

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Texas Tech University

Meeting of
May 17, 2016

MINUTES

Present: Savannah Chambers for Cindy Akers, Stefanie Borst, Bobbie Brown, Adrienne Carnes, Todd Chambers, Tim Dallas, Cathy Duran, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Keith Dye, Jamie Hansard, Brandon Hennington for Patricia Vitela, Sheila Hoover, Lynn Huffman, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Darryl James, Michelle Kiser, Mitzi Lauderdale, Robin Lock, Justin Louder, Pat McConnel, Garrett McKinnon, Audra Morse, William Pasewark, David Roach, David Roach, Ben Sharp, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart chair, Kevin Stoker, Roger Terry for Vicki West, Janessa Walls, Mary Frances Weatherly, Vicki West, Aliza Wong

Guests: Christy Blakney, Scott Hein, Brenda Martinez, Craig Morton

Durham DeCesaro called the meeting to order after Stewart had been temporarily delayed, and introduced the minutes from the April meeting. Huffman moved that the minutes be accepted as presented, Morse seconded, and the motion was approved.

Pasewark discussed a proposed M.S. in Finance degree, noting that a critical mass of students existed who were seeking such a degree. He noted the degree would replace the M.S. in Business Administration with a finance concentration. Lock moved to approve the degree as presented, Stoker seconded, and the motion was approved.

McKinnon presented the course approvals for May. With no corrections noted, Wong moved to approve the courses as presented, Chambers seconded, and the motion was approved.

[Note: The courses approved during the meeting were all undergraduate courses, as graduate course approvals had not yet been logged. Pursuant to the May Academic Council meeting, Graduate Council approved graduate courses, and a summary of graduate course approvals was submitted to Academic Council for discussion and approval by electronic vote. Huffman moved to approve the graduate courses as presented, Stoker seconded, and after a quorum of votes had responded in the affirmative to Dr. Stewart via email, the motion was approved.]

McKinnon presented an update on the Acalog-based electronic catalog. After issues were raised by users regarding necessary changes to the system, an Addendum page was added and any changes to the electronic catalog made subsequent to the publishing of the printed catalog were logged and recorded. McKinnon noted that

colleges could continue to make changes and corrections to the content on their sites until the end of June, and that changes to courses effective during the Spring 2017 semester would be accepted until the October 2016 Academic Council meeting.

Huffman discussed a proposal to update the CIP codes for Nutritional Science degrees. The old CIP code, which had been in place for many years, listed the degrees as food and nutrition. Huffman said a change to nutritional science CIP codes would reflect that the programs were now STEM programs. After a brief discussion, Morse moved to approve the CIP codes as presented, Wong seconded, and the motion was approved.

Roach announced an informational item regarding a new concentration in Environmental Geology that would be part of the Geosciences B.S. degree.

Louder discussed a proposal to allow B.A.A.S. degrees and B.H.S. degrees at Hill College in Cleburne, one of Texas Tech University's partner campuses. He noted the degrees would be a mixture of face-to-face and online courses, and that the proposal would have to pass muster with THECB, though a MOU had already been signed. Stoker noted a concern regarding Hill College faculty teaching TTU courses, and Louder indicated that the department chair and dean of colleges offering classes through TTU Hill College would have the opportunity to vet faculty at remote campuses prior to hiring them to teach TTU courses.

Durham DeCesaro provided an update on the form for the grade of incomplete. She noted the form was still under review, and that she hoped to have a final version ready for Academic Council to vote on during the July 2016 meeting, whereupon it could be adopted for utilization during the fall 2016 semester.

Durham DeCesaro also discussed commencement, noting that a record number of students would be graduating from Texas Tech during the May 2016 commencement exercises. She encouraged as many faculty as possible to participate, and said the Provost's Office would be providing snacks between commencement programs.

The council heard a request to consider adding specializations to diplomas, with the argument centered on the need for students to demonstrate exactly what degree they had earned, something especially critical to international students, since many international companies use diplomas as the basis for hiring. Discussion ensued, centering on department-level approval of the diplomas, the definition of what constitutes a "specialization." The Council discussed the need to formalize the term and the qualifications, especially since the terms for "specialization" and "concentration" seemed to be interchangeable. Durham DeCesaro said a proposal to unify the language in the catalog would be presented at the June 2016 Academic Council meeting, and that once the language had been streamlined, more consideration of adding the language to the diploma could take place.

Council members were informed about two new minors in the Department of Kinesiology and Sport Management: Athletic Coaching and Sport Management.

James noted that SACSCOC had communicated to the university that the addition of new or changes to existing tracks, concentrations, and specializations in a single degree program would no longer require notification.

Locke presented a proposal for a graduate certificate in Personalized Learning Methods. She noted the College of Education had been working with Dallas Independent School District, which had specifically requested the creation of such a certificate program. The fully online program would teach educators to utilize computer-based strategies to pinpoint student needs and address strengths and weaknesses of the students. Locke noted the program would be offered by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Because the graduate program would fall below the hours needed for THECB approval, it would only need Academic Council approval to proceed. Huffman moved that the certificate program be approved as presented, Chambers seconded, and the motion was approved.

Blakney discussed administrative holds and noted that a new code (TO) was being initiated for the fall. The new code would prevent students from receiving a diploma, but students under the hold would be allowed to attend commencement. The new hold would be applied to any student who owed a balance for any payments to the university. An automated process would remove the hold if the balance was paid online. She noted that students would receive adequate notification of the hold, and also noted that charges sometimes appeared on a student's account after commencement and/or receipt of diploma.

In other business:

- Durham DeCesaro updated the Council on THECB approval of the graduate certificate in Psychological Methods and Analysis.
- She also noted that the communication advisory committee was working to transition the university from the "Writing Intensive" requirement to "Communication Intensive" guidelines. While still in the planning period, the committee was drafting a comprehensive guide that would be presented to department chairs during late summer so faculty could be apprised of the pending changes during the fall 2016 semester. She said the committee hoped to present information to Academic Council during coming weeks.
- Stewart touched on the M.S. in Finance proposal. He noted that costs and funding tables on similar proposals in the future needed to be accompanied by a narrative to let THECB know where the figures originated, and commended Pasewark's team for including the narrative with their proposal. He also indicated a need to include a table noting expected full-time enrollment in the program, as TTU's Board of Regents wanted to know how the figures were estimated. James added that any program approved by the THECB needed about three additional months for approval by SACSCOC.

With no further business raised, Stewart adjourned meeting.