

# University of North Texas at Dallas

## Academic Council Minutes

October 27, 2020 3:00pm  
MS Teams

### **Voting Members in Attendance:**

Dr. Karen Shumway, *Dean, School of Business*  
Dr. Lisa Hobson, *Interim Dean, School of Education*  
Dr. Samuel Bore for Dr. Constance Lacy, *Dean, School of Human Services*  
Dr. Orlando Perez, *Dean, School of Liberal Arts & Sciences*  
Dr. Ali Shaqlaih, *Dean, Graduate School*  
Felecia Epps, J.D., *Dean, College of Law*  
Dr. Jennifer Baggerly, *Faculty Senate Vice- President*  
Rian Wilhite, *Director, Academic Advising*  
Brenda Robertson, *University Librarian*

### **Nonvoting members in attendance:**

Dr. Betty H. Stewart, *Provost and EVP for Academic Affairs*  
John Capocci, *University Registrar*  
Dr. Dawn Remmers, *Assistant Provost*  
Dr. Kimberly Chandler, *Director of University Accreditation & Policy*  
Ashleigh Tynes, *Staff Council Representative*  
Garrick Hildebrand, *Director of Financial Aid*  
Desmond Morris, *Director of Distance Learning*

### **Other Attendees:**

LaToya Ellis, *Assistant Director, Registrar's Office*  
Dr. Christopher DeClerk, *Assistant Professor, Business*  
Dr. Frank Zarnani, *Adjunct Instructor, Liberal Arts & Sciences*  
Ms. Samreen Khan, *Lecturer, Liberal Arts & Sciences*  
Dr. Sharon Fjordbak, *Lecturer, Business*  
Dr. Mario Casa de Calvo, *Associate Dean & Associate Professor, Liberal Arts & Sciences*

### **Approval of Minutes**

*May 2020 Minutes approved with nine of ten voting. (closed)*

### **Old Business**

*College of Law Attendance Policy (from Dean Epps, College of Law)*

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.

## **New Business**

### A. New Graduate Policy (*Dr. Ali Shaqlaih, Graduate School*)

Graduate Concentrations Policy – *see appendix*

### ***Motion approved with nine of ten voting. (closed)***

#### B. Course Change Requests (*School of Business*)

DSCI 3310 (Data Analysis Tools I)

Change Effective: 2020

Change: New Long and Short Title, course description

*Additional information: This request describes a minor change to the course description/title. The new description reflects updated course content that is better aligned with professional/industry terms and practices.*

*New long title: Data Interpretation and Storytelling.*

*New short title: Storytelling.*

*New course description: How to translate data analyses into layman's terms in order to influence a business decision or action.*

DSCI 3380 (Case Studies in Business Statistics)

Change Effective: 2020

Change: New Long and Short Title, course description

*Additional information: This request for a minor change to the course description/title reflects the updated course content and better aligns the course with professional/industry terms and practices.*

*New long title: Fundamentals of Business Analytics.*

*New short title: Fund Bus Analytics.*

*New course description: General introduction to concepts and ideas of Business Analytics and its roles in the business decision making process.*

DSCI 4310 (Data Analysis Tools II)

Change Effective: 2020

Change: New Long and Short Title, course description

*Additional information: This request for a minor change to the course description/title reflects the updated course content and better aligns the course with professional/industry terms and practices.*

*New long title: Predictive Modeling*

*New short title: Predictive Modeling*

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.

*New course description: Study of techniques analytics. Emphasis on approaches that are scalable to large data set and/or approaches that are robust given a large number of predictors.*

DSCI 4320 (Data Analysis Visualization II)

Change Effective: 2020

Change: New Long and Short Title, course description

*Additional information: This request for a minor change to the course description/title reflects the updated course content and better aligns the course with professional/industry terms and practices.*

*New long title: Big Data Management and Retrieval*

*New short title: Big Data Mgmt*

*New course description: Concepts of data management and topics relating to data querying and processing. How database principles can be applied to various database products and processing of large data sets.*

DSCI 4510 (Modeling for Business Intelligence)

Change Effective: 2020

Change: New Long and Short Title, course description

*Additional information: This change reflects updated course content. The new description is better aligned with professional and industry language and practice.*

*New long title: Data Analytics Programming*

*New short title: DA Prog*

*New course description: Explorers big data and business analytics programming essentials.*

***Motion approved with nine of ten voting. (closed)***

C. New Course Requests (College of Law)

Advanced Strategies in Legal Analysis

Change effective: Spring 2021

Department: College of Law

*Additional information: This course focuses on teaching many of the skills that are critical for your success on the Uniform Bar Exam. This is a learn-by-doing class, so the student will write several MPT answers throughout the course. We will also complete a number of exercises designed to enhance your test-taking strategies. We will spend the majority of the course on the MPT but will also spend several classes reviewing strategies for the MEE/MBE portion of the bar exam, and we will complete several drills for those parts of the exam. Although this is a skills-focused class, there will be some substantive review. This course has been taught as a Special Topics class for several semesters. We are looking to make it a permanent course as it attracts those who are struggling with bar skills.*

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.

Estate Planning Practicum  
Change effective: Spring 2021  
Department: College of Law

*Additional information: This course introduces planning strategies for transferring wealth during lifetime and at death pursuant to Texas law, and it gives students opportunities to draft common estate-planning documents. Potential topics include will and trust drafting, durable powers of attorney, healthcare advanced directives, and planning for spendthrift beneficiaries, disabled beneficiaries, beneficiaries with behavioral issues, the Texas probate system, and Texas community property. The course also introduces basic concepts of gifts to minors and other dependents, estate and gift taxes, transferring ownership of life insurance, with emphasis on irrevocable life insurance trusts; and introduction to the generation-skipping tax, guardianship, and Medicaid eligibility.*

***Motion approved with nine of ten voting. (closed)***

D. Course Change Requests (College of Law)

Renaming of Courses  
Department: College of Law

*Additional Information: The Committee discussed renaming three courses to better describe their purpose to outsiders. Accordingly, the Committee recommended that:*

- 1. The “Fundamentals” course be named “Introduction to Legal Studies”*
- 2. The “Capstone I” course be named “Bar Exam Skills and Strategies I”*
- 3. The “Capstone II” course be named “Bar Exam Skills and Strategies II”*

***Motion approved with nine of ten voting. (closed)***

**Adjournment**

Respectfully Submitted.

Essence Cleveland

Executive Assistant to the Provost

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## Graduate Concentrations

**Purpose and Scope:** This policy defines the requirements for formal graduate concentrations, and the approval route in order for it to be noted on a student's official transcript.

**Definitions:** A graduate concentration is a coherent set of courses which gives a student more breadth or depth in their major and allows a student to complete the degree with a demonstrated proficiency in an area of focus within the major. Students who select and successfully complete the requirements of an approved concentration will have this documented on their transcript. Because a concentration is intended to be within the major area of study, the hours required to fulfill the concentration should likewise apply toward completion of the degree. However that is not to say that completion of a concentration within a degree couldn't require more hours than the degree itself, in that the student is earning an additional credential. Concentrations are only available to students enrolled in the home major.

This policy seeks to define only those concentrations at the graduate level that would be listed in the Graduate Academic Catalog and recorded on the student's official transcript. Though graduate education practically always involve specialization or interdisciplinary work, the concentration designation on the transcript varies in importance across the disciplines and this recognition should be sought only when there is a clear benefit to the student and/or program or department – example is when transcript designation is required by program accrediting bodies or in response to job market demands.

**Policy:** A graduate concentration must be a minimum 12 graduate hours of coursework at the 5000-level or above and should be developed by experts in the field of the concentration. In order to be approved and noted on the student's transcript, a graduate concentration requires approval by the disciplinary school, the Graduate School, and the University Academic Council.

### Procedures:

- Any academic department or unit with the approval of the disciplinary school may initiate a proposal for a graduate concentration.
- An academic department or unit (or a combination of departments or units in the case of an interdisciplinary program) intending to propose a concentration should prepare a proposal according to this policy. The proposal should include the following:

- Justification: an estimate of the current and projected demand for graduates of the concentration
- Description: include how it differs from the existing concentration(s)
- Objectives: describe the educational objectives of the concentration
- Enrollment History: include the enrollment history of the current program; project and explain the enrollment in the proposed concentration for four years
- Other programs: explain the relationship of the concentration to other programs currently offered at UNT Dallas, including consultation with appropriate programs, if necessary
- Concentration Requirements:
  - Total hours required
  - Courses by title and number
  - Description of any proposed new courses
  - Description of any consultation that has occurred for any required courses offered in other programs
- Faculty: list faculty who will be directly involved in the proposed concentration and if they are generally the same as for existing concentrations. If faculty list is different, or if new faculty are to be added, list them along with faculty rank, program, etc.
- Administration: describe how the proposed concentration will be administered; generally the same as the existing degree program.
- Proposals should be sent to the Graduate Council for review and approval by the Curriculum Subcommittee. The Chair and Dean of the Graduate Council will send approved proposals to the Academic Council for approval.
- The department or sponsoring unit may set additional prerequisites for eligibility for the concentration that may or may not lie within the standards of their accrediting organizations.
- A student's intent to pursue a graduate concentration must be approved by the student's advisor/program coordinator as well as the unit offering the concentration. If any credit hours taken toward a concentration will not also count toward the major, that condition must be documented when the student adds the concentration so that it can be taken into account at the time of degree certification.
- It will be up to the sponsoring department or unit to certify the successful completion of the concentration and its requirements.
- A student who seeks to add, drop or change a graduate concentration **must submit a written request** to their advisor/program coordinator as changes in a concentration may alter the requirements needed for graduation.
- Students may pursue a maximum of two concentrations while active in the major program.
- Concentration(s) will not be added retroactively to a student record after the major degree is conferred.