

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Summary Notes/Minutes
Economics Field of Study Advisory Committee Meeting
1200 East Anderson Lane, Board Room
Austin, Texas
August 20, 2018, 1:00 - 5:00 PM

The webcast of this meeting is available at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6IvU-hFaCw>

1. Call to order and introductions

Allen Michie called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

The following committee members were present:

Janice Hauge, University of North Texas
Ruby Kishan, Texas State University
Susan McElroy, The University of Texas at Dallas
Randy Methenitis, Richland College
Bobby Mixon, San Jacinto College
Victor Moussoki, Lone Star College
Charles Newton, Houston Community College
Scott Powers, Navarro College
Stephen Trejo, The University of Texas-Austin
Kaycee Washington, Collin College
Brooks Wilson, McLennan Community College
Mahmut Yasar, The University of Texas at Arlington

The following committee members were absent:

David Hudgins, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Hassain Jafri, Tarleton State University
Agim Kukeli, Midwestern State University
Jonathan Meer, Texas A&M University
Lydia Ortega, Alamo Community College-St. Philip's College
Ruxandra Prodan-Boul, University of Houston
Bryce Rico, Blinn College
Teo Sepulveda, South Texas College

Coordinating Board Staff present:

Allen Michie, Program Director

2. Consideration of appointing a recording secretary

Janice Hauge volunteered to serve as recording secretary and was elected by acclamation.

3. Consideration of election of co-chairs

Kaycee Washington (Grayson College) was nominated to serve as co-chair from two-year institutions and was elected by acclamation. Mahmut Yasar (The University of Texas at Arlington) was nominated from four-year institutions and was elected by acclamation.

4. Public testimony

No one was available for public testimony.

5. Break for consultation between Coordinating Board staff and Co-Chairs

The committee recessed for 15 minutes.

6. Overview of Field of Study rules and mission – Dr. Allen Michie

Michie provided an overview of the Fields of Study (FOS) statute, how it is part of a wider range of transfer success initiatives, and how it contributes to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's *60x30TX* strategic plan.

Michie stated the goals of the meeting:

- Review curricula from programs at representative two- and four-year institutions
- Review approved courses in the *Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM)*
- Decide which lower division courses are necessary for success in upper division courses in a major
- Adjust course objectives and descriptions as necessary
- Balance student freedom with institution priorities
- Create a guaranteed pathway to the degree and minimize the number of excess hours that students take

Michie answered questions about FOS and the approval process.

7. Discussion and consideration of the Economics Field of Study curriculum

Washington proposed that the committee vote on one final FOS at the end of the meeting rather than voting on classes one by one.

The committee discussed Introduction to Economics (ECON 1301). McElroy said the course is designed for non-majors and does not prepare students for upper-division courses. Methenitis said that if a student takes Macroeconomics and Microeconomics, the student will get the same content in ECON 1301. The consensus was not to include ECON 1301 in the FOS.

The committee discussed Academic Cooperative (ECON 2389). McElroy said these courses take a lot of faculty time to develop and monitor. The consensus was not to include any Academic Cooperatives in the FOS.

The committee discussed various Accounting courses. Michie pointed out that the Business FOS Advisory Committee intended the Business FOS to apply to Accounting majors.

Washington said there is crossover between Economics, Accounting, and Business, and students will sometimes major in one and minor in the other. Washington added that an understanding of accounting is necessary to be a good economist. Trejo said that sometimes Accounting is in the school of Business, and sometimes not, and Accounting is not a core subject that every Economics major must have. Kishan said that at some institutions, Accounting is required for Bachelor of Science (BS) students but not for Bachelor of Arts (BA) students. Moussoki said that accounting is good for professional students and good for students applying to be bookkeepers, and students need to have the full range of skills. Hauge agreed that the committee should not shut students off from several different career fields.

Wilson argued instead for a minimalist approach, using the minimum number of courses to be a good Economist. It is not in the committee's mission to include every class students could take to be well-rounded, such as Business Writing. Michie reminded members that the FOS is only useful to transfer students, and the FOS curriculum does not have to be the basis for a statewide associate degree.

Washington asked for a show of hands for including at least one Accounting course. Four approved, and 8 disapproved. The discussion of including Accounting courses was tabled.

Hauge said it is a very important issue whether or not an institution has Economics in the Business school. Trejo said that only Business School students are allowed to take the Accounting courses, and if they are included, it may prevent many students from completing the FOS.

The committee discussed Business courses. Washington noted that BUSI classes are not frequently offered at community colleges. The consensus was not to include BUSI courses.

The committee discussed Math courses, including College Algebra (MATH 1314). Michie said that the FOS should begin with the starting level course in the FOS and not include the basic Math courses that most students come in already having taken in high school. The consensus was that the entry-level course for Economics is Calculus for Business and Social Sciences (MATH 1325). Trejo asked if the FOS could offer a choice, and Michie said yes, so long as all the courses are equivalent for the FOS objectives.

Wilson said it is better not to have Math for Business and Social Sciences (MATH 1324) because it does not include calculus. The committee discussed two possible Calculus offerings, Calculus I (MATH 2313) and Calculus for Business and Social Sciences (MATH 1324). Some mentioned that one course may be better for BS students, and the other for BA students. The committee discussed requiring MATH 2313 for BS students and offering a choice of the two courses for BA students. Newton recommended requiring all students to take Calculus I since it could transfer in as the equivalent of Calculus for Business and Social Sciences.

Newton proposed a new *Lower-Division Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM)* course in research methods. Yasar said that it is increasingly important for students to have data

collection and interpretation skills, especially in Excel. Hauge said it is more important for students to tackle statistics first before moving to more advanced data analysis skills. Trejo pointed out that Statistics and Research Methods are both upper-division courses at many institutions.

The committee discussed whether to include a Statistics course in the FOS. Some mentioned that the course should remain at the upper division, and others mentioned its usefulness for foundational skills. The consensus was to include some Statistics. Newton said that the course needs to be statistics designed for Economics. Michie replied that the Business FOS Advisory Committee invented BUSI 23XX, "Business Statistics," for the ACGM. [NOTE: the course was later given the number BUSI 2305.] The consensus was to use a choice between BUSI 2305 and Elementary Statistical Methods (MATH 1342).

Newton made a motion to split the FOS into BA and BS tracks. The motion passed unanimously.

Washington made a motion for the BA track to include the following:

- Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 2301)
- Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 2302)
- A choice of either Calculus for Business & Social Sciences (MATH 1325) or Calculus I (MATH 2313)
- A choice of either Business Statistics (BUSI 2305) or Elementary Statistical Methods (MATH 1342)

The motion passed unanimously.

Washington made a motion for the BS track to include the following:

- Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 2301)
- Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 2302)
- Calculus I (MATH 2313)
- A choice of either Business Statistics (BUSI 2305) or Elementary Statistical Methods (MATH 1342)

The motion passed unanimously.

8. Consideration of authorization of Co-Chairs to approve the meeting notes, make non-substantive edits to documents, and conduct assorted committee business relating to submission of the Field of Study to the Coordinating Board for approval

A motion was made to authorize the co-chairs to approve the final meeting minutes and carry other related business for the FOS approval process before the Board. The motion passed.

9. Overview of the timeline for public comments and Field of Study approval – Dr. Allen Michie

Michie stated that the proposed FOS would go out for a 30-day public comment period. Committee members would be given a copy of each comment for a response. If changes are made, the revised FOS would go out for a second 30-day comment period. The FOS curriculum

would go before the Coordinating Board’s Committee on Academic and Workforce Success committee and the full Board for final approval.

Michie said that there could be a second committee meeting, depending upon the number and nature of the public comments received and whether committee members indicate that they want to make significant changes.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM. [NOTE: the meeting was originally advertised to continue into a second day on August 21 from 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM, but the second meeting was unnecessary.]

Final Proposed Field of Study:

Table 1. Proposed 2018 FOS Curriculum for Economics: BS Track

Course Title	Course Number	SCH
Principles of Macroeconomics	ECON 2301	3
Principles of Microeconomics	ECON 2302	3
Calculus I	MATH 2313	3
Choose one of the following courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BUSI 23XX: Business Statistics* • MATH 1342: Elementary Statistical Methods 	BUSI 23XX OR MATH 1342	3
TOTAL		12

Table 2. Proposed 2018 FOS Curriculum for Economics: BA Track

Course Title	Course Number	SCH
Principles of Macroeconomics	ECON 2301	3
Principles of Microeconomics	ECON 2302	3
Choose one of the following courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MATH 1325: Calculus for Business & Social Sciences• MATH 2313: Calculus I	MATH 1325 OR MATH 2313	3
Choose one of the following courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BUSI 23XX: Business Statistics*• MATH 1342: Elementary Statistical Methods	BUSI 23XX OR MATH 1342	3
TOTAL		12