

ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES
August 17, 2020 – 11:01 a.m. to 12:30 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 meetings on February 19 and April 8, 2020.

DISCUSSION: Minutes were sent to members via email. There was a motion by Dr. Mark Roberts to approve the Minutes and it was seconded by Dr. Curtis Ellis. The Academic Council unanimously accepted the Minutes.

ACTION: None.

CLOSED

3. **TOPIC:** Updates and voting from the General Education Committee – Dr. Andrew Lang

- a. AA Degrees – Block Waiver of General Education Courses
- b. ORU AA Degrees
- c. ALEKS-PPL

DISCUSSION:

- a. ORU Acceptance of AA Degrees – Block Waiver of 37 hours of ORU General Education Courses

Following a vote of approval by the General Education Committee, Dr. Lang brought to the Academic Council a second item for discussion: To review and accept a transfer student's AA Degree as a block of completed courses. The review of the accumulated coursework would take into account that the coursework satisfies the ORU general education requirements provided on page 2 of this report. Dr. Lang reported that an advantage to this review process is that it allows for better recruitment since it aligns more closely with other Oklahoma universities. The Registrar noted that transfer students would not automatically be awarded 37 credit hours of general education from an AA degree. Also, the Registrar noted that the proposed procedure does not change the requirements of ORU general education or other program requirements needed for graduation. The Academic Council voted unanimously to accept this block approach for transferring AA degrees. Dr. Curtis Ellis motioned for a vote on the block waiver for AA degrees, Dr. Jay Gary seconded. **Vote: Y: 17, N: 0, Abstain: 0** This new procedure will be implemented this fall unless otherwise voted by the University faculty.

Proposal Details

The General Education Committee proposes that students transferring AA degrees have 37 hours of ORU taught General Education courses waived. ORU would consider transfer students with a non-ORU associate degree (arts, science, or arts and science associate degrees only) to have satisfied the following general education requirements (does not satisfy prerequisite or major requirements):

- | | |
|---|----------|
| ● Composition (COMP 102) | 3 |
| ● Oral Communication (COM 101) | 3 |
| ● Humanities | 6 |
| HUM 201*, 202*, 203*, 204* | |
| HUM 225, 250, 255, 260, 270, 275, 307, 333, 342 | |
| *At least one course must be chosen from courses marked with asterisks. | |
| ● Civics (GOV 101, GOV 103, HIS 110, HIS 111, or HIS 200) | 3 |

• Foreign Language (101, 102, 203, or 204)	3
• Quantitative Literacy (MAT 232)	3
• Laboratory Science	4
BIO 101/101L, 104, 111/111L, 112/112L, 150/150L	
CHE 101/101L, 111/111L, 112/112L	
EVR 250/250L, HLSS 319	
PHY 101/101L, 102/102L, 111/111L	
PSC 101/101L, 201/201L	
• Social Science	3
SOC 101, 201, 323, PSY 201, SWK 202, MUS 208, BUS 201, FIN 244	
• Scaffolded Interdisciplinary Courses	9

Generally, while the following courses are not automatically satisfied by an external associate degree, they may still potentially be transferred in following current transfer and articulation agreement policies:

• Introduction to Whole Person Education (GEN 150)	1
Counts as HPE activity.	
• Biblical Literacy (BLIT 111 / BIB 222 & BLIT 122 / BIB 261)	4
• Theology (THE 104, 105)	4
• Health Science	2

One course per full-time semester at ORU, including HPE 155, swimming course or proficiency, and electives and major/program-specific requirements, for example

• Critical Reading and Writing (COMP 303)	3
• Probability and Statistics (MAT 325)	3
• Science Elective (BS: CSC 111, CSC 201 or a second lab science)	3
• Foreign Language (BA: 101, 102, 203, or 204)	3

Dr. Lang reported that an advantage to this block waiver is that it would allow for better recruitment as it would align closer to other Oklahoma universities. The Registrar reported that transfer students will not automatically be awarded 37 credit hours by already obtaining an AA degree at another institution; however, the block waiver will make these students exempt from having to take these courses while still requiring the minimum 120-hour degree requirement. That is, waivers will be posted and will show that the student's requirement is met, but credit is only given to students based on the number of credit hours transferred.

ACTION: Provost will include in the Provost report at the upcoming University Faculty meeting and, unless changed by the University Faculty in their upcoming meeting, this action will be completed.

OPEN

b. General Education Requirements Template for possible ORU AA Degrees

Dr. Lang presented a proposed template for General Education requirements at the request of the College of Theology and Ministry that would serve as part of an AA degree for interested colleges. The General Education Committee further recommended that any AA degree should have a 60 credit hour minimum. Feedback and rationale concerning the purpose, structure, and format of Associate degrees will provide important information in determining if ORU should proceed in creating this additional path to develop Spirit-empowered leaders. The Academic Council recognized the value of the AA for improving the educational standing of certain learners--especially online adult learners--and its ability to improve career opportunities and increase income potential for such groups. The Academic Council noted that AA

degrees should be offered in multiple modalities, including online and residential, to support learner needs.

Regarding the 60 credit hour minimum, the Council recognized that a student would need to meet core General Education requirements, as well as additional hours as specified by their program. They also recognized the General Education Committee's proposal recommending that at least 15 semester hours of an associate degree program would need to have at least three non-core credit hours completed at ORU.

The Academic Council reviewed the Committee recommendation that a student must also have a 2.0 overall grade point average (GPA) in credits applied to the Associate of Arts and Science degree. Proposed titles of such a degree included Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, and/or the Associate of Arts and Science.

Following discussion, the Academic Council approved in a vote of 16 to 1 that the proposed template for General Education requirements of an AA degree be forwarded to colleges for discussion and they are to provide their recommendations to Dr. Lang before the next meeting of the General Education Committee.
Vote: Y: 16, N: 1, Abstain: 0

Dr. Reid-Martinez reminded the Academic Council that one of the KPIs in the University Adaptive Plan is that this year the university must prepare and present to the UPC a White Paper regarding the AA degree at ORU. This will need to be created and presented to the UPC by October 22. Additionally, justification for the rationale of adopting the AA Degree is needed. The College of Theology and Ministry and the General Education Committee were asked to draft this White Paper.

If a college desires to offer an AA degree by Fall 2021, the following timeline would need to be followed:

- Faculty to discuss Degree Template from the General Education Committee in Departments/ Colleges, September 14
- Faculty to discuss at Academic Council, September 21
- Faculty to discuss and vote at Academic Council, October 19
- UPC to discuss White Paper, October 22
- Faculty to discuss and vote at the University Faculty Meeting, October 26th
- Board of Trustees to discuss and vote, November
- HLC substantial change to be filed, December

ACTIONS:

1. College representatives are to take the proposed template to their Colleges and Departments, where they are to discuss and provide feedback to the General Education Committee on the proposed template by Tuesday, September 14, 2020, 4:00 p.m. Feedback can be emailed to Dr. Lang at alang@oru.edu. Note: Colleges are not required to cast a vote during their discussions.
2. The College of Theology and Ministry and the General Education Committee will develop the UPC White Paper on the AA Degree. According to UPC Adaptive Plan, Goal 2, the paper is due to the Office of the President February 1, 2021.

OPEN

c. ALEKS-PPL

Dr. Lang gave a brief overview of the ALEKS-PPL instrument, which is an adaptive learning module that students could be required to complete prior to coming to ORU. It identifies specific weaknesses that will assist in math placement for incoming students. The cost of ALEKS-PLL is \$25/student and expires after one year. Discussions about this being cost-prohibitive to students is ongoing. No vote was taken at this time.

ACTION: Since the fee may be cost-prohibitive to incoming students, Dr. Lang and Dr. Weed were requested to research approaches to implementation of ALEKS-PPL and bring to the next Academic Council meeting in September.

OPEN

4. **TOPIC:** Announcements

DISCUSSION: The Provost reminded the Academic Council and all faculty to follow up on all Incompletes from Spring 2020 so that they do not convert into an “F” grade by the end of Fall 2020.

ACTION: None

CLOSED

The Academic Council meeting adjourned at approximately 12: 30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Nelson, Ph.D., Academic Council Secretary