College of Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee
Minutes of the Third Meeting of the Fall 2026 Semester
10:30 AM on November 3rd, 2026,
In–person – Texas Western Hall Rm 303

Chair: Selfa Chew-Melendez

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 10:33 AM

II. Quorum Call

Arthur Aguirre	Leadership Studies	Present
Jane Evans	*Chicano Studies, Languages, Linguistics*	Present
Chris Guerra	*Criminal Justice and Security Studies*	Present
Carina Heckert	Sociology and Anthropology	Present
Cigdem V. Sirin	*Political Science and Public Administration*	Present
Heather Kaplan	*Art*	Present
Lindsey Macchiarella	*Music*	Present
Teresa Quezada	*English*	Present
Aliya Rumana	*Philosophy*	Present
Ana Schwartz	*Psychology*	Present
James Stratton	*Theatre and Dance*	Present
Jorge Aguilar Cruz	*Communication*	Present
Ronald J. Weber	*History*	
Sylvia Aguilar	*Creative Writing*	

Quorum: 8
Members Present: **12 of 14**

Also in Attendance:

Julianne Flores	*Office of the Dean – College of Liberal Arts*	Present
Stephanie Stratuss	*Art*	Present
Juan Juarez	*Art*	Present
Marion Rohrleither	*English*	Present
Valeria Delmar	*CSLL*	Present

III. Revision and Approval of October 2026 Minutes

- Revisions: None
- Motion: Unanimous consent
- October 2026 Minutes Approved

IV. Revision and Approval of November 2026 Agenda

- Revisions: None
- Motion: Unanimous consent
- November 2026 Agenda Approved

V. New Business

- Department of Sociology and Anthropology – Women's Studies Program
    - Change WS 3375 Women's Health to block elective.
        - Discussion led by Carina Heckert
    - WS 3375 is offered every semester, usually more than one section, and these courses always fill. UTEP Online offers several degree programs, some of which require students to complete block electives. UTEP Online expressed interest in having WS 3375 count as a block elective so that students in those programs may enroll in the online section of the course. WS 3375 does not have a prerequisite that would hinder this. This designation could also help increase enrollment in the course and contribute to our department's overall enrollment.
    - Motion: Unanimous consent
    - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- Dean's Office
    - Declaration and Approval of Optional Minors, Additional Concentrations, and Undergraduate Certificates
        - Discussion led by Selfa Chew-Melendez
    - This proposal establishes clear procedures for declaring optional minors, additional concentrations, and undergraduate certificates to support timely graduation and informed academic planning. Although these credentials can enrich a student's education, adding them late in a degree program may increase credit requirements, extend enrollment, and create additional financial costs. The proposed 90 degree-applicable credit-hour threshold encourages students to consider optional credentials while sufficient time remains to incorporate them into their degree plans. Using degree-applicable credits ensures that this threshold reflects progress toward the student's current degree rather than credits that do not fulfill its requirements.
    - Motion: Unanimous consent
    - Curriculum change approved as submitted
    - Votes for no: Heather Kaplan, Arthur Aguirre.
    - Abstention: Jane Evens

- Department of Art
    - Access Improvement: Undergraduate Certificate in Exhibition Practice
        - Discussion led by Stephanie Stratuss
    - The current series of three courses required for the Certificate in Exhibition Practice (ART 3308; ART 3309; and ART 3306) presents a fundamental barrier to entry to the Certificate. ART 3306 ("Professional Art Practices") is only open to Studio Majors (B.F.A. or B.A.) in the Department of Art. This limits candidates for the Certificate in Exhibition Practice to Studio Art B.F.A and B.A. students only, to the detriment of students from other Department of Art Disciplines (such as Art Education and Art History) and other COLA Departments. Even within the Studio Art cohort, students only enroll in ART 3306 in their last year of study. This further limits completion of the Certificate to the final moments of a

student's UTEP career, whereas earlier completion could benefit students who are applying to competitive undergraduate opportunities, such as the Smithsonian's Latino Museum Futures Semester Study Away Program, or to graduate school programs in the Fall of their senior year. ART 3306 provides training in professional practices, thus the proposed update to the Certificate curriculum would allow students to choose between ART 3306 and ART 4339, "Museum Studies Internship," which also provides robust professional practices education.
    - Motion: Unanimous consent
    - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- Department of Criminal Justice and Security Studies
    - On-campus CJ BA degree change
        - Discussion led by Chris Guerra
    - The CJ&SS department seeks to increase the statistical skill and knowledge of its on-campus CJ BA majors to improve employability by replacing, as a "designated core" course (requiring a grade of C or better), MATH 1320 (math for social scientists I) with STAT 1380 (statistical literacy). I have been in contact with Dr. Maria Cristina Mariani (Chair, Department of Mathematical Sciences) and Dr. Gail Arnold (Assistant Dean, College of Science) and have obtained their support for the proposed change (emails below).
    - Motion: Unanimous consent
    - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- Department of English
    - BA in English and American Literature: Change of course titles and descriptions
        - Discussion led by Marion Christina Rohrleitner
    - The literature committee in the Department of English wishes to change course titles to better reflect shifts in terminology in the field, changing faculty expertise, and make the course content more transparent and exciting for students.
    - Motion: Unanimous consent
    - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- New Course: ENGL 3326 - Literatures of the Americas
        - Discussion led by Marion Christina Rohrleitner
    - American Studies has experienced turns towards the hemispheric and transnational in the past two decades, and we wish our curriculum to reflect these shifts.
    - Motion: Unanimous consent
    - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- Department of Chicano Studies, Languages, and Linguistics
    - Creation of Bachelor of Arts in Translation and Interpreting
        - Discussion led by Valeria Delmar
    - The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Translation and Interpreting responds to growing regional and national demand for professionals who can provide high-quality translation and interpreting services across a wide range of settings. This need is particularly significant in the El Paso-Ciudad Juárez-Las Cruces border region, where Spanish and English are used extensively across healthcare, education, legal and judicial services, government, nonprofit organizations, international commerce, and community-based services. Despite the region's highly bilingual population, there remains a need for professionals with formal preparation in translation and interpreting. Bilingual proficiency alone does not provide the specialized linguistic, cultural, ethical, technological, and professional competencies required to translate and interpret accurately and effectively.
    - Motion: Unanimous consent
    - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- Update to Minor in Translation and Interpreting to Include Recently Developed Courses
        - Discussion led by Valeria Delmar
    - We recently developed new courses in Translation and Interpreting, but the current minor does not reflect these additions to the program. This proposal seeks to add these courses as possible courses that can count toward the minor. We also updated the description of the minor to reflect changes recently made to the program to: (1) reflect equal emphasis on translation and interpreting, (2) incorporate the program's Community-Engaged Learning (CEL) experience, (3) remove outdated references to Translation Certificate examinations and coordinator approval requirements, (4) highlight UTEP microcredential pathways in healthcare and judiciary interpreting that support industry-recognized credentials and workforce preparation, and (5) language proficiency requirements were added.
    - Motion: Unanimous consent
    - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- Addition of TRAN 3387 Intermediate Interpreting
        - Discussion led by Valeria Delmar
    - Because course numbers cannot be renumbered through a course modification process, the only mechanism for changing a course number is to add the course under the new number and subsequently deactivate the original course. Accordingly, to align the intermediate interpreting course with TRAN 3360 Intermediate Translation in the proposed BA in Translation and Interpreting, we request that TRAN 4387 Intermediate Interpreting be added to the catalog as TRAN 3387 Intermediate Interpreting. Following approval and implementation, TRAN 4387 will be deactivated.

- Motion: Unanimous consent
- Curriculum change approved as submitted.

- Changes to TRAN Courses Related to Pre-Requisites
    - Discussion led by Valeria Delmar
  - We propose to change the pre-requisites of our existing TRAN catalogue to remove barriers and attract more students to the foundational course of the program, TRAN 3359 Intro. to Translation & Interpreting. Because this course is a Humanities Block Elective, more students will be able to explore the T&I program if they are unburdened by the high proficiency of the languages set by this pre-requisite. On the Spanish language side, we propose changing SPAN 2302 or SPAN 2304 to SPAN 2311 for TRAN 3359. On the English language side, we propose changing ESOL 1312 or RWS 1302 to ESOL 1311 or RWS 1301 for TRAN 3359. Additionally, this will require the addition of pre-requisites for the existing 10 other courses in the form of SPAN 2312 w/C or better AND ESOL 1312 w/C or better OR RWS 1302 w/C or better. Overall, the changes will lead to increased accessibility, earlier degree progression, and curriculum sequencing improvements.
  - Motion: Unanimous consent
  - Curriculum change approved with a friendly amendment to make course name changes to SPAN to reflect accurate titles.

- Department of Communication
  - Various changes to prerequisites and restrictions
    - Discussion led by Jorge Aguilar Cruz
  - These changes are being made due to a combination of factors. In consultation with the CLASS Center, we are making changes to help advise students. There is also outdated information, including courses that are no longer offered, so we are updating prerequisites. Some courses are being restricted to certain majors and minors. Classifications are being removed, department of approvals are being required for certain courses, and prefixes are also being added to courses that need it. Please see individual course change form for additional details.
  - Motion: Unanimous consent
  - Curriculum change approved with a friendly amendment to make proposal edits.

VI. Other Business

- Please have either the department chair or the person who submitted the proposal attend the next UGCC meeting to be held on November 23rd. Julie Rivera will contact the department chair for a representative.

VII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM