

# University of North Texas at Dallas

## Academic Council Minutes

February 21, 2023, 3:00pm

### **Voting Members**

Dr. Bill Ingram, *Assistant Dean, School of Business*  
Dr. Constance Lacy, *Dean, School of Human Services*  
Dr. Ali Shaqlaih, *Dean, Graduate School and Interim Dean, School of Business*  
Dr. Christine Remley, *Dean, School of Education*  
Felecia Epps, J.D., *Dean, College of Law*  
Dr. John E. Coleman, *Faculty Senate Vice President*  
Rian Wilhite, *Director, Academic Advising*  
Brenda Robertson, *University Librarian*  
Dr. Mario Casa de Calvo represented Dr. Orlando Perez as a voting member for LAS

**Absent:** Dani Daniels, *SGA Vice President*  
Dr. Orlando Perez, *Dean, School of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

### **Non-Voting Members**

Dr. Betty H. Stewart, *Provost and EVP for Academic Affairs*  
Luis Franco, *University Director of Undergraduate Admissions*  
Dr. Dawn Remmers, *Assistant Provost*  
Dr. Kimberly Chandler, *Director of University Accreditation & Policy*  
Allison Scott, *Staff Council Representative*  
Garrick Hildebrand, *Director of Financial Aid*  
Dr. Sara Baber, *Director of Distance Learning*  
Jamie Lee, *University Registrar*

### **Other Invitees**

Dr. Samuel Bore, *Associate Professor, School of Human Services*  
Dr. Mario Casa de Calvo, *Associate Professor, School of Liberal Arts & Sciences*  
Ms. Katrina Cornish, *Academic Scheduling Coordinator*  
Dr. Priya Eimerbrink, *Associate Professor, School of Liberal Arts & Sciences*  
Ms. Sara Holmes, *Lecturer, School of Liberal Arts & Sciences*  
Dr. Mark Stanley, *Senior Lecturer, School of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- I. Call to Order
- II. Welcome and Introductions
- III. Old Business

*With there being no Old Business to discuss, the Council moved on to New Business.*

IV. New Business

- A. Approval of minutes – January 24, 2023

***Dean Shaqlaih made a motion to approve the January 2023 minutes. Dean Lacy moved to second it. All in favor and none opposed. Motion passed with nine of ten voting. (closed)***

- B. Policy, Guidelines, and Restrictions: Conference and Professional Travel Grant (*Dr. Ali Shaqlaih*) – See Appendix I

***Dean Shaqlaih made a motion to approve the Conference and Professional Travel Grant Policy, Guidelines, and Restrictions. Dr. Coleman moved to second it. All in favor and none opposed. Motion passed with nine of ten voting. (closed)***

- C. Master's Accelerated Pathways (MAPs) Guidelines and Application Template (*Dr. Ali Shaqlaih*) – See Appendix II

***Dean Shaqlaih made a motion to approve the MAPs Guidelines and Application Template. Rian Wilhite moved to second it. All in favor and none opposed. Motion passed with nine of ten voting. (closed)***

- D. Course Change Requests (*School of Liberal Arts and Sciences*)

PSYC 4390 (Internship in Psychology)

Change effective: AY 2023-24

Change: Prerequisite

*Additional information: In the Psychology undergraduate program students can take Capstone or Internship for program fulfillment in their senior year. These courses are considered equal in terms of course credit, however the current prerequisites for Internship are far less stringent than the current Capstone prerequisites. This has caused students to opt for Internship over Capstone, due to perceiving it as a "less difficult" course. The proposed change would, hopefully, prevent this discrepancy in enrollment and improve the quality of the Internship program, as only qualified students would be able to request enrollment.*

*Current prerequisite: Consent of instructor and declared Psychology major.*

*New prerequisite: C or better in PSYC 1100, 4600, 3100, 3200, and 3210. Required of all Psychology majors. Senior level Psychology majors only.*

All proposed changes are marked as such:  
New items are emboldened and underlined  
Deleted items are marked with a strikethrough line  
Justifications or clarifications are italicized.

COMM 3323 (Foundations of Radio Production: Creating On-Air and Off-Air Audio Element)

Change effective: AY 2023-24

Change: Prerequisite

*Additional information: This change is being made to open enrollment in this course. The public speaking skills gained in COMM 1010 and/or COMM 2300 satisfy the public communication requirements needed in the Radio Production class. Instruction in the class already includes elements of audio editing that previously were only taught in Audio for New Media, minimizing the necessity of only COMM 2400 as a prerequisite.*

*Current prerequisite: COMM 2400 with a grade of C or better*

*New prerequisite: COMM 1010, COMM 2300, OR COMM 2400 with a grade of C or better*

***Dr. Casa de Calvo made a motion to approve the course change requests. Dean Shaqlaih moved to second it. All in favor and none opposed. Motion passed with nine of ten voting. (closed)***

E. Program Change Request (*School of Liberal Arts & Sciences*)

Bachelor of Applied Arts & Sciences – Urban Agriculture Concentration

Change effective: AY 2023-2024

Change: Other

*Additional information: Removing the Urban Agriculture Concentration of the BAAS. The concentration has not met enrollment expectations. The grant funding has ended.*

***Dr. Casa de Calvo made a motion to approve the program change request. Dr. Coleman moved to second it. All in favor and none opposed. Motion passed with nine of ten voting. (closed)***

F. New Program Request (*School of Liberal Arts & Sciences*)

BAS in Emergency Services Administration

Change effective: AY 2024-25

Number of Credit Hours: 120

*Additional information: This program is currently offered as a super- concentration within the BAAS degree. It has shown strong enrollment growth year-over-year which demonstrates a need in the field for a major program. This program promotes access to educational opportunities for "first responder" professionals to serve the North Texas region and beyond.*

*Over the past decade, there has been a major push for firefighters and EMS professionals nationwide to obtain a baccalaureate degree. Further, the US Fire Administration has advocated strongly for baccalaureate degrees in Fire/EMS services. The current UNTD ESA curriculum is nationally recognized by the US Fire Administration.*

*The continued enrollment growth in the BAAS ESA concentration year over year, coupled with the push for baccalaureate degrees within the field, justifies the demand for a dedicated major program. FIRE/Emergency Services is a discipline that is becoming more professionalized requiring higher levels of educational attainment, similar to law enforcement, nursing, etc. Additionally, as noted above there is a deficit in major programs for this field. Currently there is no known major program offering within the state.*

*The program has sustained enrollment of 70 plus students each semester. We expect to continue with 75-100 students each semester, thus making the program self-sufficient. It is also*

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*anticipated that this program could be promoted and offered as a national on-line program, which increases accessibility and bolsters the sustainability of the program by further increasing enrollment.*

*All new students would be admitted to the newly created BAS major program, and the BAAS concentration would be phased out. Once approved, currently enrolled students under the BAAS ESA concentration may choose to graduate with a BAAS degree or submit a change of major request to be enrolled in the new BAS in ESA major program.*

*It is proposed to convert the existing Program Manager staff position to a full time Lecturer of Emergency Services Administration with no change of budget cost.*

*No new courses are being proposed. Curriculum does not change.*

***Dr. Stewart made a motion to table the new program request. Dean Lacy moved to second it. All in favor and none opposed. Motion passed with nine of ten voting. (closed)***

G. Program Change Request (*School of Behavioral Health and Human Services*)

MS in Counseling

Change effective: AY 2023-2024

Change: Admission Criteria (GRE, Essay, GPA, Letter of Recommendation, and Interview)

*Additional information: The counseling program is seeking to change its admission criteria. The changes include removing the GRE requirement and introducing an onsite essay writing requirement. Research shows that removing the GRE as an admission requirement does not impact student success (Sullivan, Velez, Larese, & Galea, 2022). Besides, the predictive validity of the GRE on graduate student success may be inconsistent and a possible admission barrier for prospective minority students to graduate programs. The inclusion of an on-site written essay as a part of admission requirements was informed by inconsistent performance between scores from student essays submitted for admission and their scores for writing class assignments. Requiring students to complete a writing assignment on-site during the interview will provide a means for assessing accurate student writing ability. See proposed changes below.*

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**COUN PROGRAM**  
**Proposal for Changes to Admission Criteria**  
**(Effective 2023 – 2024)**

Old Rubric	New Rubric
GRE Verbal (0 – 5) GRE Writing (0 – 5)	No GRE
Essay (2 – 14)  <i>2 professors review/rate each applicant's essays using the essay rubric</i>	Essay (2 – 14) Essay II (in person) (2 – 20)  <i>2 professors review/rate each applicant's essays using Essay I and Essay II rubrics</i>
GPA (0 – 14) 14 = 3.2 + last 60 hours 7 = 3.0 last 60 hours (2.8 overall) 0 = 2.8 last 60 hours	GPA (16 – 24) 24 = 3.5 + (last 60 hours) 22 = 3.3 – 3.4 (last 60 hours) 18 = 3.1 – 3.2 (last 60 hours) 16 = 3.0 (last 60 hours, OR 2.8 overall)
Recommendation (3 – 12) (3 required; 3 faculty reviewers assessing points) <i>There is a rubric specific to recommendations.</i>	Recommendation (3 – 12) (3 required; 3 faculty reviewers assessing points) <i>There is a rubric specific to recommendations.</i>
Interview (3 – 18) Professor average 1 – 6 Professor/Graduate student average (1 – 6) Interviewees average (1 – 6)  <i>Applicants are divided into different groups and each group will have the 3 people stated above. There is a rubric specific to the interview that allows the people identified above to rate all applicants in the different groups.</i>	Interview (5 – 30) Faculty average (3 – 18) Graduate student average (1 – 6) Interviewees average (1 – 6)  <i>Applicants are divided into different groups and each group will have the 3 people stated above. There is a rubric specific to the interview that allows the people identified above to rate all applicants in the different groups.</i>
<b>Combined Total: 8 – 68</b> <b>MAX: 68</b> <b>Admissible:</b> 41 or above (with at least 9 in written essay and 12 in interview scores) <b>Deny:</b> below 41	<b>Combined Total: 28 – 100</b> <b>MAX: 100</b> <b>Admissible:</b> 66 or above with a minimum 24 interview score <b>Deny:</b> Combined total less than 66 or Interview score below 24

**I. GRE**

**Change:** no longer required. The program has determined that, though the GRE can assist in determining student success, other measures such as prior GPA, writing skills, and the in-person interview, have proven better as success measures. Additionally, several programs at universities in the area (including UNT) have waived or no longer require the GRE. So, to remain competitive,

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COUN will no longer require the GRE, but put other measures in place to ensure they are admitting academically prepared students.

**II. ESSAY: Assessment of writing ability**

Writing is an important measure of a COUN student's ability to succeed. With the elimination of the GRE/Writing Score, the program felt it was necessary to incorporate an element in the rubric that provided the faculty Admission Committee the opportunity to assess writing capabilities.

**Change:** (1) the addition of a more in-depth, in-person, timed writing sample; (2) increase in point value

- Essay I: though it captures some information regarding the applicant's writing ability, is designed more to provide insight into why the applicant is interested in the COUN program.
- Essay II (new): will be an in-person writing exercise held during the COUN Interview date(s) that is designed in particular to assess actual writing ability more in depth.

**III. GPA:**

Counseling applicants typically have very good bachelor's degree GPAs. In determining the new GPA ranges, 3 years' worth of applicant GPA data was examined and used to create the new requirements.

**Change:** (1) new GPA range with new point values; (2) increase in overall point value (2<sup>nd</sup> highest on rubric)

**IV. Letter of Recommendation**

**Change:** a new letter of recommendation form has been created that will hopefully obtain more subjective information from recommenders as opposed to the current one where most would just check off all "Exceptional" fields in a column

**V. Interview**

**Change:** (1) has been assigned the most weight as the best qualifying factor; (2) the faculty's ratings have been given more weight as opposed to having the same weight as the GRAD student and other applicant reviewers.

***Dean Shaqlaih made a motion to approve the program change request. Dean Lacy moved to second it. All in favor and none opposed. Motion passed with nine of ten voting. (closed)***

V. Adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted February 27, 2023  
Laila Mertz  
Executive Assistant to Provost and EVP of Academic Affairs**

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