College of Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee
Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Fall 2026 Semester
10:30 AM on October 6th, 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	
Cigdem V. Sirin	*Political Science and Public Administration*	Present
Heather Kaplan	*Art*	
Lindsey Macchiarella	*Music*	Present
Teresa Quezada	*English*	Present
Aliya Rumana	*Philosophy*	
Ana Schwartz	*Psychology*	
James Stratton	*Theatre and Dance*	Present
Jorge Aguilar Cruz	*Communication*	Present
Ronald J. Weber	*History*	Present
Sylvia Aguilar	*Creative Writing*	Present

Quorum: 8
Members Present: **10 of 14**

Also in Attendance:

Julianne Flores	*Office of the Dean – College of Liberal Arts*	Present
Valeria Delmar	*CSLL*	Present
Javier Franco	*CSLL*	Present
Brad Jacobson	*English*	Present

III. Revision and Approval of September 2026 Minutes

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

IV. Revision and Approval of October 2026 Agenda

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

V. New Business

- **Notes: New Policy:** Once the agenda has been posted online, no modifications are allowed.
- Contact Julie Rivera for proposal edits and to verify whether they will be submitted in the UGCC meeting agendas.

- Department of Psychology
- Updates to the Neuroscience Major Degree Plan
    - Discussion led by Katherine Serafina
    - We are updating the neuroscience major to move courses into different sections of the degree plan in alignment with category (e.g., one course changed to being listed as a block elective) and to add in new courses that recently converted from seminars to standalone course number content classes. We replaced an older version of a research methods class with a new version being offered by Psychology. Finally, we are also cross-listing one course so students can retake it in either psychology or biology if needed.
    - Motion: Unanimous consent
    - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- Department of Theatre and Dance
- Course Title Change for DANC 4301
    - Discussion led by James Stratton
    - The title for DANC 4301 – Choreography I will no longer be relevant with the title change of DANC 4311 - Choreography II to Choreography Capstone (submitted in another proposal). Therefore, I am proposing to change the title for DANC 4301 to Choreography Lab, which will still reflect the description and content of the course and make more sense in the catalog.
    - Motion: Unanimous consent
    - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- Course Title and Description Change for DANC 4311 (Proposal tabled from September Meeting)
    - Discussion led by James Stratton
    - DANC 4311 – Choreography II has been operating over the past several years as the choreography course where students develop their capstone project. The proposed changes are to reflect that.
    - Motion: Unanimous consent
    - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- Department of English
- BA ENGL Course Title and Description Updates
    - Discussion led by Brad Jacobson

- Updating course titles and descriptions in BA ENGL program to better reflect teaching emphases in the program and discipline.
- Motion: Unanimous consent
- Curriculum change approved as submitted

- Department of Chicano Studies, Language, and Linguistics
- Paris and the Making of the Modern World
    - Discussion led by Javier Franco
  - The proposed course, Paris and the Making of the Modern World, is submitted for inclusion in the University of Texas at El Paso Core Curriculum under the Language, Philosophy, and Culture component. Designed as an interdisciplinary humanities course, it uses the history and global influence of Paris to examine the political, intellectual, artistic, and cultural developments that have shaped the modern world. Through the study of history, literature, philosophy, architecture, visual culture, and film, students explore how one city became a center of innovation whose influence extended far beyond the borders of France.
  - Motion: Unanimous consent
  - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- Creation of LING/CRIJ 4324 “Forensic Linguistics for Criminal Justice”
    - Discussion led by Javier Franco
  - "Forensic Linguistics for Criminal Justice" formalizes an interdisciplinary course that has been offered successfully for the past three years as a topics course (LING 4371/CRIJ 4300), with Criminal Justice students constituting its primary audience. The course responds to demonstrated student interest in the application of linguistic knowledge and methods to issues encountered in criminal investigations, legal proceedings, and the broader criminal justice system.
  - Motion: Unanimous consent
  - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- Remove Departmental Approval from LING 4371 (Studies in Linguistics)
    - Discussion led by Javier Franco
  - We would like to request the removal of prerequisites and departmental approval for students to enroll in LING 4371 (Studies in Linguistics). This discourages students from enrolling in the course, and there is no inherent reason to require prerequisites or departmental approval since we teach a variety of topics under that course, including some specialized topics that do not require existing knowledge of linguistics.
  - Motion: Unanimous consent
  - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- Addition of Undergraduate Program Eligible for Fast-Track in Bilingualism and Applied Linguistics
    - Discussion led by Javier Franco
    - We propose expanding eligibility for the Bilingualism and Applied Linguistics fast-track program to include students pursuing a minor in Linguistics and Bilingualism. We also propose lowering the minimum GPA requirement to 3.0. These changes will create additional pathways to graduate education for students whose undergraduate preparation and academic and professional interests align with advanced study in bilingualism and applied linguistics.
    - Motion: Unanimous consent
    - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- SPAN 33XX – Public Speaking in Spanish
    - Discussion led by Javier Franco
    - We propose adding Public Speaking in Spanish to the catalog and to the Spanish major as part of our effort to develop a Spanish for Professional Purpose focus in the major. The course will provide focused instruction and sustained practice in Spanish oral communication for professional, academic, and public settings. Students will develop clarity, pronunciation, vocabulary, speech organization, and audience awareness through introductory, informative, persuasive, and impromptu speeches, as well as debate and a final presentation. These activities require students to apply their language knowledge to concrete communicative tasks: explaining information, presenting arguments, responding spontaneously, and adapting their delivery to different audiences and purposes. The course will provide a shared foundation for the developing Spanish for Professional Purposes curriculum, strengthening communication skills that students can apply across specialized fields. Its inclusion makes professional oral communication an explicit component of the Spanish major and supports students' ability to use Spanish effectively in workplace presentations, interviews, collaborative discussions, and community engagement.
    - Motion: Unanimous consent
    - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- SPAN 43XX – Archival Literature and Digital Memory
    - Discussion led by Javier Franco
    - We propose adding Archival Literature and Digital Memory to the catalog and Spanish major to integrate digital humanities into the curriculum. The course will connect literary and cultural inquiry with practical skills in archival research, Spanish writing and editing, and the creation of physical and digital archives. Through the study of literature, oral testimony, music, podcasts, and other media from Latin America and U.S. Latino communities, students will examine how archives shape identity, preserve collective memory, and support community storytelling. Students will also learn to use digital tools such as Omeka to organize and present cultural materials. By connecting critical

interpretation with digital methods for preserving and sharing cultural knowledge, the course will extend the major's strengths in literary and cultural analysis. It will introduce students to practices relevant to cultural institutions, public humanities, digital publishing, and community organizations while sustaining critical engagement with the histories and cultural experiences of Spanish-speaking communities.
    - Motion: Unanimous consent
    - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- Spanish in the Community Internship
        - Discussion led by Javier Franco
    - This experiential learning course provides students with the opportunity to apply Spanish language, literacy, and communication skills in professional and community-based settings through a pre-approved semester-long internship or service-learning placement. Students complete a minimum of 100 hours of supervised engagement with a community organization, nonprofit agency, educational institution, government office, or other approved partner serving the El Paso region. Through meaningful participation in workplace and community projects, students connect academic knowledge gained in Spanish coursework to real-world challenges and opportunities. Emphasizing literacy, communication, civic engagement, and professional development, the course encourages students to contribute to community needs while strengthening career readiness skills. Guided reflection, professional networking, and career planning activities help students critically examine the relationship between language, culture, social responsibility, and professional practice. By the end of the course, students will have developed valuable experience working with diverse populations and organizations while building the competencies necessary for success in multilingual and culturally responsive professional environments.
    - Motion: Unanimous consent
    - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- Redesigning the Spanish Language Program
        - Discussion led by Javier Franco
    - The Department of Chicano Studies, Languages, and Linguistics proposes create four Spanish language courses that integrate heritage language learners and second language learner into one curriculum. The pedagogical approach will follow a heritage language curriculum in which heritage language learner are majority population while language instruction being tailored to second language learners on an as-needed basis. Heritage language learners are the primary student population in the current curriculum which has split two types of learners when in reality, we have beginners heritage language learners who are placed in second language curriculum, which is not pedagogically appropriate for this student population.

    - Motion: Unanimous consent
    - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- SPAN 3349: Spanish Grammar in Real-World Contexts
        - Discussion led by Javier Franco
    - The Spanish program seeks to develop courses that are culturally and linguistically relevant to our student population and that encourage students to examine Spanish as it is actually used in diverse communities. SPAN 3349: Spanish Grammar in Real-World Contexts responds to this goal by offering a sociolinguistic and descriptive approach to the study of Spanish grammar. Rather than presenting grammar exclusively as a set of prescriptive rules, the course helps students understand grammatical structures while examining how Spanish varies across speakers, regions, and communicative contexts.
    - Motion: Unanimous consent
    - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- Spanish Writing for Professional Purposes
        - Discussion led by Javier Franco
    - SPAN 3357, currently titled Advanced Spanish Composition, is being revised and retitled Spanish Writing for Professional Purposes to better align the course with the current needs of students and the evolving goals of the Spanish program.
    - Motion: Unanimous consent
    - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- SPAN 4350 - Literacy and Language in Latine/x Communities
        - Discussion led by Javier Franco
    - SPAN 4350 provides students with a critical understanding of the linguistic, cultural, racial, and socioeconomic factors that shape the experiences of U.S. Latine populations. As the Spanish-speaking population continues to grow across the United States, particularly in border regions such as El Paso, there is an increasing need for professionals who can communicate effectively across languages and cultures while understanding the structural factors that influence language use, literacy, and social participation. This course addresses that need by examining bilingualism, language variation, literacy, and inequality within diverse Latine communities.
    - Motion: Unanimous consent
    - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- SPAN 4397 - Senior Seminar in Spanish Language Studies
        - Discussion led by Javier Franco
    - This senior capstone course serves as the culminating academic and professional experience for students in Spanish Language Studies. The course integrates advanced disciplinary knowledge with research, communication, and

professional development skills, enabling students to demonstrate the intellectual competencies they have acquired throughout the major while preparing for meaningful careers and graduate study. Through the critical examination of contemporary issues in Spanish language studies and the completion of an independent research project, students strengthen their abilities in analytical thinking, information literacy, project management, written and oral communication, and intercultural competence.
    - Motion: Unanimous consent
    - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- Changes to Spanish Major
    - Discussion led by Javier Franco
    - We propose consolidating the Applied Linguistics and Literature and Culture concentrations within the Spanish major into a single Applied Spanish concentration. Enrollment in the Literature and Culture concentration is insufficient to sustain it as a separate pathway. Consolidation will allow us to use instructional resources more effectively and offer a coherent curriculum that integrates the strengths of both existing concentrations while supporting new directions in Spanish for Professional Purposes and Digital Humanities.
    - Motion: Unanimous consent
    - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- Addition of Undergraduate Programs Eligible for Spanish Fast-Track
    - Discussion led by Javier Franco
    - We propose expanding eligibility for the Spanish fast-track program leading to the MA in Spanish to also include students pursuing a Chicano Studies major and students pursuing minors in Chicano Studies, Spanish, or Translation and Interpreting. We also propose lowering the minimum GPA requirement to 3.0. These changes will create additional pathways to graduate education for students whose undergraduate studies provide relevant preparation and whose academic and professional interests align with advanced study in Spanish.
    - Motion: Unanimous consent
    - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- Creation of Bachelor of Arts in Translation and Interpreting
    - Discussion led by Valeria B. 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 with a friendly amendment to modify the courses listed in the 4-year core curriculum. This will help clarify the information for the students.

- Creation of TRAN 3360 "Intermediate Translation"
    - Discussion led by Valeria B. Delmar
    - We are proposing to create TRAN 3360 "Intermediate Translation, which will be a foundational course complementary to TRAN 3387 Intermediate Interpreting in our proposed Bachelors in Translation and Interpreting and an elective addition to our existing Minor in Translation and Interpreting. The content taught in this course will be key in developing intermediate-level Spanish-English translation competencies through the study and application of translation theory, strategies, and professional practices.
    - Motion: Unanimous consent
    - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- Changes to TRAN Courses Related to Pre-Requisites **(Proposal withdrawn)**
    - Discussion led by Valeria B. Delmar
    - We propose to change the pre-requisites of our existing TRAN catalogue and the number of one course (TRAN 4387) 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 1302 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. Overall, the changes will lead to increased accessibility, earlier degree progression, and curriculum sequencing improvements.
    - Curriculum changes withdrawn from agenda to include new and edited proposal in the November meeting agenda.

VI. Other Business

- No other business to discuss

VII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 11:31 am