

Academic Council Meeting
January 22, 2007

Members Present: Donna M. Jurick, SND (presiding), Charlie Bicak, Fr. Lou Brusatti, Tom Evans, Ramsey Fowler, Lance Hayes, Marianne Hopper, Karen Jenlink, Marsha Kelliher, Fidelma O’Leary, Joseph Persac (SGA Representative), Mary Rist (for Lynn Rudloff), Sarah Sitton, Frank Smith, Anna Stewart, Brenda Vallance, Jennifer Wichman (SGA Representative)

Members Absent: Chase Carter (SGA Representative), Sarah Henseler, Tom Leonhardt, Tracy Manier, Molly Minus, Mark Poulos, Jon Sanders (SGA Representative)

Others Present: Barbara Henderson, Mary Howerton, Michele Kay, Greg MacConnell, Sandra Pacheco, Amanda Holland (recording)

1. Minutes of the November 27, 2006 Meeting

It was noted that the Forensic Science changes to minor proposal was presented by Brenda Vallance and not Karen Jenlink. In addition, in regards to the Academic Calendar, the reference to “Spring 2007” should have read “Spring 2006.”

The minutes passed unanimously with the corrections noted.

2. Changes to Philosophy Major

Fr. Lou Brusatti proposed several changes to the Philosophy major. Currently, required courses for the major include two courses (six hours) in the History of Philosophy—PHIL 2316 and 2317—and two courses (six hours) in the History of Theology—RELS 3333 and 3334. Changes would include adding a third required course in the History of Philosophy, PHIL 2318, which is an existing course listed in the Undergraduate Bulletin. The requirement for the History of Theology would be reduced to one course (three hours) giving students the option to choose either RELS 3333 or 3334. These changes will allow students to benefit from a more varied perspective in the discipline while retaining the 42 hours currently required to complete the major.

These changes will not cause a problem with the validity of the degree as half of the courses required are still upper-division.

Motion: To approve the changes to the Philosophy major including reducing the History of Theology requirement to three hours and adding a third course, PHIL 2318, in the History of Philosophy. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Topics in Art History

Fr. Lou Brusatti proposed that ARTS 33XX: Topics in Art History be added to the School of Humanities curriculum. The course will examine a specific topic in Art History in its cultural context. Possible topics include a specific period, the history of a particular art form, or another narrowed field of art.

Motion: To approve the addition of ARTS 33XX: Topics in Art History to the School of Humanities curriculum. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Addition of Journalism Minor

Fr. Lou Brusatti proposed that a Journalism minor be added to the Undergraduate Bulletin. The minor will consist of a total of 21 hours (18 hours required and three hours of elective courses) and will include a track in either print or broadcast journalism. Courses required by both tracks include JOUR 2321: Introduction to Journalism, JOUR 33XX: News Writing, ENGW 2326: Revising and Editing, and COMM 3330: Media Standards and Practices. Requirements for the print track include JOUR 3337: Journalistic Editing and either JOUR 3305: Advanced News Writing or JOUR 4350: Newspaper Internship. The print track also requires one three-hour elective which can be selected from the following courses—JOUR 3306: Editorial, Review and Column Writing, ENGW 4342: Magazine Writing, ENGW 3306: Critiquing the Arts, JOUR 33XX: Newspaper Design.

Students in the Broadcast track would be required to complete JOUR 2328: Broadcast Journalism and JOUR 33XX: Advanced Broadcast Journalism in addition to the core requirements. In addition, two three-hour electives are required and can be chosen from the following courses: JOUR 33XX: Sports Journalism for Broadcast, COMM 4324: Documentary, PHCO 1318: Photography I, COMM 2307: Media Communication, JOUR 4350: Broadcast Journalism Internship.

ENGW and COMM courses required in the major will be listed in the Undergraduate Catalog as JOUR courses. Because the courses involved with this minor are also requirements/electives in both the English Writing and Rhetoric and Communication majors, enrollment in the proposed courses will be sustained regardless of the level of success of the minor.

Motion: To approve the addition of a Journalism minor in the School of Humanities. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Spanish/International Business

Fr. Lou Brusatti proposed the Spanish/International Business major offered through the School of Humanities be discontinued. This major has become irrelevant with the establishment of the International Business major offered through the School of Management and Business. There are currently only four students pursuing this major and they will be able to complete the major with existing courses. The deletion of this major will have no impact on the Spanish major.

Motion: To approve the discontinuance of the Spanish/International Business major from the School of Humanities. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Changes to Finance Major

Marsha Kelliher proposed the following changes to the Finance major. First, all Fall/Spring references for semester to be offered will be removed from course descriptions except for required courses. The courses affected are all electives—this change will allow greater flexibility in offering electives.

Next, all business students will be required to take six hours of economics as prerequisites for FINC 3330. Students will be allowed to take ECON 2301 as a prerequisite and ECON 2302 as a co-requisite if necessary. This change will better prepare students for FINC 3330; currently, many students are struggling with the economic concepts covered in the course because they have never seen them before.

In addition, three more hours of accounting will be required for the major. Students can choose to complete either ACCT 3330: Intermediate Accounting I or ACCT 3331: Financial Statement Analysis. This will increase the accounting hours required for the major to nine semester hours. ACCT 3330 will be removed as a possible Finance required course and will become an elective. This change will better prepare students for competition in the job market.

Three additional hours of finance will also be added to the major requirements in the form of FINC 4341: Investment Principles and Analysis; this will be in addition to FINC 3380: Intermediate Finance. Such a change will give Finance majors a more solid background in finance practice and theory.

Finally, FINC 3332: Personal Finance will be renumbered FINC 1332, which will bring the course to freshman level. The course is not structured appropriately for a 3000-level business school course; this renumbered course will not count as a business school and/or a finance elective. A new course, FINC 3XXX: Fundamentals of Financial Planning (with a pre/co-requisite of FINC 3330) will be added as an elective option in the School of Management and Business. With these changes, Finance majors will be able to learn about the financial planning profession in an appropriately structured course.

It was noted in discussion that the change in prerequisites for FINC 3330 will not force students into a five-year program. Most students take ECON 2301 and ECON 2302 in their freshman year, giving them plenty of time to complete the remaining major requirements within the last three years of their four-year program.

Motion: To approve all changes to the Finance major. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Accounting Certificate Program

Marsha Kelliher proposed that the Accounting Certificate Program be discontinued from the School of Management and Business due to low enrollment and interest in the program. There are currently only two students enrolled in the program; they will be able to complete the program by taking MBA Accounting Concentration courses as non-degree seeking students.

Motion: To approve the discontinuance of the Accounting Certificate Program from the School of Management and Business. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Accounting Prerequisites

Marsha Kelliher proposed that ACCT 3332: Intermediate Accounting II be the prerequisite for each of the following accounting courses—ACCT 3334, 4339, 4341, 4342, 4343, and 4345. The course should be completed prior to taking any of these courses and concurrent registration will not be allowed. By making this change, accounting courses will be taken in a more proper

sequence which will allow students to have a more balanced workload, an opportunity to better learn the material, and the best foundation for success in an accounting career.

It was noted in discussion that students generally take ACCT 2301 and 2303 in their sophomore year, and ACCT 3331 and 3332 in their junior year, leaving the final accounting courses to be taken in their senior year. This sequence provides a more reasonable workload for students without overwhelming them with too many accounting courses in a single semester.

Motion: To approve ACCT 3332: Intermediate Accounting II as a prerequisite for ACCT 3334, 4339, 4341, 4342, and 4345. The motion passed unanimously.

9. International Business Internship

Marsha Kelliher proposed that IBUS XXXX: International Business Internship be added to the School of Management and Business. Currently, International Business majors have no opportunity to take an internship course directly related to their major. This course will provide such an opportunity. The course will be comprised of supervised experiential learning in a public or private, paid or unpaid, international business or organization which will allow students to broaden their experiences in the academic field by engaging in “real world” activities by applying classroom theory and knowledge in the workplace. Opportunities for international internships that have been identified include Costa de Oro, 3M, Cisco Systems, Dell, AMD, Mata Rocks, Pasco International, HEB, Synnecta, International Institute for Leadership Education, Iskilde, The O3 Group, and others.

Motion: To approve the addition of IBUS XXXX: International Business Internship as a course in the School of Management and Business. The motion passed unanimously.

10. International Relations

Brenda Vallance proposed several changes to the International Relations major to reflect the increasing emphasis on globalization, which is the current academic trend in this field, including a change in name to Global Studies.

New courses proposed for the major include GLST 33XX: International Political Economy, GLST 33XX: International Organizations, and GLST 43XX: International Security and Conflict Resolution. Courses in the major previously listed in the major as INTL will be labeled GLST to properly reflect the name change given the major. In addition, INTL 2322: Global Issues will be renumbered GLST 1322: Global Issues. INTL 3332: Area Studies: Latin America will be renumbered GLST 1324: Survey of Latin America, and INTL 3333: Europe and the EU will be renumbered GLST 1325: Europe and the EU.

SOCI 2351: Cultural Anthropology will be removed as a core course from the Global Studies major. Required courses for the updated major include GLST 1322: Global Issues, GEOG 1303: World Regional Geography, HIST 2329: World History (1500+), POLS 2332: International Relations, POLS 2341: Comparative Politics, ECON 2302: Macroeconomics, GLST 4345: Senior Seminar, and GLST 4350: Study Abroad/Internship.

Students pursuing the major must then choose a regional track—choices include Latin America or Europe. Each regional track consists of 12 credit hours. A survey course will be required covering the region chosen; GLST 1324: Survey of Latin America or GLST 1325: Europe and the EU. The remaining nine course hours will be completed by choosing three courses from a list of elective options available for each regional track.

In addition to the regional track, students must also choose a career emphasis. This portion of the degree plan consists of nine semester hours. Students can choose between an emphasis in International Business & Economics or International Conflict, Cooperation, and Security. Again, students will choose three courses from an appropriate list of elective options.

It was noted in discussion that ECON 4342: Comparative Economic Systems, which appears as an elective option in the new degree plan, has been removed from the Undergraduate Bulletin and is no longer being offered. Removing the course from the degree plan does not present a problem because the course is one of several elective options. It was also noted that the newly adopted International Internship course could be added as an alternative elective in place of ECON 4342.

Also discussed was the possibility of the addition of a third regional track in the near future. Research is being done to assess the viability of a third option which would most likely be centered on either Asia or the Middle East.

Motion: To approve all changes to the International Relations major in the School of Behavioral and Social Sciences, including a name change to Global Studies. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Academic Calendar

Sr. Donna Jurick presented the 2007-2008 Academic Calendar. No changes to the calendar were noted; however, discussion of the venue for the Spring commencement ceremony ensued. It was noted that, at present time, SEU must utilize the Frank Erwin Center as the only viable option for this ceremony—attendance by students and guests is too large to be accommodated by any other venue within the city limits (approximately 7300 people were in attendance at the May 2006 ceremony). In addition, all other options, such as the Austin Convention Center or the Palmer Event Center, do not have stadium seating, which presents a large viewing problem for guests.

Resolution: To adopt the 2007-2008 Academic Calendar as presented. The resolution passed unanimously.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Holland