

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL**  
Texas Tech University

Meeting of  
**March 17, 2015**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Katherine Austin, Bobbie Brown, Cathy Duran, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Stephen Ekwaro-Osire, Paul Goebel, Sheila Hoover, Lynn Huffman, Jorge Iber, Michelle Kiser, Savannah Leonard for Cindy Akers, Robin Lock, Justin Louder, Andrew Martin, Felicia Martin, Pat McConnel, Garrett McKinnon, Richard Meek, Ben Montecillo, Audra Morse, Alison Myhra, Catherine Parsonault, Jacob Price for Janessa Walls, David Roach, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart chair, Kevin Stoker, Vicki Walls

Guests: Jeff Barrington, Todd Chambers, Gary Elbow, Michael Farmer, Debbie Laverie, Angela Lumpkin, Jeff Mercer, Suzanne Tapp

Stewart called the meeting to order and asked that a moment of silence be observed in honor of retired TTU journalism professor Robert Wernsman, who had recently passed away.

Stewart then introduced the minutes from the February meeting. After some discussion, Farmer noted that the minutes of the March meeting should reflect some concern from the graduate school regarding the graduate certificate for informal science education, which was approved during the February Academic Council meeting. Upon conclusion of the discussion, Huffman moved to approve the February minutes as written, Morse seconded, and the motion was approved.

Lumpkin introduced a proposal for a Master of Science in Sport Management. She noted the Department of Kinesiology and Sport Management (the new title was still pending approval by THECB at the time of the March meeting) had degree authority for both Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Exercise and Sport Sciences, and that a Bachelor of Science in Sport Management had already been approved. Lumpkin said that ultimately both Exercise and Sport Sciences degrees would be renamed to Kinesiology to better associate the degrees with the departmental name change. After a brief discussion, Meek moved that the degree be approved as presented, Roach seconded, and the motion was approved.

The council heard proposals for accelerated bachelors-to-masters programs from both the Department of Civil Engineering and the Area of Finance. Morse noted that Civil Engineering wanted to retain more of its own students for graduate work, and that the American Society of Civil Engineers was pushing for licensed engineers to earn degree beyond the bachelor level. Mercer discussed the accelerated finance

degree, noting that such programs were becoming more common, and that the accelerated finance program was modeled after the Rawls College of Business' own accelerated accounting degree. Stewart noted that, as SACSCOC had temporarily suspended approval of accelerated bachelors-to-masters degrees pending an internal review of the accreditation process governing these programs, the accelerated degree plans could be approved by Academic Council but would be held in abeyance until such time as SACSCOC resolved the accreditation issues and approved the programs. Myhra moved to approve both programs as presented, Morse seconded, and the motion was approved.

Louder discussed a proposed agreement with Collin College in McKinney, Texas. The agreement would allow Texas Tech University to offer four "bachelor completer" degree programs at Collin College: the Bachelor of Arts in University Studies, the Bachelor of Science in University Studies, the Bachelor of General Studies, and the Bachelor of Science in Human Sciences. Students would complete the final two years of their upper division coursework at the Collin College campus in order to earn their degrees. As all degrees were currently on the books, Louder said the university hoped to begin offering the degree programs at Collin College in the fall 2015 semester. He added that the program mirrored others in operation at Texas Tech's Highland Lakes and Waco campuses, and that Collin College had initiated the proposal by seeking a partnership with Texas Tech. Louder said additional programs could be offered at the site as the Collin College campus grew to accommodate additional students. Huffman moved that the program be approved as proposed, Austin seconded, and the motion was approved.

Lock introduced a graduate certificate in Institutional Research/Institutional Effectiveness, which would be offered by the College of Education's Department of Educational Psychology, and would teach individuals how to perform program evaluation using a real-world approach to gathering and sharing data. After a brief discussion, Austin moved to table the certificate pending a review of the curriculum and an evaluation of the systems support availability that Texas Tech University's Institutional Research office could offer.

Roach introduced a graduate certificate in Grants and Proposals, to be offered by the Department of English. The 15-hour program would consist of existing courses but be structured in such a way as to prepare students in the discipline of grant and proposal writing. Morse moved that the certificate program be approved as presented, Meek seconded, and the motion was approved.

The College of Architecture proposed an undergraduate certificate in Preservation to be offered at the college's El Paso campus. The certificate would consist of existing face-to-face classes, and Louder said the college was seeking permission to package the courses into a certificate. Parsonault questioned whether "historic preservation" might be a more apt title. After further discussion, Meek moved to approve the certificate pending clarification of the title, Iber seconded, and the motion was approved.

The Council heard a couple of information items, beginning with Roach discussing an interdisciplinary minor in Literature, Social Justice and the Environment to be offered by the Department of English beginning with the fall 2015 semester.

A minor in Military Studies was also discussed. The minor would pair a number of military science courses with military history courses, appealing to both cadets in the Army ROTC program and possibly veterans, as well.

Louder discussed a change in modality to the Master of Education in Educational Leadership degree. Beginning with the fall 2015 semester, the program would be offered as a fully online degree. Roach moved to approve the modality change, Huffman seconded, and the motion was approved.

Huffman notified the council of a one-hour reduction in the credit hours for the Bachelor of Science in Restaurant, Hotel, and Institutional Management with Secondary FSC Teacher Certification in Hospitality, Nutrition, and Food Science. The new plan would require 126 hours instead of the 127 previously required. Lock moved to approve the credit hour reduction as proposed, Stoker seconded, and the motion was approved.

Huffman also notified the council of a proposal to change the name of the Department of Community, Family, and Addiction Services to the Department of Community, Family, and Addiction Sciences, a name the College of Human Sciences believed would better describe the program. Brown noted that the registration code would need to change because the Registrar's office would need to preserve the historical department code. After a brief discussion, Huffman moved to approve the name change as proposed, Morse seconded, and the motion was approved.

The council was apprised of a proposed policy change regarding the archiving and retention of old courses in the Blackboard system. Louder noted that the university did not currently have a policy on archiving completed courses, but that the new policy would match TTU's overall record of retention policy. Courses older than 2010 (as of spring 2015) would be purged in order to free up server space on the Blackboard system. Louder noted that the university would like to implement the new policy and "housecleaning" of old courses by the end of the spring 2015 semester, and only courses that had not been accessed for two years would be archived. After some discussion regarding the issue of faculty intellectual property rights, Huffman moved to approve the policy with the understanding that it adhere to the university's overall intellectual property policies, Farmer seconded, and the motion was approved.

Durham DeCesaro discussed a trio of policy proposals initially unveiled during the February Academic Council meeting. The first policy would raise the number of degree-applicable lower division transfer credit hours to 80 from 72. She noted that many peer institutions had no limits, but did mandate one-quarter of degree-

applicable hours to be taken in residence per SACSCOC requirements. She also noted the policy would become effective with the fall 2015 semester. Meek moved to approve the policy as presented, Brown seconded, and the motion was approved.

The second policy change amounted to a clarification of Workforce Education Course Manual (WECM) credit transferability, she noted. Many peer institutions had policies with clear stipulations of which types of WECM credit could and could not be transferred, and the new proposal would put in place policy limits, as well as stipulating under what circumstances Texas Tech University would accept WECM credit. Louder suggested adding language noting that WECM credit could only be applied toward the Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree. After a brief discussion, Louder moved to approve the policy as amended, Iber seconded, and the motion was approved.

Finally, Durham DeCesaro introduced a revision to the pass/fail policy that would simplify the policy and give departments more autonomy in what they would accept as pass/fail requirements for both majors and minors. She noted that the department “owning” the class would ultimately have the authority to decide whether or not it could be taken pass/fail, and that individual colleges would be free to adopt more stringent pass/fail requirements. Morse requested that the vote be delayed and taken electronically pending distribution of the final policy language. (Note: Stewart emailed council members on March 30, 2015 with the final policy language and called for a vote. With a quorum of members responding, the vote to approve the final policy language was approved.)

Brown updated the council on a proposal to change the timeline for registration. Beginning in November 2015, students would register for both spring and summer classes, instead of waiting until April to register for summer classes. Huffman lauded the change, opining that it would help students plan courses in advance. Morse moved to approve the proposal as presented, Roach seconded, and the motion was approved.

Durham DeCesaro discussed a proposed policy on documentation required to prove foreign language fluency for international students. She noted that some international students were having difficulty providing documentation of courses taken in non-English languages at the collegiate level. Since international students were already required to prove English fluency with adequate test scores on English-language examinations, the policy would allow international students to provide proof of non-English language courses taken at the high school-level. Morse suggested that the policy language be revised to further clarify the requirements, and called for an electronic vote on the modified policy. (Note: Stewart emailed council members on March 30, 2015 with the final policy language and called for a vote. With a quorum of members responding, the vote to approve the final policy language was approved.)

Laverie discussed a concern Rawls College of Business had with the writing intensive requirement. She noted the college would like to soften the requirements for students seeking double majors policy, which was adopted at the January Academic Council meeting. (That policy as adopted would require double majors to take nine hours of writing intensive courses in each major.) Laverie suggested modifying the policy so that the writing intensive requirements would apply to a degree, and not a major. Durham DeCesaro noted that such a uniform policy change might have unintended side effects, and Elbow noted that the writing intensive requirement itself was due to change to a communication intensive requirement as a result of the university's new QEP. Durham DeCesaro suggested modifying the policy so colleges could grant exceptions. After more discussion, Elbow proposed tabling the request until the communication intensive requirement had been brought to the council for consideration, and the request was tabled.

McKinnon presented the course approvals. After a brief discussion, it was noted that the number change from SOC 2324 to SOC 3324 would necessitate the course's removal from the core curriculum list, though it would remain as a course meeting the university's multicultural requirement. Additionally, Brown noted that the new course number should be SOC rather than the SCC that was entered. After a brief discussion, Roach moved to approve the courses as corrected, Morse seconded, and the motion was approved.

In other business not on the agenda:

- Parsonault provided the council with an update on SACSCOC reaffirmation. She said the university had received a draft of the reaffirmation committee's report to review for errors of fact. She noted the university had received six recommendations, and would receive the official report in short order. The university would then have most of the summer to prepare a response to the SACSCOC recommendations, and upon completion of the dossier the university's accreditation would be reaffirmed in December.
- Louder announced that the ODLE fee would be distributed promptly.
- Louder also requested that faculty seeking to use video as part of their online programs should request captioning earlier rather than later, as last-minute captioning of video would be more expensive.
- Stewart discussed centralizing certificates, and provided samples from the TTUHSC Printing Center of 8.5x11 inch certificates on official diploma paper.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.