

Academic Council Meeting
February 25, 2008

Members Present: Sr. Donna Jurick (presiding), Charlie Bicak, Fr. Lou Brusatti, Tom Evans, Ramsey Fowler, Mike Harris, Elma Aldrete for Lance Hayes, Sarah Henseler, Marianne Hopper, Helen Just, Scott Roberts for Marsha Kelliher, Tom Leonhardt, Tracy Manier, Molly Minus, Fidelma O’Leary, Mary Rist, Lynn Rudloff, Frank Smith, Anna Stewart, Rudy Trejo (SGA Representative), Brenda Vallance, Austin Wood (SGA Representative)

Members Absent: Whitney Brewer (SGA Representative), Bethany Carroll (SGA Representative), Karen Jenlink

Others Present: Kelley Coblentz-Bautch, Eamonn Healy, Barbara Henderson, Laura Hollis-Hammonds, Stan Irvin, Robert J. Lueger, Greg MacConnell, Jonah O’Hara, Amanda Holland (recording)

1. Minutes of the January 28, 2008 Academic Council Meeting

The Council was informed that the BA in Information Systems Administration, approved at the previous meeting, has not yet been taken to the Board of Trustees. It will be considered as part of the overall review of New College curriculum, particularly its relationship to Computer Systems Management.

The minutes were unanimously approved with no corrections noted.

2. Admission Requirements for International Students

Jonah O’Hara proposed that the Office of Undergraduate Admission accept scores from the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) as an alternative to the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)—as a demonstration of English proficiency by non-native English speaking applicants. The minimum IELTS score should be a 5.0, which is equivalent to our existing minimum TOEFL scores of 500 (paper), 173 (computer), and 61 (iBT).

The IELTS originated in 1980 and has grown into the dominant English-language test outside the U.S. with nearly one million test takers in 2007. Currently, more than 800 U.S. universities accept the IELTS, including Trinity, Tulane, and the University of Texas at Austin.

International students will be required to submit scores from either IELTS or TOEFL, but not from both. The IELTS score range is from zero to nine and while there is an essay included in the exam, there is no writing sample available for viewing, but a writing sample score is reported. However, it was noted in discussion that research studies have reported no correlation between TOEFL scores and student GPA.

Motion: To approve the acceptance of International English Language Testing System (IELTS) scores as a demonstration of English proficiency by non-native

English speaking applicants, in addition to the TOEFL. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

3. ARTS Catalog Changes

Stan Irvin proposed several changes to the ARTS curriculum. First, three new courses were proposed, including ARTS 2332: Drawing II, ARTS 3060: Portfolio Review, and ARTS 4070: Senior Exhibition. Drawing II will bridge the gap from Drawing I to Life Drawing and will better prepare students for the latter course. Portfolio Review is a zero-hour course that will help students to define their deficiencies and assess improvement needs, while Senior Exhibition, another zero-hour course, will ensure that seniors funnel into the exhibition in a timely manner—many students sign up too early. It was noted in discussion that Drawing II is a sophomore-level course, while all other second-level art courses are designated as junior-level courses. This is because Drawing I and Drawing II are pre-requisites for all specialized courses; thus, students need to complete these courses at the beginning of their studies.

Several changes to the Art major were proposed. ARTS 2332: Drawing II and GDES 2321: Image Methodology will be added as required courses, while GDES 2313: Graphic Design I and ARTS 4341: Advanced Drawing will be removed. Currently, students have a choice of either ARTS 4341 or ARTS 3336—now all students will take ARTS 3336: Life Drawing. These changes will increase the required hours from 42 to 45. In addition, GDES 2314: Typography I and GDES 2331: Graphic Design II will be eliminated as elective options and PHCO 2324: History of Photography will be added as an elective option. In total, the Art major hours will increase from 48 to 51 hours.

Changes to the Art minor include the addition of ARTS 2303: Art History I as a required course. ARTS 2332: Drawing II, GDES 2321: Image Methodology, and ARTS 2304: Art History II will be added as elective options, while GDES 2313: Graphic Design I, GDES 2331: Graphic Design II, and GDES 2414: Typography I will be removed as elective options. These changes will increase the required hours from 9 to 12 and the elective hours will be reduced from 15 to 12 to maintain a 24 hour minor.

Many changes to course numbers, titles and descriptions were also proposed. Changes proposed are as follows:

ARTS 1303: Art History I will be renumbered ARTS 2303; ARTS 2316: Beginning Painting will be renumbered and retitled ARTS 3319: Painting I; ARTS 2326: Beginning Sculpture will be renumbered and retitled ARTS 3326: Sculpture I; and ARTS 2333: Beginning Printmaking will be renumbered and retitled ARTS 3329: Printmaking I. Because most students take these courses as a junior, and the course content has evolved to upper-division, it is appropriate to adjust the course numbers to reflect these changes.

ARTS 4342: Advanced Painting Projects will be renamed Advanced Painting; ARTS 4343: Advanced Watercolor Projects will be renamed Advanced Watercolor; ARTS 4344: Advanced Clay Projects will be renamed Advanced Clay; and ARTS 4345: Advanced Printmaking Projects will be renamed Advanced Printmaking. It is necessary

to change the titles from Projects to Advanced to alleviate students' misconception that these courses involve out-of-class assignments and that class attendance is not required.

Course descriptions for ARTS 1316: Drawing I, ARTS 3337: Painting II, ARTS 4342: Advanced Painting, ARTS 4345: Advanced Printmaking, and ARTS 4350: Internship will be updated as appropriate. In addition, pre-requisites will be updated to reflect that Portfolio Review must be taken prior to registering for any 4000-level course and that Drawing II must be taken prior to Life Drawing.

It was noted in discussion that some of the proposed changes may affect Education majors; thus it is necessary that the Art Department meet with the Education Department to identify and remedy any problems arising from these changes.

Motion: To approve all changes to the ARTS curriculum including the addition of ARTS 2332: Drawing II, ARTS 3060: Portfolio Review, and ARTS 4070: Senior Exhibition. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

4. Art Concentration in BA in Liberal Studies Revision/Clarification

Laura Hollis-Hammonds proposed two changes to the BA in Liberal Studies Art Concentration that would allow students the option of completing a non-studio-based Art concentration. The first change includes the catalog description to be revised as follows:

“Students who select an Art concentration will gain an appreciation of the scope and impact of artistic creation through the art history sequence and will also have the opportunity to develop that interest further through additional art history courses, to select several studio courses to develop their skills in areas of interest, or some combination of these two options.”

In addition, to allow for a more focused study of Art History, the list of suggested elective courses for the Art Concentration (which requires three basic art history courses and 12 additional hours of Art electives) should be expanded to include ARTS 3340: Issues in Contemporary Art, ARTS 3349: Topics in Art History (may be repeated with new topic), and PHCO 2324: History of Photography.

These changes will not alter the current program, but will make clear a non-studio option which will serve to expand the possible appeal of the Liberal Studies major.

Motion: To approve changes to the catalog description regarding the Art Concentration within the BA in Liberal Studies and to approve the addition of acceptable electives within the concentration to include ARTS 3340, ARTS 3349, and PHCO 2324. Motion passed with unanimous approval.

5. Religious Studies Course Additions

Fr. Lou Brusatti and Kelley Coblenz-Bautch proposed two new courses be added to the Religious Studies curriculum—RELS 1101: Methods in Religious Studies and RELS 4049: Religious Studies Student Portfolio. RELS 1101 will orient students to Religious

Studies by introducing them to the discipline's various fields with a focus on each field's methodology. The course will be required for all Religious Studies majors and minors (to be completed during the freshman/sophomore year), and for Liberal Studies majors with a concentration in Religious Studies. The staffing of RELS 1101 will be shared by the Religious Studies Faculty and will not be calculated as part of their teaching load for salary purposes. RELS 4049 will be required of all Religious Studies majors to be taken the semester before graduation. Students will be required to compile and submit a portfolio that effectively and professionally addresses each of the learning outcomes for Religious Studies. The portfolio will be graded on a pass/no pass basis and a pass will be required for graduation.

Motion: To approve the addition of RELS 1101: Methods in Religious Studies and RELS 4049: Religious Studies Student Portfolio to the Religious Studies curriculum. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

6. Forensic Chemistry Curriculum Revision

J.D. Lewis proposed that several revisions be made to the Forensic Chemistry major in order to better serve the needs of our students and use resources more efficiently. First, CHEM 4343: Biochemistry I will become a required course and will replace CHEM 4330: Chemistry of Living Systems, which will be deleted from the Undergraduate Bulletin. This change will use an existing course to satisfy curriculum requirements without having to revise and reorganize a course to meet student needs.

Next, CHEM 4151: Internship in Forensic Chemistry will be removed as a required course and will be replaced by increasing the number of required hours of CHEM 4148: Undergraduate Research from one to three. However, CHEM 4151 will be allowed to substitute for one hour of the CHEM 4148 requirement. It is not feasible to find enough high quality internship sites to support CHEM 4151 as a required course; in addition, strengthening the research requirement is in line with national trends.

In addition, the nine-hour Criminal Justice requirement will be replaced with Forensic Science courses. At the time Forensic Chemistry was created, Forensic Science courses were not offered at SEU; however, this is a better suited supporting field for the major. CRIJ 2323: Criminal Evidence and Proof will be retained as per the recommendation of the American Academy of Forensic Science.

Finally, the course description for CHEM 4331: Forensic Chemistry will be updated to avoid duplicating content covered by the Forensic Science support courses.

Motion: To approve all changes to the Forensic Chemistry curriculum. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

7. Forensic Science Changes

Brenda Vallance proposed that FRSC 2319: Introduction to Forensic Science be renumbered FRSC 1319; the course is an introductory course and should be offered at the freshman level. In addition, it was proposed that five new courses be added to the

Undergraduate Bulletin—FRSC 2325: Trace Evidence, FRSC 3340: Forensic Aspects of Crimes Against Property, FRSC 3345: Forensic Aspects of Crimes Against Persons, FRSC 4346: Forensic Aspects of Criminal Homicide, and FRSC 4342: Fundamentals of DNA Profiling.

FRSC 3340 and 3345 were previously offered as a single course; however, the course covered too many topics and needed to be split to effectively cover the course content. FRSC 4346 and 4342 were previously offered as a special topics course and are now being assigned unique course numbers and will be offered on a regular basis. Forensic Science majors will be required to take either FRSC 3340 or FRSC 3345; however, all other courses being added to the curriculum will be elective options.

Motion: To approve the course renumbering of FRSC 2319 to 1319 and the addition of FRSC 2325: Trace Evidence, FRSC 3340: Forensic Aspects of Crimes Against Property, FRSC 3345: Forensic Aspects of Crimes Against Persons, FRSC 4346: Forensic Aspects of Criminal Homicide, and FRSC 4342: Fundamentals of DNA Profiling. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

8. CIS Degree Plan Changes

Charlie Bicak proposed that FINC 3330 be removed as a requirement for CIS majors and replaced with ECON 2302 and any three-hour upper-division course offered in the School of Management and Business. FINC 3330 was required to align the CIS degree plan as closely with the core business requirements as possible; however, the pre-requisites for FINC 3330 have changed from ACCT 2301 and ACCT 2102 to ACCT 2301, ACCT 2303, ECON 2301, and ECON 2302. This change precludes CIS students from taking FINC 3330 without gaining approval through the School of Management and Business prior to registering for the course.

In addition, the ACCT 2102 and BUSI 2106 laboratory courses also previously required for CIS majors have been removed from the Undergraduate Bulletin and are no longer offered. By changing the course requirement within the CIS degree plan from FINC 3330 to ECON 2302 and a three-hour upper-division School of Management and Business elective, students will avoid the approval process now required for FINC 3330 in regards to non-business majors and the degree requirements will only be increased by one semester hour.

Motion: To approve the removal of FINC 3330 as a requirement for CIS majors and replace it with ECON 2302 and three upper-division elective hours within the School of Management and Business. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

9. Pre-Medical and Pre-Dental Curriculum

Fidelma O'Leary proposed that the Pre-Medical and Pre-Dental curriculum description within the Undergraduate Bulletin be updated to reflect current practice and requirements for receiving a letter of evaluation from the SEU Health Professions Advisory Committee (HPAC). The current description includes several requirements which students can not be held to and thus are not being enforced; therefore, the revision will define and simplify

the process that is actually being followed at present. The description will suggest appropriate majors and/or prerequisites which meet prerequisite requirements for most professional schools. To qualify for an evaluation letter from the HPAC committee students must submit an application for HPAC evaluation which is due in October, complete interviews with all HPAC members in the Fall, have a minimum GPA of 3.5 for medical applicants and a 3.3 for dental school applicants, and must fulfill all HPAC requirements.

It was noted in discussion that students who do not meet the requirements for an HPAC evaluation letter can still apply to professional schools—the evaluation letter increases a student’s chances of acceptance, but is not an application requirement. The letter is not a letter of recommendation, but rather an evaluation of a student’s skills which confirms that a student displays the minimum qualifications required for admittance into a professional program.

Motion: To approve all changes to the Pre-Medical and Pre-Dental description within the Undergraduate Bulletin. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

10. Social Statistics Course

Brenda Vallance proposed that SOCI 2329: Social Statistics be added to the Undergraduate Catalog. This course will replace PSYC 2317: Statistics for Criminology, Sociology, and Social Work majors. The course will also be a prerequisite for SOCI 3330: Social Research. The current PSYC 2317 course does not meet the needs of these students as it focuses on the experimental model (which is uncommon in social science research) and lacks some crucial topics needed by Sociology, Criminology, and Social Work students such as Multiple Regression Analysis, casual modeling, non-parametric statistics, and statistical software.

No new faculty will be required in order to offer this course. In addition, with growth in all majors within BSS resulting in the need for additional sections, the new course will relieve pressure on the psychology faculty and may actually preclude adding additional sections of PSYC 2317. It was noted in discussion that this course was offered previously at SEU and was removed from the Undergraduate Bulletin several years ago.

Motion: To approve the addition of SOCI 2329: Social Statistics to the Undergraduate Bulletin. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

11. BUSI 3330: Business Communication Prerequisite

Scott Roberts proposed that, in addition to ENGW 1301 and ENGW 1302, BUSI 2321 or COMM 1317 be added as a prerequisite for BUSI 3330: Business Communications. This course is required for all business majors and includes oral presentations to clients, interviewing with a career mentor, and brief presentations to a community partner; thus, the course is taught with the assumption that students will have the speaking skills necessary to complete these assignments. Therefore, it is necessary that students complete either BUSI 2321 or COMM 1317 prior to enrollment in this course.

Motion: To approve the addition of BUSI 2321/COMM 1317 as a prerequisite to BUSI 3330: Business Communication. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

12. School of Management and Business Undergraduate Bulletin Revisions

Scott Roberts proposed that the Undergraduate Bulletin course descriptions for ACCT 2301: Financial Accounting, ACCT 2303: Managerial Accounting, BUSI 2305: Business Statistics, and ECON 2301: Microeconomic Principles be revised to state that “students must earn a grade of C or higher.” The courses are all pre-requisites for higher level courses in the School of Management and Business’ curriculum. Statistically, if students get a D in these courses, they do poorly in the business core courses.

It was noted in discussion that this course is taken by students outside of the School of Management and Business. The schools also using this course need to determine whether or not they want to add this requirement as well, or continue accepting a D for the course. The grading for the course will remain A, B, C, D, F as other schools do accept a grade below a C for the course at present.

Motion: To add a requirement of “School of Management and Business majors/minors must earn a grade of C or higher” to ACCT 2301: Financial Accounting, ACCT 2303: Managerial Accounting, BUSI 2305: Business Statistics, and ECON 2301: Microeconomic Principles. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

13. Accounting Prerequisite Changes

Mike Harris proposed the several prerequisite changes for accounting courses. First, ACCT 3385: Internship should have a prerequisite of 12 hours of upper-division accounting. Second, ACCT 4339: Accounting Ethics should have prerequisites of ACCT 3332 and ACCT 4343; the course can be taken concurrently with ACCT 4343. Finally, ACCT 4343: Auditing will have a prerequisite of ACCT 3332. The course description for ACCT 4343 will also be updated.

It was noted in discussion that ACCT 4339: Accounting Ethics does not fulfill the general education Ethics requirement. This requirement must be fulfilled by a PHIL course. In addition, it is not necessary for students to complete ACCT 4339 before taking ACCT 3385 as all internships are carefully screened.

Motion: To approve the prerequisite changes for ACCT 3385: Internship, ACCT 4339: Accounting Ethics, and ACCT 4343: Auditing. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

14. Global Perspectives on Terrorism

Ramsey Fowler proposed that P-PSMG 43XX/A-CRIJ 43XX: Global Perspectives on Terrorism be added to the Public Safety Management curriculum. The course has previously been offered as a special topics course and has high enrollment. Junior standing will be a prerequisite for the course.

Motion: To approve the addition of P-PSMG 43XX/A-CRIJ 43XX: Global Perspectives on Terrorism to the Public Safety Management curriculum. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda K Holland