

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Texas Tech University

Meeting of
October 20, 2015

MINUTES

Present: Cindy Akers, Stefanie Borst, Bobbie Brown, Adrienne Carnes, Michael Carter for Pat McConnel, Todd Chambers, Claudia Cogliser, Cathy Duran, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Keith Dye, Clifton Ellis, Cliff Fedler, Ryan Gibbs, Paul Goebel, Melanie Hart, Shelia Hoover, Jorge Iber, Darryl James, Michelle Kiser, Mitzi Lauderdale, Robin Lock, Ethan Logan, Justin Louder, Garrett McKinnon, Ron Milam, Audra Morse, Amy Murphy, William Pasewark, David Roach, Brian Shannon, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart chair, Kevin Stoker, Vicki West

Guests: Stephen Balch, Birgit Green, Debbie Laverie, Rodrick Thomas, Suzanne Tapp

Stewart called the meeting to order and presented the minutes from the September Academic Council meeting. Roach moved that the minutes be approved as presented, Iber seconded, and the motion was approved.

Balch presented information on the Institute for the Study of Western Civilization, the mission of which was to stimulate inquiry into what he described as the “big picture questions” about the origins, nature, and future of Western and global civilizations. He noted the institute created intellectual synergies with other Texas Tech University programs, and encouraged institutions of higher education throughout academe to address these questions. Balch said the Institute’s programming included lecture series, teacher enrichment programs, cultural enrichment programs, intellectual collaborations, and conferences.

Murphy gave a presentation on supporting and responding to the “Students of Concern” program. She noted that a folder had been mailed out to about 3,500 faculty and staff on campus with information regarding how to “triage” students of concern. The folder also contained information summarizing responsibilities of responding to students of concern. She asked faculty to intervene with lower-level academic concerns that should be handled within the college, but noted that any reports of sexual assault should be referred to appropriate parties.

Tapp offered a brief presentation regarding the Institute for Inclusive Excellence, and called for applications. The IIE promoted excellence in teaching through pedagogy training, with the first cohort in 2009.

Before moving on to other agenda items, Stewart noted that the minor in Natural Resources Management had been tabled by request of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

Durham DeCesaro shared updates from decisions made by THECB, including approval of the TTU program at Collin College in McKinney, Texas, a program that will offer B.S. and B.A. degrees in University Studies, as well as B.G.S. and B.S. degrees in Human Sciences. Additionally, the THECB had approved the M.S. degree in Sport Management, and approved the CIP code change for the M.S. degree in Information Systems.

Roach provided a lively update from a recent meeting of the THECB Undergraduate Advisory Committee, during which the committee announced a higher education strategic plan for the state of Texas. The plan called for four goals: 60 percent of Texans aged 25-34 would possess a certificate or degree by 2030 (Roach added that currently 38 percent of Texans possessed same); that at least 550,000 students in 2030 would complete a certificate, associate's degree, bachelor's degree, or master's degree from an institute of higher education; that all graduates from Texas public higher education institutions would have "marketable skills" by 2030 (Roach added that it will be up to those institutions to formulate a plan outlining marketable skills for every degree plan); and that undergraduate student loan debt would not exceed 60 percent of first-year wages for graduates of Texas public institutions by 2030.

Laverie and Thomas provided information on a proposed B.B.A. degree in Supply Chain Management. Previously the Rawls College of Business offered Supply Chain Management as a concentration, and Thomas noted that about 50 students a year graduated with the concentration, with 100 percent of those students finding employment. Thomas also noted that industry had indicated a need for more students with supply chain management education. After a brief discussion, Lock motioned to approve the degree as presented, Morse seconded, and the motion was approved.

Lock presented information on a memorandum of understanding between Texas Tech University and the Lubbock Independent School District that would establish an Early College High School on the campus of Estacado High School. She noted the project would initially provide dual-credit courses, but eventually move to a "school within a school" concept that would allow EHS students to earn up to 60 hours of college credit. LISD would pay \$50/credit hour for tuition, while Texas Tech University would seek additional funding from the state. Louder added that the university would have to notify community colleges and schools located within 50 miles that the dual credit program would exist. Lock said mostly core-curriculum type courses would be offered, and that the Provost's Office was working with the College of Arts and Sciences to offer English, Psychology, History, and Political Science courses as a starter curriculum. She said additional departments would be recruited to contribute faculty and courses to the program as it progressed. While the program would initially be staffed by TTU professors, she said the goal would be

for EHS teachers to teach the courses, though doing so would require that the EHS teachers possess a master's degree plus 18 hours of education (at a minimum) in the concentration they were teaching. Lock added that other early college high school programs had enjoyed success around the state. A discussion ensued during which the subject of student services was raised. One objection noted that because students in the early college high school program would technically be students at Texas Tech, they would be eligible for student services despite not paying any fees for those services. After additional discussion, Morse moved to submit the proposal to the Provost for full consideration, Coglisier seconded, and the motion was approved with three abstentions.

A separate memorandum of understanding was presented by Durham DeCesaro, this one concerning an agreement between Texas Tech University and the University of Texas that would find TTU partnering with UT to manage the latter's OnRamps Program in West Texas. Funding by a federal grant, the OnRamps program offered online learning opportunities to students in any high school that met requirements, with students eligible as early as the ninth grade. Durham DeCesaro noted that OnRamps targeted middle to high achievers (particularly those with an interest in the STEM fields, which research had shown sometimes struggle early in college), a different demographic than most college readiness programs. The OnRamps model involved a student enrolling in a year-long course in high school; if the student passed sufficient milestones in the fall, they would be enrolled in college credit courses for the spring. She said Texas Tech would receive some portion of a flat fee paid for the course. The proposal would identify courses in which students performed poorly during their first two years of college, namely statistics, and would work to develop OnRamps curriculum for the fall 2016 semester. She noted that UT would pay for all program costs through the summer of 2017, and that students would be transcribed with Texas Tech courses. The program would be branded OnRamps at Texas Tech University, and the program would run through the end of the 2018 term. After a brief discussion regarding the merits of the program, Stoker moved to submit the project to the Provost for full consideration. Fedler seconded the motion, which was approved with one abstention.

McKinnon provided an update of the course approvals for the month. With no reservations expressed by council members, Stoker moved to approve the courses as submitted, Akers seconded, and the motion was approved.

McKinnon also asked the council for a formal change in online catalog policy. Under the policy in effect, changes to the online course catalog website could be made at any time to reflect the most up-to-date information. However, this often caused confusion as the printed catalog contained differing information. McKinnon proposed that, beginning with the adoption of the Acalog catalog management system, the online catalog be presented as a static document, with changes only made in the event of egregious error. As Acalog would provide for the archiving of past "digital" catalogs, students would be allowed to access the information from

their catalog year in an online capacity. Goebel moved to approve the policy change as requested, Lauderdale seconded, and the motion was approved.

Durham DeCesaro presented a request to update the policy on section uniformity guidelines. After a brief discussion, Akers moved that the policy be approved as presented, Morse seconded, and the motion was approved.

Durham DeCesaro also presented a request to update the policy on grade replacement and course attributes. The policy would not be published anywhere, but would formalize the institution's standards regarding grade replacement of courses with attributes (i.e. Multicultural Requirement, core curriculum, etc.). Morse moved to approve the policy as presented, Chambers seconded, and the motion was approved.

In other business:

- Stewart clarified that student absences for university-sponsored activities applied to ANY university-sponsored event, be it academic, athletic, or social event. Goebel noted that the policy did not clarify, however, exactly what constituted "university-sponsored). Stewart noted that student groups (e.g. fraternities or clubs) were excluded from the policy, but student groups sponsored by the institution (e.g. the Student Government Association) were not excluded from the policy. After further discussion, Stewart noted that the Provost's Office would review the policy and submit for discussion at a future meeting.
- Stewart also discussed common final exam periods, and noted that for the spring 2016 semester there would be no room for **additional** common final exam periods that required more than two sections to meet simultaneously. He added that the lack of physical space for final exams might require an expansion of final exam week or a shortening of exam periods, and that further discussion was needed.

With no other business requiring the Council's attention, Stewart adjourned the meeting.