

Texas Tech Ethics Center Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes – November 19, 2010

The Texas Tech University (TTU) Ethics Center Advisory Committee met to discuss and welcome members recently appointed to the new committee and recognize members transitioning from the QEP Steering Committee to the new TTU Ethics Center Advisory Committee. All those in attendance were asked to introduce themselves and indicate their position and college. All those in attendance at that time were:

Dr. Valerie Paton, Office of the Provost (Chair); Justin Louder, Ethics Center Ex-Officio; Dr. Tom Knight, College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources; Gary Smith, College of Architecture; Dr. Catherine Duran, Jerry S. Rawls College of Business Administration; Dr. Joann Klinker, College of Education; Dr. Bill Lawson, Edward E. Whitacre Jr. College of Engineering; Dr. Gary Elbow, Honors College; Dr. Cherif Amor, College of Human Sciences; Tai Kreidler, Texas Tech University Libraries; Dr. Kevin Stoker, College of Mass Communications; Dr. Jonathan Marks, College of Visual & Performing Arts; Archie Ruiz-Columbie, University College; Michael Hatfield, School of Law; Donell Callender, Faculty Senate; Bruce Bills, Staff Senate; Beverly Pinson, Staff Senate; Dr. Jan Childress, Division of Enrollment Management & Student Affairs; Dr. Alice Young, Office of the Vice President for Research; Dr. Judi Henry, Texas Tech Athletics.

Immediately following Dr. Valerie Paton proceeded to discuss the past history and the direction that the Ethics Center is going. She stated that: There are people around the table who years ago did the initial work on identifying the topic for the SOS-COC or Quality Enhancement Plan; SAC changed all their regulations in 2004 and part of their requirements was that institutions devise and execute a five-year Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP): pick a certain student learning issue and focus on improving it over five (5) years. It turned out being important to us (TTU) not also much for accreditation reasons as for instructional, cultural, change, and Identity reasons. Starting in 2003-2004, the QEP effort has made deep institutional impact. We celebrated the formal end of the 5-year QEP plan last March-April, and we will be reporting out in the SACS 5th-year report, in which we have 10 pages to talk about how the Quality Enhancement Plan impacted student learning at TTU. We had an external reviewer who reviewed the QEP impact statement and, after gutting it, we reorganized. Dr. Paton stated that the University is extremely proud of the work that has been done, to the point that the Provost has recommended that the QEP effort be submitted in October to CHEA as a national model for students learning in Ethical Reasoning Development.

We have a new Mission Statement that has Ethics at its center, a new core values statement with a significant ethical component for the University, and we have an academic integrity policy coming out soon. The new strategic plan is posed to emphasize this dialog around Ethics. We wanted to take the next step and evolve to the next place. The TTU Ethics Center has been active and engaged all across campus and carrying on a lot of activities that we see from the QEP but a little more focused. The next step would be to have an Advisory committee. We wanted representation from every college and it is going to be a large group. Every college has a voice on how ethics impacts your curriculum environment, how it impacts research here at Texas Tech, and what students leave here with.

Justin Louder was given the floor to update everyone about some of the work to date. He pointed out that everyone was given several papers to review.

Justin explained that up to this point the Ethics Center has worked with several different scholars around campus to apply for NSF funding. The first one was a 5 million dollars grant for a National Center for Ethics. We did not receive funding for that one; it went to Chicago. Then along with Dr. Marcy we applied for a second NSF grant to look at *Ethics reasoning in Engineering; students both in school and those in practice out 1, 5, and 10 years*. We should receive information six months after the due date which is around Dec or early Jan. It could be a 2- or 3-year grant; we tried for the 3 years. It would fund research both internally here at Texas Tech, using the Defining Issues Test (the DIT), which has been used in the past here on campus, and some journaling activities for engineers out in the workforce. With Dr Marcy we thought it was a perfect time to look at it, especially with the disaster in the Gulf.

There has been a commitment for ongoing funding for the Ethics Center that will assist in accomplishing different programmatic things around campus. There has been quite a bit going on this past semester: different lunches and multiple lectures around campus on responsible conduct of research and on plagiarism. We have other presentations in the planning stages. In the next 2 weeks we will have a presentation in Louisville on the Matador Challenge; this time community service and leadership was the focus for the video and close to 60 videos (a record number) were submitted. The winning videos will be played at a TTU game and its makers will have lunch with the President the first part of December and then meet Coach Tuberville for photos. The Ethics video in which Coach Tuberville and President Bailey both appeared in has been shown approximately 20-minutes prior to kickoff at home football games. Ethical Insights is a newsletter with an update of activities in the Ethics Center. We again administered the McCabe Survey. The Red Raider Ethics Generator is a monthly or bi-monthly feature in the Daily Toreador, for which various people have written articles, and there are upcoming articles that will be written by others with different points of view. We had three different lunches sponsored with the TLTC, also this spring will have three more, and the Ethics Center in partnership with the Department of Philosophy hosted a guest speaker a few weeks ago.

Upcoming events were discussed and a handout has been provided to the members detailing future events.

Cathy Duran discussed the Academic Integrity Policy Statement and gave a synopsis of how Ethics will be incorporated throughout campus in various activities. The Board of Regents will view and vote to make it a part of the student handbook but separate from the Student Code of Conduct: a separate stand-alone document for academic integrity.

Those in attendance did not get to the Vision and Bylaws, but will look at scheduling another meeting in late January. Until then the committee was asked to think about Ethics recommendations.

Approved as amended by electronic vote – Feb 2011