

**ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES**

September 18, 2017 11:00 a.m. – 12:27 p.m. GC 3116

1. TOPIC: Opening

Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez, Chair of the Academic Council, opened with prayer.

2. TOPIC: Approval of Minutes of the meeting on August 21, 2017.

DISCUSSION: Minutes were sent to members via email. Dr. Jezek moved and Dr. Boyd seconded to approve the minutes. The Academic Council unanimously accepted the minutes.

ACTION: None.

CLOSED

3. TOPIC: Discussion of Credit Hours for Graduation.

DISCUSSION: Dr. Andy Lang presented the proposal for 120 minimum credit hours for graduation and shared internal research that showed students would only switch within the same department if a degree had 120 and not 128 credit hours, but that students would not switch between colleges. Dr. Lang reminded the Council that the 120-hour requirement is a minimum, and not all colleges or majors have to decrease their program to these standards. All colleges were asked to discuss this in College/Department meetings in September. Dr. Reid-Martinez polled the Council, and all Colleges except those in Humanities (those faculty had some concerns but understood the 120 hour is a minimum), reported being in favor of the 120 minimum. Additionally, departments with externally accredited programs were in favor, understanding that their programs would not have to reduce to 120 hours.

Dr. Lyons moved and Dr. Jezek seconded that we take a vote on the following: “The minimum number of semester hours needed to receive an undergraduate degree is 120; however, some degrees may require additional hours as determined by the respective college.” The vote was approved unanimously (Y: 27, N: 0, Abstain: 0).

ACTION: The Minimum 120 Credit Hours for Graduation will be presented at the next University Faculty Meeting on September 25, 2017.

OPEN

4. TOPIC: Report from the General Education Curriculum Committee

DISCUSSION: Dr. Lang presented three proposals from the General Education Curriculum Committee:

- (1) Lab Courses: Dr. Lang provided a list of lab courses approved by the General Education Committee. Faculty can choose the lab courses that best fit their programs and include these in their degree plan sheet. All courses are “3+1” including both a

lecture and lab component except Tropical Biology, which is a 4-hour lab inclusive lecture. The Lab courses are as follows:

- BIO 101/101L – Principles of Biology
- CHE 101/101L – Principles of Chemistry
- PSC 101/101L – Principles of Physical Chemistry
- PSC 201/201L – Principles of Earth Science
- BIO 111/111L – Introductory Biology
- CHE 111/111L – General Chemistry
- PHY 111/111L – General Physics
- PHY 111/111L – Physics I (prerequisite MAT 201)
- EVR 250/250L – Environmental Science
- HONR 203/203L – Science & Global Sustainability (Prerequisite: Honors Fellow or Scholar Standing)
- BIO 103 – Tropical Biology (lecture and lab)

Dr. Lang called for a vote and proposed the following: *“We accept these as the new, initial set of courses that will satisfy the 4-hour General Education Science Lab requirement.”* Dr. Jezek seconded. The vote was approved unanimously (Y: 27, N: 0, Abstain: 0).

- (2) Social Science Elective: Dr. Lang reported that all Social Science Electives now require 12 hours of community service as a graded component. All courses have revised their syllabi to include this requirement except Honors Leadership, which is still under development. Dr. Lang expressed that it would be beneficial to have clear communication between departments about how to gather data on and assess the 12-hour community service component. Dr. Mark Roberts raised a concern about not having enough resources for the new courses. Dr. Weed reported that none of the courses are new, as they are all pre-existing courses. Dr. Reid-Martinez added that it is important for the General Education Curriculum Committee to make certain that the 12 hours of community service requirement is communicated clearly to all departments and that the rubrics are consistent for this component. The Social Science Elective courses that require 12 hours of community service are as follows:

- SOC 323 – Child and Family in the Social Context
- SWK 202 – Introduction to Social Work
- SOC 101 – Introduction to Sociology
- SOC 201 – Marriage and the Family
- MUS 208 – Music in World Cultures
- FIN 244 – Personal Financial Planning
- BUS 201 – Principles of Economics I
- HONR 201 – Principles of Leadership (prerequisite: Honors Fellow or Scholar Standing)
- PSY 201 – Principles of Psychology

Dr. Lang proposed the following: *“The courses listed, all of which require a 12-hour community service component are approved to satisfy the CORE General*

Education Social Science Electives.” Dr. Jezek seconded. The vote was approved unanimously (Y: 27, N: 0, Abstain: 0).

- (3) GEN 434 – Game Theory & Politics: Dr. Lang reported that this course has been approved by the General Education Curriculum Committee. Dr. Weed shared that this course is a good model for interdisciplinary courses as it is an upper division course with general education requirements as prerequisites. No vote was taken on this item since it is still in discussion.

Additionally, Dr. Jay Gary recommended we look at restructuring syllabi by creating an internal planning schema that creates a four-column alignment grid including (1) university outcomes, (2) program outcomes, (3) course outcomes and (4) assessment. Dr. Sjoberg stated that this is in process in the current work on assessment. Dr. Lang reiterated that curriculum needs to be driven by outcomes and proficiencies.

Lastly, Dr. Hall was concerned about the meta process regarding how courses are being designed to a certain outcome and wondering how that process will be handled moving forward. Dr. Lang reported that General Education is being mapped and treated as its own program (i.e., outcomes, proficiencies, etc.).

ACTION: There were numerous actions from this topic as follows:

- (1) Dr. Sjoberg will present at the next meeting on syllabi revision, course mapping and progress on assessment.
- (2) Dr. Lang will bring GEN 434 - Game Theory & Politics back to the Council for a vote during next month’s Academic Council Meeting
- (3) Dr. Reid-Martinez requested that Dr. Lang and Dr. Sjoberg, and possibly the General Education Curriculum Committee add pedagogy to the review process, in addition to content and assessment. Dr. Lang will provide an update at the next meeting.

OPEN

5. **TOPIC:** Discussion of Ad Hoc Committee findings for the policy for faculty and student phone numbers.

DISCUSSION: Dr. Even Culp reported that the Ad Hoc Committee has met, and that they are currently communicating with the Deans to see if there are any administrative issues on what they are proposing.

ACTION: Dr. Even Culp will present the Ad Hoc Committee’s findings and call for a vote during the Academic Council Meeting in October.

OPEN

6. **TOPIC:** Announcements

- The Provost reminded us about Align, ORU’s revival happening on September 28-29. Classes will be cancelled from 11 a.m. on Thursday to 12 p.m. on Friday.

- The Theater Department's play, *Our Town* opens on 9/21 and runs through 9/24.
- The President's Performing Arts and Lecture Series takes place on Friday evening with ORU Alumnus and pianist David Osborne.

The Academic Council meeting adjourned at approximately 12:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip Nelson
Academic Council Secretary