

DEGREE PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

TO: Joel Bloom, Chair
FROM: Larry Williams, Chair, Degree Program Committee
DATE: April 8, 2008

RECEIVED APR 16 2008

APPROVED APR 16 2008

The committee met on 2 April 2008 at 3:00 pm. Members present: Libby Barlow, Roger Blakeney, Lawrence Curry, Lucas Faulkenberry, Nathan Jarvis, Partha Krishnamurthy, Barbara Lewis, Iain Morrison, Lawrence Williams and Marsha Daly. Guests: Frank Kelley (CBA), Suzanne Kieffer (PSYC), Nicole Andrews (COE), Carole Goodson, Consuela Waight (HDCS).

The Degree Program Committee Members reviewed and approve the following items. Our review led to minor changes including corrections of typographical errors and formatting, addition or deletion of information, and editing of catalog language. All changes were approved by the author of each document

MEMORANDA

UC 9687 07F: Mechanical Engineering Technology Degree Plan changes

Previously tabled. DPC questions answered adequately. No major changes.

UC 9334 07F: Human Resources Development (HRD) (new degree)

The job market for those with HR degrees is robust and improving. Several language changes were made in the degree requirements sheet. Six hours added to the six required hours of Math/Reasoning were moved to the College Requirements. The DPC requested detailed listing of "Approved area of specialization (15 SH)" and for several letters of support from the business community supporting this degree program as viable and needed. The author complied. Three CBM003 form accompanied this new program. All were approved:

UC 9331 07F: TRDE 3303: Measuring Learning and Performance Outcomes (new course)

UC 9332 07F: TRDE 3310: Introduction to Career Development and Planning (new course)

UC 9333 07F: TRDE 3350: Global Human Resource Development (new course)

UC 9707 07F: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Studies Minor (new minor)

This new minor was approved after deliberation regarding that certain language about "Humanities" and "Social Sciences" courses might be misconstrued by students as representing core-approved courses in those two areas. This concern was compounded by the fact that if students did take core courses in those areas and applied them to the minor, the total hours truly dedicated to the minor could be as few as six (6) hours because a student may share six (6) hours in the major requirements with the minor. Language has been inserted to alleviate this concern. The DPC remains somewhat concerned about the addition of Women's Studies courses that may be added to approved courses for the minor. However, the authors of this minor have given assurance that as the list changes, approval of Undergraduate Council will be sought.

UC 9709 07F: BA/BS Psychology degree plan changes

Previously tabled item. This was a catalog language request attempting to minimize or eliminate students classified as pre-psychology from changing their major to psychology, requesting an official degree plan, and attempting to graduate in their final semester of course work. This created substantial difficulties on the advising staff and the students involved represented a demand that could not be met. Upon initial review of this document, the DPC found the requested language would not solve the problem and might have created additional problems.

The CBA has a pre-business designation for students. Frank Kelley in CBA was contacted and asked how CBA handles the situation PSYC was experiencing. Mr. Kelley was invited to our meeting to explain his college's solution to the DPC and PSYC representative. Discussions lead to a revision of the catalog language and an action plan for PSYC to implement the methods of CBA. The committee was promised interaction between the units to implement this plan. The new language reads:

Upon completion of PSYC 1300, PSYC 2301, and PSYC 3301 with a grade of C or above in each course, students may then submit a general petition to the department to change their major from psychology pre-major to psychology. This requirement must be met *no later than two semesters prior to your graduating semester.*

CBM003

- UC 9389 07F: WCL 4395: Sexuality in Latino Culture (new course)
- UC 9390 07F: WCL 4396: Special Topics in World Cultures and Literature (new course)
- UC 9402 07F: WCL 4379: Critical Theory and Globalization (new course)
- UC 9307 07F: DAN 4308: Dance Pedagogy II (new course)
- UC 9314 07F: THEA 4367: Costume Draping (new course)
- UC 9323 07F: DAN 4307: Dance Pedagogy I

The following CBM003 was changed from seminar to lecture.

- UC 9663 07F: AAS 3307: Africana spiritual Transformation in the social Sciences (new course)

The following six (6) CBM003 forms had the course number changed from 4397 to 4394:

- UC 9623 07F: BTEC 4397: Selected Topics in Biotechnology (new course)
- UC 9624 07F: CNST 4397: Selected Topics in Construction Management (new course)
- UC 9625 07F: SURY 4397: Selected Topics in Survey Engineering Technology (new course)
- UC 9626 07F: ELET 4397: Selected Topics in Electrical/Electronics Technology (new course)
- UC 9627 07F: MECT 4397: Selected Topics in Mechanical Engineering Technology (new course)
- UC 9638 07F: GRTC 4397: Selected Topics in Graphic Communication (new course)

Recommend approval of the above CBM003 forms.

- UC 9711 07F: EGRP 2010: Engineering Excellence Workshop I (new course)
- UC 9712 07F: EGRP 3010: Engineering Excellence Workshop II (new course)
- UC 9713 07F: CUIN 4020: Field Experience-Elementary (1) (new course)
- UC 9714 07F: CUIN 4040: Field Experience-Elementary (2) (new course)

UC 9715 07F: CUIIN 4060: Field Experience-Elementary (3) (new course)

UC 9716 07F: CUIIN 4080: Field Experience-Middle (new course)

UC 9717 07F: CUIIN 4081: Field Experience-Secondary (new course)

UC 9718 07F: CUIIN 4082: Field Experience-All Level (new course)

The CBM003 forms listed above, UC 9711 through UC 9718 were submitted as zero credit courses and were generally discussed at a previous meeting. This initial discussion generated a series of emails among members of DPC. We continued our discussion with a COC representative. We learned that these courses were designed as a "tracking method" so the COE could identify students in their QUEST program. Students in the QUEST program are designated to complete 60 hours of field experience in local schools and COE is having problems documenting the field hours as they are currently part of requirements in specifically required courses in the program. The new courses are to simplify tracking of those conducting field experience.

The DPC had two general concerns. One, we did not see how the new zero-credit courses would improve tracking. As is currently being done, someone would still have to monitor and verify the students' field activities. There seemed no reduction in effort. Two, if not the reality, in perception, these may be considered additional course work on a degree plan, on a transcript, and/or by the THECB and state legislature. In a time of reduced hours for degree programs, such courses may be unwelcome.

Additionally, this is considered a matter of administration of the program and an academic solution is not the answer. Libby Barlow, Registrar, will work with representatives from the Colleges of Education and Engineering to find a method of tracking students more efficiently. Therefore, we disapprove all items UC 9711 through 9718.

UC 9415 07F: PSYC 4302: The Psychology of Humor (new course)

Approval recommended

4/16/08
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