



**Undergraduate Council Agenda**  
**February 25, 2026**  
**2:30 PM-4:00 PM**

- I. Welcome and Opening Remarks and Quorum Check: Dr. William Benner, Chair
- II. Review and approval of December Minutes: Dr. William Benner, Chair
  - a. Motion to approve: Dr. Addison Babineau
  - b. Second: Dr. Ashley Bender
- III. Sub Committee Introductions and Updates
  - a. Course Proposal Sub-Committee: Dr. Joy Spadachene, Chair
    - i. These two courses, UNIV 1333 and UNIV 1233, are a split and refocus of UNIV 1231, with 1333 focusing on connections and interdisciplinary concepts and artifacts, and 1233 focusing on workforce readiness and disciplinary expertise.

Dr. Jackie Hoermann-Elliott: Where this is coming from is that faculty, adjuncts, and students want more time to cover the material. The thought is to offer a few of each section this Fall as a pilot and see how they go. We know that teaching a 1SCH it adds to the workload and also does not pay well. We would work this into the faculty member's workload, and it would be 3 SCH rather than a one-hour course at \$1,000. The long-term vision is that, after piloting the new 3SCH, it will align with programs that currently offer a 2SCH, adding the 1SCH of UNIV 1231 to their degree plan These programs could offer a new 3SCH UNIV embedding their 2SCH content.
    - ii. UNIV 1233: FYS Profession and Purpose

This course will be more career-focused and will feature more faculty in the subject area to teach at 3 SCH. Also, they will be able to tailor the course to the subject needs and focus more on the competencies in their discipline.

Approved by the council
    - iii. UNIV 1333: FYS Passion and Purpose

UNIV 1333 will be more of an academic seminar/passion topic course. So with the discussions and feedback from folks; Dr. Bender: Romantasy UNIV and Dr. Myers: First & Fearless: Owning Your Journey as a First-Gen College Grad, From Cradle to Capstone: Mastering the College Journey as a Parent or Caretaker, No Half-Steppin: Hip Hop Literacies for Surviving the College Grind Straight Outta Orientation, and Pedagogy in Pictures: How Cinema Defines the Educator and the Student. There are so many options that a faculty member could choose from.

Question: Dr. Benner: This is ideally for full-time faculty, lecturers, and professors to teach these courses. Will there be an instance that graduate assistants could teach? Dr. Elliott: Maybe, there have been some discussions that we could eventually get to where graduate assistants



could teach some of these passion courses, like with Multiculture, Women's and Gender Studies graduate students helping in teaching after the first year or two of the pilot being successful.

Approved by the council

- b. Program Review Sub-Committee: Dr. Jerry Burkett, Chair
    - i. In both programs, there was a very simple change: they expanded the list of courses for their concentration. The idea of expanding the course list is to create a cohesive, career-focused pathway that reflects the multidisciplinary nature of the degree program. Both fields are of high interest and support workforce preparation in community health, wellness, education, family services, and the health professions. The program better meets the needs of students seeking applied, integrative academic experiences.
    - ii. B.S. Multidisciplinary Studies: Kinesiology  
Approved by the council
    - iii. B.S. Multidisciplinary Studies: Human Development and Family Studies  
Approved by the council
  - c. Assessment Sub-Committee: Ms. Aubri Thurmond, Chair
    - i. No updates this meeting
  - d. Academic Policy Advisory Sub-Committee: Dr. Jackie Hoermann-Elliott
    - i. Our colleagues have given us something to work on. We will be reviewing the language regarding the Undergraduate Council Awards. The description and criteria are being reviewed for the Undergraduate Council Award for Innovative Program and Service Award. We are working hard to get that updated so we can present it to the council soon.
- IV. TWU Undergraduate Studies Updates: Dr. Brandi Falley
- a. The curriculum review is at 69% submitted, so congratulations to all who have been involved in getting everything submitted.
  - b. General Education Council Update: The BOR approved the convening of this council. Dr. Bauer did send the announcement about who is on the council: Provost Bauer is to chair the council, and she will be joined by the Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Executive Director of Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship, Dr. Nancy Chick. The other members will be one faculty member from each college. The College of Arts & Sciences will have two representatives; there will also be two industry representatives (one from healthcare) and one community leader. The representatives from the colleges have been identified, and Dr. Bauer sent an announcement to faculty after the Board of Regents approved the committee structure on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. The industry and community representatives are still being identified, and the first council meeting is soon.
- V. Other Business:



UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL  
TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY

- a. Council awards will be announced at the April meeting. Dr. Hoermann-Elliott mentioned the updates to the rubric and guidelines for both the Faculty Service Award and Innovative Program Award.
  - b. Handbook updates will be revised for future councils as the leadership transition at the end of the semester, both Dr. Benner and Dr. Myers will be rolling off the council at the end of this academic year.
  - c. Inclusive Excellence Syllabi Workshop will be digitized and housed on the Undergraduate Studies website, Drs. Bender and Myers are currently working to update and digitize this workshop so it will be accessible to all before the end of the academic year.
- VI. Adjourn at 2:57 pm
- a. Motion to adjourn: Dr. Ashley Bender
  - b. Second: Dr. Jackie Hoermann-Elliott

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, March 25, 2026**