

**UTEP Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
Meeting Agenda
April 5, 2020**

I. Call to order

Meeting was called to order by A. Duval at 3:01 p.m.

II. Members present:

- Tracey Merworth, School of Nursing
- Andrew Fleck, College of Lib Arts
- Vinod Kumar, College of Engineering
- Hettie Houghton, College of Business
- Emre Umucu, College of Health Sciences
- Rey Reyes, College of Education
- Art Duval, College of Science
- Jose Herrera, College of Education, At-Large
- James Salvador, College of Science, At-Large
- Lori Acosta, School of Nursing, At-Large
- Daniel Vasquez, Student Member
- Dominic Kelly, Student Member

III. Visitors present:

- Dr. Virgilio Gonzalez, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Jaymi Wilson, El Paso Community College
- Rachel Ortega, El Paso Community College
- Dr. Carina Heckert, Department of Sociology and Anthropology
- Dr. Luc Longpre, Department of Computer Science
- Dr. Sai Mounika Errapotu, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Dr. Yuanrui Sang, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Dr. Guillermina Gina Nunez-Mchiri, Faculty Senate President
- Dr. Toni Blum, Office of the Provost

Dr. Julie Rivera, Office of the Provost

Enid Martin, Office of Admissions and Recruitment

IV. Old Business:

A. Minutes from March 1, 2021 meeting, approved by online vote on March 3, 2021

Motion passes/fails (9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

B. Policy Changes:

C. Tabled Items:

V. New Business:

A. College of Liberal Arts

1. Department of Sociology and Anthropology

a. Proposal: Course Description Changes

b. Action Item: Change catalog descriptions of ANTH 1301 (Intro to Physical Anthropology/Archaeology), ANTH 1302 (Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology), SOCI 1301 (Introduction to Sociology), ANTH 1310 (Cultural Geography), GEOG 1310 (Cultural Geography), SOCI 1310 (Cultural Geography). (ANTH 1310, GEOG 1310, and SOCI 1310 are identical courses.)

c. Rationale: Revised course descriptions better align with the College of Liberal Arts' goal of working toward racial justice.

d. Motion to approve made by Herrera, seconded by Kumar. Motion passes (8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

B. College of Engineering

1. Department of Computer Science

a. Proposal: Computer Science Database Management course description update

b. Action Item: Change catalog course description of CS 4342 (Data Base Management)

c. Rationale: In Fall 2018, this course became required in the B.S. in Computer Science degree plan. In that process, the department updated the course description and course outcomes. Somehow, the course description was not updated in the UTEP catalog.

d. Motion to approve made by Kumar, seconded by Herrera. Motion passes (8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

2. Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

a. Proposal: Course Addition – EE 4373 Introduction to Cybersecurity

b. Action Item: Create new course, EE 4373 (Introduction to Cybersecurity)

c. Rationale: This undergraduate course introduces ECE students to cryptographic tools and their applications to cyber physical systems. Students will have an opportunity to work on hardware security projects and understand cryptography in the context of computer engineering.

d. Motion to approve made by Houghton, seconded by Herrera. Motion passes (8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

3. Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

a. Proposal: Course revision – EE 4384 Control of Electric Power

b. Action Item: Change course title of EE 4384 from Control of Electric Power to Transmission Power Flow Control; change prerequisite from EE 4387 (Intro to

- Power Electronics) to EE 2351 (Electric Circuits II) and EE 2372 (Software Design I); change course description.
- c. Rationale: Title and course description change is to reflect modern technology and trends in the field of power systems and highlight a system-level focus of this course. The change in prerequisites will remove unnecessary barriers for students to take this course while ensuring they have the necessary background to handle this course.
 - d. **Motion to approve made by Kumar, seconded by Salvador. Motion passes (8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)**

C. Presentation from Julie Rivera on courses that are no longer being offered, but still in degree plans.

Julie Rivera reported about the regular process by which the THECB examines the catalog to determine which courses are “inactive” because they have not recently been taught. When a course has not recently been offered, the THECB will remove the courses from the catalog. In the most recent cycle, about 500 undergraduate and 600 graduate courses were flagged for removal. This might create some problems. For instance, a course might be on a menu of “take 9 units from the list below” and if it disappears, there are not nine units that a student could take. To resolve this formally, every program with flagged courses would need to submit catalog revisions, but this is impractical. For now, the Provost’s office will insert language next to such courses that “this course is no longer being offered, please consult an advisor for a substitution.”

As a partial solution to this problem, Dr. Nunez-Mchiri recommended that Dr. Duval try to create a task force, in consultation with Dr. Gates in the Provost’s office, to create a framework of “exit interviews” conducted by program chairs or directors when a faculty member retires or leaves the university to locate courses that might be “stranded” when no one remains to teach the course. If the course is critical to the department’s offerings (or cross-listed offerings), the chair would then be able to highlight the course and try to develop strategies to keep the course in the program’s course rotation.

VI. Motion to adjourn at 3:40 pm.