



# UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY

## Texas Woman's University Undergraduate Council Academic Year Theme: Advocacy

April 23rd, 2:30 PM-4:00 PM

- I. Welcome: Dr. Jorge F. Figueroa, VP-Curriculum and Strategic Initiatives (CSI)
- II. Opening Remarks and Quorum Check: Dr. William Benner
- III. Review and Motion for Approval of March 26th Meeting Minutes: Dr. William Benner
  - a. Motion by: Dr. Kristine Morris
  - b. Seconded by: Dr. Tina Gumienny
- IV. Faculty and Program Awards Notification:
  - a. Dr. William Benner notified the UG Council of the award winners for the academic year 2024-2025.
    - i. Undergraduate Council Service Award - Dr. Kyle Biggerstaff
    - ii. Undergraduate Council Innovative Programming Award – B.A. in Music (EC-12 Music Certificate, Mariachi Emphasis) – Dr. Vicki Baker, Dr. Carter Biggers, Mr. Jason Molina, Dr. Pamela Youngblood, Mr. Michael Burris
- V. UG Council sub-committees' update: Dr. William Benner
  - a. Program Review: Dr. Jerry Burkett
    - i. Art History and Visual Culture Minor: Modification  
This minor got caught up in the integration with the CIM system and there was some missing information that we need clarity on.  
  
**Scott Martin** The minor exists in the catalog had a board options on which art history course could be taken to fulfil the requirements and it became an issue with advisors that they were sending add/drop forms to the registrar's office.  
  
**Dr. Colby Parsons:** Currently this is our only minor that is left that gives the students broad range to pick any classes for this program and we feel that with the modifications this gives students clarity with specific classes and provides better groundwork to understand the upper-level classes. The required courses would give the student a better context for upper-level classes.  
  
**Approved by Council**
    - ii. Accelerated B.S. in Sociology/M.A. in Sociology  
**Dr. Jerry Burkett:** Will there be additional faculty needed?  
  
**Dr. Williams:** No, we do not expect to need additional faculty. We want to start slow and grow the program over 3-4 years. We want to admit strong students who have a good potential for success. We are requiring a recommendation from a Sociology faculty member and a GPA of at least 3.5.  
  
**Approved by Council**
    - iii. B.S/B.A. in Political Science – All four degrees will be presented together but voted on separately.



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**Dr. Jerry Burkett:** Are the student learning objectives more aligned with the Legal Studies versus the Politics Policy?

**Jennifer Danley-Scott:** The learning objectives are generally more aligned with preparing students to work in the public sector. Political Science is still reviewing the learning objectives for Texas and American government, which will be the next step in our process. This is especially important since many of the courses focus on women, and we are waiting to see what the state legislature decides. Additionally, due to the recent faculty retirements, there is an increased focus on ensuring that the courses offered align with both student needs and institutional goals.

**Dr. William Benner:** If a student wants to go on to law school is there one in particular that is attractive to that student or is it pretty flexible that you get a little bit of everything with these degrees?

**Jennifer Danley-Scott:** They get a little bit of everything, but when you start to look at what's in the Legal Studies emphasis, they are taking far more classes in criminal law. For example, if they're interested in gender, they might take the *Gender Identity and the Law* course. They'll also take *Constitutional Rights and Criminal Justice*, compared to someone pursuing the Politics, Policy, and Public Service emphasis, who might take more courses like *Women in Politics*—hopefully, we can continue offering that one. That emphasis focuses more on helping students understand policy and advocacy—areas that differ somewhat from the writing and legal preparation typically geared toward law school. Our students generally go in two directions.

1. B.S. in Political Science (Politics, Policy and Public Service Emphasis)

**Approved by council**

2. B.S. in Political Science (Legal Studies)

**Approved by council**

3. B.A. in Political Science (Politics, Policy and Public Service Emphasis)

**Approved by council**

4. B.A. in Political Science (Legal Studies)

**Approved by council**

- iv. B.A.S. in Culinary Science: Name Change – The proposed name change reflects a shift toward a degree more focused on food service education, transitioning into culinary and food science-based courses. This makes the B.A.S. more marketable and better aligned with industry needs, including FDA guidance and government regulations. No changes to the curriculum or additional faculty are required.

**Approved by council**

- b. Assessment: Ms. Aubri Thurmond - The assessment committee completed two projects this year:
  - i. A backward design workshop led by Jennifer Danley-Scott and Dr. Gray Scott. It was attended by 21 faculty members, including 7 adjuncts who were intentionally targeted; stipends were provided for their participation.
  - ii. A campus resource flyer on changing majors was created. It will be distributed by faculty at the beginning of each semester through the Student Prosperity Imperative, which is connected to the Momentum Strategic Plan.
- c. Academic Policy Advisory: Dr. Matt Brown – no updates
- d. Course Proposal Review: Dr. Joy Spadachene - no updates



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VI. Administrative Updates Process for UG Council 2025-2026: Dr. Jorge Figueroa

a. Undergraduate Council Members ending their terms

Name	Term	Name	Term
Dr. Tina Gumienny*	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dr. Maria Barua	1 <sup>st</sup>
Dr. Niki Fogg*	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dr. Joy Spadachene	1 <sup>st</sup>
Dr. Jerry Burkett	1 <sup>st</sup>	Dr. Kathryn Cantrell	1 <sup>st</sup>

**\*Completed two full terms**

b. Elections for Chair and Vice Chair: Dr. Jorge Figueroa ran the elections for Chair and Vice-Chair.

i. Chair Nominees

1. Dr. William Benner – Elected as Chair for 2025-26 UGC
2. Dr. Jerry Burkett

ii. Vice Chair Nominees

1. Dr. Aimée Myers – Elected as Vice Chair for 2025-26 UGC

VII. Closing Remarks: Dr. Jorge Figueroa reminded the UG Council to stay informed about updates from the Texas Legislature. Additionally, he expressed gratitude to the UG Council for its exceptional service during this academic year. He acknowledged the efforts and support given to the UG Council by the Office of Curriculum and Strategic Initiatives members.

VIII. Adjourn: The re-elected chair of the UG Council for the academic year 2025-2026, Dr. William Benner, asked for a motion to adjourn.

- a. Motion by: Dr. Joy Spadachene
- b. Seconded by: Dr. Kyle Biggerstaff
- c. Adjourned 3:08 pm