

Graduate Academic Affairs Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 28, 2007
Education Room 203
11:30am-1:00pm

Approved Amended Minutes

Attendees: Dr. Joe Claudet (ex officio), Dr. Bret Hendricks, Chair, Dr. Gerry Parr, Dr. Tara Stevens, Dr. Reese Todd, Dr. Eva Midobuche, Yen To (EP&L graduate student representative)

Guests: Dr. Charles Crews, Dr. Nora Griffin-Shirley, Dr. Carol Layton

Dr. Hendricks invited Dr. Crews to present course proposal EPCE 5376.

Dr. Crews stated this course proposal is specific for counselor education students needing an assessment course. CACREP, their accreditation organization, requires this course and it is an area needing attention within the program. The course was previously taught as an EPSY course. This course proposal is specific in content on how to use assessments, interface with many professionals, covers evaluations and how to use achievement tests. The content area will fulfill a need of our students and will provide the skills for them to go out into their fields. It is targeted to provide students with a professional identity as professional counselors. This course will be offer during the second summer session and no additional faculty members need to be hired.

Dr. Stevens stated Drs. Parr and Bradley met with the EPSY faculty members to discuss this proposed course. The EPSY 5356 course prepares students to construct tests and presents varied categories and settings in which to use them of which counseling assessment tools are a small part. The EPCE program needs the expansion of tools and assessment this course offers. The EPSY and this EPCE course are two distinct courses and not a duplication of each other. The EPSY program finds no conflict.

Dr. Crews stated he discussed this course with Dr. Wang who teaches the EPSY course. Dr. Wang does not cover many of the counseling-specific issues in his course. The EPCE textbooks are specific to counseling assessment.

Dr. Parr put forward the Motion to accept EPCE 5376.
Seconded by Dr. Stevens. No questions or discussion.

Motion passed (all in favor).

Dr. Hendricks asked members to review and approve September's Minutes.
Motion to approve by Dr. Todd.
Seconded by Dr. Parr.
Motion passed (Minutes accepted all in favor).

Dr. Hendricks welcomed Drs. Nora Griffin-Shirley and Carol Layton to present on special education courses and distance learning proposal.

Dr. Griffin-Shirley stated the three courses before the committee today were submitted one year ago. There was no activity on them and Dr. Hendricks suggested she go ahead and re-submit them as is. Two of the courses have been taught in Orientation and Mobility (O&M) since the 1980's as EDSP 5390 (a seminar course). Seminar course numbers are to be used for one year. She is here to ask the GAAC permission to change the course numbers. The two courses are required for O&M national certification. They meet (since 1980) the program curriculum standards set by their accreditation organization, AERBVI, and NCATE. These two courses just need a title, the focus is not changing. O&M students are required to take Intermediate and Advanced O&M. Now, as listed under EDSP 5390: Seminar, any special education student can register giving additional class numbers and creating problems advising students they are in the wrong class.

The third course is a doctoral course entitled Program Evaluation in Special Education. We would like to change this from an EDSP 5390 to a 6000 series number. It is a course already taught so no new faculty members are needed. This course is specific to program evaluation of special education programs. Last year, students who took the course did a program evaluation of aspects of the Educational Diagnostician program, the South Plains Autism Network program, and aspects of the O&M program. Then they presented the results in an open forum attended by Dean Santos among others. They identified the program, evaluated it and presented it during this course. The Human Sciences evaluation course did not address special education issues and rarely offered it. Students learned about evaluations but not how to conduct one. In this EDSP course they learned about them and then did one. It benefits our graduate students when they are asked to evaluate and develop a program, they are prepared to do so with this course, as well as, complete grant proposals. They are prepared for careers.

Dr. Hendricks confirmed the titles as being Intermediate and Advanced.

Dr. Griffin-Shirley stated an issue arose while she was a member of the TTU Graduate Council which was an effort to get rid of 5390 seminar courses. Dr. Fedler reminded her that with over 25 years of having 5390's, it was time to fix it. The third course (Program Evaluation) has only been offered 2-3 times over the past 4 years.

Dr. Layton stated the College of Education has other program evaluation courses, but not specific to special education factors.

Dr. Griffin-Shirley stated that when they were developing the course, they looked at other places offering it such as Human Sciences. The special education students said the Humans Sciences course was not appropriate in content. It was focused on theoretical evaluation and not practical evaluation. In this course, students will have the experience of doing one in this proposed course. That is the value of practical application. It creates a strong vitae and the skills to implement them.

Dr. Stevens stated we do not have an EPSY program evaluation course. Dr. Wang teaches a seminar on how to construct evaluations. She agrees the special education program has unique issues relevant to special education evaluations.

Dr. Griffin-Shirley informed the committee that the last pages of the proposal packets have 2 schedules – the old one and an updated one. Experts were invited to present on their unique program evaluations of the various professional arenas. From those presentations, three graduate students taking the course have started their own business called *Double Spectrum* which specializes in counseling dual-diagnosed individuals. This business has a contract with LISD to do program evaluation. So the end result of this course has gone forward.

Dr. Hendricks opened the floor to discussion.
Motion by Dr. Parr to approve all three courses.
Seconded by Dr. Todd.

Dr. Stevens informed the committee she did not observe any conflict and did not perceive that her EPSY colleagues would either as it is not a duplicate course and special education does have specific concerns. There are distinctions between the two courses (EPSY and EDSP).

Dr. Parr stated the EPSY course draws students from all over the campus, so agrees these are not duplicate courses.

Dr. Claudet clarified that 2 courses are name changes and 1 course is a number change. The Academic subcommittee scrutinizes everything and asks two questions that raise red flags: Are any additional resources required and does it duplicate courses listed in the catalog. These three courses do not raise those red flags.

Dr. Hendricks called the question.
Motion passed (all in favor).

Dr. Layton presented the Special Education Program Doctor of Education Distance Delivery Proposal. Dr. Griffin-Shirley began this process when she was program coordinator and it has continued with Dr. Hamza's assistance. So many special education courses are offered online now that we are currently doing it. This proposal fulfills the mandate to file per Rosalyn Smith. Dr. Griffin-Shirley stated that over 51% of special education courses are offered online. Dr. Valerie Paton said to do it. Many students get their Master's here and they are distance education courses. So with those 36 hours towards the Ed.D, they take the required EPSY online courses and that puts them above the 51% for distance delivery. This proposal is to meet those guidelines. This proposal follows Dr. Claudet's model from three years ago. With the assistance of Dwayne Matlock and COE funding this proposal is the result. Thanks to his office for funding the process. We have been pressured to get it done. The problem now is that students may be denied to graduate without their permission.

Dr. Parr made Motion to approve.
Dr. Todd seconded.
Motion passed (with one abstain).

Dr. Hendricks stated the courses presented and approved today will go forward in the process. The next step in the process is to update the cover sheets using the new form, signatures attained and submit to the Academic subcommittee. Next, we will get the January materials prepared and in members' mailboxes soon. We will be improving communication and improving web access to those submitting course proposals and with members. The next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Esther Lucey, Recorder