

DEDMAN COLLEGE
UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL
Minutes of February 24, 2010

The Undergraduate Council met Wednesday, February 24, 2010, at 1 p.m. in 121 Dallas Hall. Present: Associate Deans Alan Brown, Robb Pocklington; Professors Serge Frolov, Robert Harrod, Victoria Lockwood, and John Ubelaker; David Doyle, Director of Honor Program.

The meeting was brought to order by Associate Dean Alan Brown.

The beginning of the meeting was dedicated to discussion and Q & A session regarding the use of **Online Courses at SMU**. John Hall, Kathy Rowe, and Brad Boeke of Enrollment Services, attended the meeting. Each gave a short presentation on the future of online courses at SMU then opened the discussion for questions. The following is a summary of the presentations and Q&A session:

- Online courses were first considered as a means to increase enrollment and revenue for summer school. Currently there are approximately 2,600 undergraduate students enrolled in summer school. Other efforts have been taken to increase summer enrollment including:
 - Increased marketing
 - Financial aid
 - Increased selection of courses.
 - Business school MN you can only earn in the summer
 - School of Education offers continuing education courses
- It is proposed to offer online courses in the summer.
- Benchmark universities are already utilizing online courses. It is an area we are lacking in and students expect to see.
- In addition to summer school, online technology can be used as a “hybrid approach” – partial online with partial classroom as well.
- Online courses address several reasons students do not attend summer school:
 - Financial
 - Lack of housing
 - Return home to be w/ family or for summer employment
- Online courses also address one main reason faculty do not teach in the summer – by allowing them to teach remotely.
- No additional classroom space required.
- Students and SMU already have technology needed for online courses such as: iPhones, Blackboard, Locker, etc.; so start-up costs are minimal.
- There were concerns presented regarding the learning effectiveness of distance learning. This included the challenge presented to faculty when teaching both distance and classroom students in the same course.

Discussion was closed with the understanding that online courses would remain on the table for additional discussion and consideration for use in the future.

Minutes from the January 27, 2010 meeting were **approved** as written.

The following chemistry course proposals were considered and **APPROVED** in block as written:

New Course Proposal: **CHEM 5306**: *Introduction to Computational Chemistry*

New Course Proposal: **CHEM 5317**: *Intro to Molecular Modeling and Computer Assisted Drug Design*

New Course Proposal: **CHEM 5321**: *Understanding Chemistry*

New Course Proposal: **CHEM 5322**: *Introduction to Nanotechnology*

New Course Proposal: **HIST 2390**: *Civilization of India*

Proposal **APPROVED** with Learning Outcomes clearly identified.

Due to meeting time restraints, an e-mail ballot was conducted on the following business items listed below. The results of the ballot are indicated below each item.

New Course Proposal: **PHIL 3316**: *Minds, Brains, and Robotics*

Proposal **APPROVED** as written.

New Course Proposal: **PSYC 4363**: *Psychology of Conflict Resolution*

Proposal **NOT APPROVED** pending the following revisions:

- Include the entire reading list “nine assigned readings” not sufficient
- Clarify the two writing assignments – “more info as semester progresses” not acceptable.
- Differentiate between this course and Conflict Resolution course in School of Education.

Revised proposal will be submitted for future meeting.

Announcements:

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

- Curriculum: **NEW ENST Prefix** – Environmental Studies Prefix Approved

INACTIVATED COURSES:

None

MODIFIED COURSES:

ANTH 5334	GEOL 3330
ANTH 5335	GEOL 3451
ENST 3310	GEOL 3452
ENST 3311	PHIL 1300
ENST 3315	

REACTIVATED COURSES:

None

NEW COURSES: Approved at the September’s Undergraduate Council Mtg.

BIOL 3100	ENSC 3300
BIOL 3200	ENST 3100
BIOL 3300	ENST 3200
ECO 4365	ENST 3300
ENSC 3100	ITAL 3355
ENSC 3200	

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The next meeting of the Undergraduate Council will be Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 1pm, in the Hyer Room (121 Dallas Hall).

Respectfully submitted,

John Mears