 yes and 0 no votes and 1 abstention

3. The chair invited Alline to explain the proposed EDD in Educational Leadership.

Discussion: Karen Maxwell mentioned that this new program was only explained to her recently and she would like to see if it will work with the existing EDD that we have. She would like to have more information before approving. Brian Cole expressed that their concerns were not addressed when brought up a few months ago. Alline explained that discussion on this began in September 2022, examining if the education-specific issues were appropriately addressed in the current EDD program. The market is asking for a diploma program that specifically focuses on Educational Leadership. Brian and Karen both asked why it can't be a concentration within the existing program. Alline explained that principal leadership and superintendent leadership isn't specifically addressed in a way the current educational leaders are wanting. Alline says that we are looking to focus on foundational courses and meeting TEA requirements, and the current program does not have those offerings to start the SACS process. Karen Maxwell is wondering what are the implications to the dissertation? Alline commented that we are only focusing on foundational courses for now to get the SACS paperwork started. Karen commented that the dissertation process is embedded from the start of a program. Brian Cole expressed concern that this would be a competing program and take away from the current EDD program. Alline commented that 13 people (not currently enrolled in an ACU EDD program) are waiting for ACU to start our Educational Leadership degree. Scott Self explained that the research shows we are losing 40% of our potential EDD

student body due to name alone. That shows that we are performing well in Organizational Leadership but missing this other sector. Scott feels this Educational Leadership degree would be additive and not competitive with our current EDD degrees.

The chair noted the lateness of the hour and asked Alline if she would like to table her request or move forward with a motion. Alline would like to move forward with a motion.

Tiffany Dahlman moved to table this vote on the new EDD in Educational Leadership to give opportunity for further discussion with parties impacted by the new degree (EDD and HIED) and Sara Salkil seconded the motion. The motion carried with 13 yes and 0 no votes and 1 abstention.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Meeting

Next meeting will occur on **Monday, August 21, 2023** at 3pm CST. Submissions for business items are due in the Google Shared Drive by Monday, August 14 at Noon.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 3:59pm CST.

APPROVAL

Minutes approved this X day of MONTH, 2023.

Dena Counts, Chair