

College of Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee  
Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Fall 2025 Semester  
10:30 AM on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Liberal Arts Building, Dean's Conference Room, Room 342

Chair: Selfa Chew-Melendez

**I. Call to Order**

- Meeting called to order at 10:30 AM

**II. Quorum Call**

Arthur Aguirre	Leadership Studies	Present
Jane Evans	<i>Chicano Studies, Languages, Linguistics</i>	Present
Chris Guerra	<i>Criminal Justice and Security Studies</i>	Present
Carina Heckert	Sociology and Anthropology	Present
Taeko Hiroi	<i>Political Science and Public Administration</i>	Present
Heather Kaplan	Art	Present
Lindsey Macchiarella	Music	Present
Teresa Quezada	English	Present
Aliya Rumana	Philosophy	Present
Ana Schwartz	Psychology	Present
James Stratton	<i>Theatre and Dance</i>	Present
Jorge Aguilar Cruz	Communication	Present
Ronald J. Weber	History	Present
<b>Quorum:</b> 8		
<b>Members Present:</b> 13 of 14		

**Also in Attendance:**

Julianne Flores	<i>Office of the Dean – College of Liberal Arts</i>	Present
Erika Edwards	<i>History – African American Studies</i>	Present
Gaspare Genna	<i>Political Science and Public Administration</i>	Present
Joseph Yingnan Zhou	<i>Political Science and Public Administration</i>	Present
Paul Ashby	<i>Criminal Justice and Security Studies</i>	Present
Annie Tremblay	<i>Chicano Studies, Languages, Linguistics</i>	Present
Larry Morgan	BMS	Present

**III. Revision and Approval of October 2025 Minutes**

- Revisions: None
- Motion: Unanimous consent
- October 2025 Minutes Approved

**IV. Revision and Approval of November 2025 Agenda**

- Revisions: None
- Motion: Unanimous consent
- November 2025 Agenda Approved

## V. New Business

- African American Studies Program
  - New Courses and Block Electives: AFST 3304 African Philosophy, AFST 3305 Debates in Black Studies, AFST 3306 Black Intellectual Thought
    - Discussion led by Erika Edwards
  - AFST 3304 African Philosophy - This proposal seeks to create a new course for the minor in African American Studies. This class's focus on Africa will contribute to philosophies beyond Western Thought. It will introduce students to the foundations of human beliefs, the nature of reality, and the norms that guide human behavior.
  - AFST 3305 Debates in Black Studies - This proposal seeks to create a new course for the minor in African American Studies. It reflects the growing interests of our student population. This writing-intensive course will assist students in honing their rhetorical argumentation skills through the examination of debates in African American Studies from the arrival of Africans in the Americas through the current moment.
  - AFST 3306 Black Intellectual Thought - This proposal seeks to create a new course for the minor in African American Studies. It reflects the growing interests of our student population. This course seeks to introduce students to various intellectual thought in relation to historical events and social change.
  - Addition of Courses to Minor (Included in previous proposal)
  - Motion: Unanimous consent
  - Curriculum change approved as submitted
- Department of History
  - Additions to Minor, HIST 3357 History and Film
    - Discussion led by Erika Edwards
  - Due to the interests of faculty and students, the department would like to broaden its concentration of Latin America and make it a general Film and History class whose geographical focus would align with the instructor's specialization. This will allow various faculty members to teach the course based on their areas of expertise.
  - Motion: Unanimous consent
  - Curriculum change approved as submitted
- Department of Theatre and Dance
- DANCE
  - Removing DANC 4390 – Seminar, from Embodied Studio Practices in BA in Dance
    - Discussion led by James Stratton
  - Seminar is an Embodied Theory Practice course available for all dance majors. Currently it is listed in both Embodied Studio Practices AND Embodied Theory Practices in the degree plan for BA in Dance. This is a mistake, and it needs to be removed from the Studio Practices list. I checked our other degree plans, and the course is correctly listed elsewhere.
  - Motion: Unanimous consent

- Curriculum change approved as submitted
- Making DANC 1304 Designated Core for all dance degrees
  - Discussion led by James Stratton
- Introduction to Dance is designed to be an introductory course to the form for students that have little to no dance experience. Because our program is open access, we have to ensure that all incoming students have the opportunity to acquire the basic knowledge and skills this course provides to prepare them to engage with dance as a performance art in an academic setting.
- Motion: Unanimous consent
- Curriculum change approved as submitted
- THEATRE
  - Course Description Change, THEA 1100
    - Discussion led by James Stratton
  - THEA 1100 is no longer a corequisite for another class: update course description to eliminate language about corequisite.
  - Motion: Unanimous consent
  - Curriculum change approved as submitted
- Department of Criminal Justice and Security Studies
  - Fast-Track Program Between the BA-Security Studies and Master of Defense and Strategic Studies
    - Discussion led by Paul Ashby
  - There is room to increase recruitment in the Bachelor of Security Studies and Masters of Defense and Strategic Studies programs through the creation of a fast-track path between these two 100% online degrees. This will offer an attractive, expedited path for talented undergraduate students to be able to complete a master's degree in the Security Studies field.
  - Motion: Unanimous consent
  - Curriculum change approved as submitted
- Department of Chicano Studies, Languages and Linguistics
  - Fast-Track Proposal: Spanish
    - Discussion led by Annie Tremblay
  - The proposed changes to the M.A. program are designed to make the degree more interdisciplinary and versatile to increase enrollment and ensure that we can cover the courses that students need to take with the faculty we have. Specifically, we propose adding courses in second language teaching/learning and bilingualism, Hispanic linguistics, and translation and interpreting as electives. These additions will not only attract a broader range of students but also ensure that the department can consistently offer the courses required for timely degree completion.
  - Motion: Unanimous consent with a friendly amendment to resubmit the proposal without the degree plan page showing redlined course removals.
  - Curriculum change approved

- Department of Chicano Studies, Languages and Linguistics
  - Creation of ASL 1301 "American Sign Language 1" and ASL 1302 "American Sign Language 2"
    - Discussion led by Annie Tremblay
  - We propose the creation of ASL 1301 (American Sign Language 1) and ASL 1302 (American Sign Language 2) to expand UTEP's language offerings and support efforts to reduce health disparities in our region.
  - Motion: Unanimous consent
  - Curriculum change approved as submitted
- Department of Chicano Studies, Languages and Linguistics
  - Simplification of Spanish Major Degree Plan and Change to All-Levels Education Minor
    - Discussion led by Annie Tremblay
  - We propose simplifying the Spanish degree plan to make it clearer and more flexible for students. Our newly revamped Spanish major includes four concentrations.
  - Motion: Unanimous consent
  - Curriculum change approved as submitted
- Department of Sociology and Anthropology
  - Add NAIS 2300 to Core Curriculum
    - Discussion led by Carina Heckert
  - We are proposing to add NAIS/ANTH/SOCI 2300: Introduction to Native American and Indigenous Studies as a Core Curriculum Component Area option. The course is currently a required course for the NAIS minor and can also be used to fulfill elective degree requirements in the sociology and anthropology degree plans. This addition to the core curriculum responds to a university need for more component area course options, given that these courses fill up quickly and there are often insufficient offerings to meet student demand.
  - Motion: Unanimous consent
  - Curriculum change approved as submitted
- Department of Sociology and Anthropology
  - Sociology and Anthropology Religion and Society Course Addition
    - Discussion led by Carina Heckert
  - This is a new course that will be cross-listed in Sociology and Anthropology. It will be listed as an elective option for majors and minors in Sociology and Anthropology. It will also be listed as a minor elective for Native American and Indigenous Studies as well as a Liberal Arts Block Elective option. It responds to student demand for a greater range of elective course offerings in our department. It is also an area of expertise for one of our full-time lecturers. The faculty member teaching the 3 course has consulted with Religious Studies, and there is an interest in cross-listing this course for the Religious Studies minor.
  - Motion: Unanimous consent
  - Curriculum change approved as submitted

- Department of Psychology
  - New, Courses, Psyc UG adding I/O psychology and Neuroanatomy
    - Discussion led by Ana Schwartz
  - Industrial and Organizational Psychology provides students with the ways in which psychological principles are applied to the workplace and industry. To date the department has not offered any formal courses on Industrial and Organizational Psychology and the addition of this course addresses this gap. A new Industrial and Organizational Psychology course applies psychology to the workplace, while Neuroanatomy covers the structure and function of the nervous system.
  - Motion: Unanimous consent
  - Curriculum change approved as submitted
- Asian Studies Program
  - Addition of Courses and Removal of Restriction
    - Discussion led by Ronald J. Weber
  - The Asian Studies Program proposes adding several existing ASIA and POLS courses to its list of approved electives. Since these courses are already offered and require no new resources, their inclusion will enhance curricular coherence, expand elective options, and better reflect the program's interdisciplinary nature. This change supports student flexibility, facilitates transfer and study abroad equivalencies, and promotes cross-departmental collaboration without impacting other programs' enrollments or course rotations.
  - Motion: Unanimous consent to table this proposal to allow the POLS Department time to review the proposed curriculum changes. Additionally, to permit the submission of any necessary document edits. The proposal will be revisited at the next meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, November 11, at 10:30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams.
- Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies Program
  - GPA Calculations Across Concentrations
    - Discussion led by Larry Morgan
  - The current policy requires a 2.0 GPA in each of three concentrations, which creates issues for transfer students and those with an otherwise satisfactory overall GPA. UTEP's standard practice is to calculate GPA across the entire field of study, not by concentration. Aligning the BMS program with this policy—by requiring a 2.0 cumulative GPA instead of per concentration—would promote fairness, support transfer students, and maintain academic integrity consistent with university standards.
  - Motion: Unanimous consent
  - Curriculum change approved as submitted
- Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies Program
  - New Course: BMS 4350 with Inclusion in Block Electives
    - Discussion led by Larry Morgan
  - BMS 4350: Professional Skills for Liberal Arts Careers is designed to help students translate their academic experiences into professional competencies

applicable across diverse career paths. The course emphasizes employability skills such as communication, leadership, teamwork, digital literacy, critical thinking, and cross-sector problem solving—skills that employers consistently identify as essential for workplace success. The creation of this course responds to a growing need for intentional career preparation within the Liberal Arts.

- Motion: Unanimous consent
- Curriculum change approved as submitted
- Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences
  - GPA Calculation Across Concentrations
    - Discussion led by Larry Morgan
  - The current policy requiring a 2.0 GPA in each of two concentrations causes issues for transfer students and those with minor GPA discrepancies in one area. UTEP's standard practice uses an overall 2.0 GPA across all coursework rather than per concentration. Adopting this cumulative GPA standard for the BAAS program would align it with university policy, promote fairness, and uphold academic integrity.
  - Motion: Unanimous consent
  - Curriculum change approved as submitted
- CEL Designations
  - Motion: Unanimous consent
  - Curriculum changes approved as submitted

**VI. Other Business**

- No other business to discuss

**VII. Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 11:51 AM