

DEDMAN COLLEGE
UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL
Minutes of September 22, 2010

The Undergraduate Council met Wednesday, September 22, 2010, at 3 p.m. in 121 Dallas Hall. Present: Deans Peter Moore, Robb Pocklington; Professors Nathan Balke, Crista DeLuzio, Serge Frolov, Cal Jillson, David Son, and John Ubelaker; Annie LeBlanc representing Dedman Student Records; and student members, Lee Butts and Shelby Lott.

The meeting was brought to order by Dean Peter Moore.

The agenda was approved.

Minutes from the April 28, 2010 meeting were approved as written.

Professor David Son volunteered to serve as Secretary for the Undergraduate Council.

New Course Proposal: **ANTH 3359: *Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East***

- Professor Willen was commended on including Learning Objectives and Outcomes in her course proposal. Discussion followed on the inclusion of Learning Objectives and Outcomes being mandatory on all future course proposals and syllabi in the near future.

The Council voted to **approve ANTH 33XX** as written.

New Course Proposal: **ECO 5320: *Health Economics***

New Course Proposal: **ECO 5342: *Experimental & Behavioral Economics***

- Both courses were considered strong courses with content equal to a 5000 level course in Economics.

The Council voted to **approve both courses, ECO 5320 and ECO 5342** as written.

Professor Marlies Gaettens, Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, joined the meeting to answer questions about the following course proposals:

- New Course Proposal: **ARBC 1302: *Arabic Language Level II***
 - To be offered only in SMU-in-Cairo – reputable institution.
 - Prerequisite is ARBC 1301 (SMU-in-Cairo) approved AY 2008-09.
 - Concerns were voiced by all present about the SMU Abroad / Dedman College procedure of approving SMU Abroad courses in general. Most courses are not possible offerings at the main SMU campus. Questions were raised as to the appropriate Advisory Council which maintains control over faculty teaching these courses and the course content/syllabi. It was recommended to consider a meeting in the near future with the Provost Office and SMU Abroad to gain some clarity in these areas.
 - It was decided to approve with the understanding that future course approvals will be postponed until clear SMU Abroad policies and/or procedures are agreed upon.

The Council voted to **approve ARBC 1302** noting the concerns mentioned above.

- New Course Proposal: **GERM 3325: *Introduction to German Literature***
 - Course exposes students to several important works of German literature while always working on their language skills, reading skills, etc.
 - For German majors and is conducted in German.

The Council voted to **approve GERM 3325** as written.

- New Course Proposal: **LATN 3326: *Advanced Latin Readings: Vergil***
 - Strong course which will be an excellent addition to the Latin Minor.

The Council voted to **approve LATN 3326** as written.

New Course Proposal: **PSYC 4342: *Close Relationships***

- It was noted that there was only one book indicated for the course.
- Additionally, content was considered on the light side for a 4000 level course.
- Suggestion was made to add a prerequisite of lower level PSYC course.

The Council voted to **approve PSYC 4342** as written pending further discussion with Professor Logan by Dean Brown to address the concerns mentioned above. (This discussion occurred on September 22nd and all issues were addressed.)

New Course Proposal: **PLSC 43XX: *The Politics and Legacies of the Civil Rights Movement***

- Considered a strong course with appropriate content.

The Council voted to **approve PLSC 43XX** as written.

Rick Halperin and Pat Davis joined the meeting to present the proposal for a new major in Human Rights.

- No precedent found at another university. If a Human Rights Major is approved, SMU will be the first in the country to offer it.
- Originally envisioned the major as a double major to complement other liberal arts majors. The Council was opposed to this due to additional course work required. They felt it would limit the interest in the major.
- The Council encouraged the Human Rights Major to be a stand-alone major with the following recommendations/revisions:
 - i. No double major required.
 - ii. Possible required minor in other discipline.
 - iii. Encourage additional structural integrity including introduction course(s) and a more refined senior seminar / project. Ensure that a minimum of six hours of the required eighteen hours are taken at the 3000 level or above.
 - iv. Require students to complete two course electives in each discipline.
- Package includes New Course Proposal **WGST 33XX: *Gender and Human Rights***
- Human Rights minor will stand.

Rick Halperin and Pat Davis agreed to incorporate the recommendations of the Council into their proposal and present again at the Undergraduate Council meeting on October 19th. The course proposal will also be re-submitted at that time.

A revision to the “*Dedman College Repeat Policy*” was proposed. Dean Haden offered two proposals to revise the current policy. It was approved to proceed with Option #1 included below. Policy is to be effective January 1, 2010.

PROPOSED POLICY #1 (note underlined changes):

Students will be allowed to repeat courses according to the following rules:

- **Students may repeat a course for which they have previously earned credit, including test and transfer credit.**
- Both the initial and **additional** grades will be on the student’s permanent record.

PROPOSED POLICY #1 Con't.

- **All** grades will be included in the calculation of the student's grade point average (which may also determine a student's academic standing as well as graduation).
- Only the repeated **courses** and not the initial credit hours count toward the total number of hours needed for graduation.

Meeting was dismissed.

Announcements:

The following Course Catalog Update Form(s) were approved administratively by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs:

New Course Proposal: **ECO 2301: *Topics in Economics*** – This course was approved administratively and will be used to allocate transfer credit to economics courses taken at other universities, in particular through various SMU study abroad programs (e.g., SMU-in-Cairo and SMU-in-Copenhagen), that do not currently have an equivalent course at SMU).

INACTIVATED COURSES:

None

MODIFIED COURSES:

PSYC 5362

REACTIVATED COURSES:

ANTH 5382: *Field Methods in Archaeology*

The next meeting of the Undergraduate Council will be Monday, October 19th at 2pm, in the Hyer Room (121 Dallas Hall).

Respectfully submitted,

John Mears