

ACADEMIC COUNCIL 1
Texas Tech University

Meeting of
July 19, 2016

MINUTES

Present: Kathy Austin, Adrienne Carnes, Todd Chambers, Claudia Cogliser, Vicki Coverstone, David Doerfert, Cathy Duran, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Keith Dye, Gary Elbow for Aliza Wong, Steve Frazee for Cindy Akers, Ryan Gibbs, Birgit Green, Jamie Hansard, Melanie Hart, Sheila Hoover, Lynn Huffman, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Elizabeth Inskip-Paulk, Michelle Kiser, Mitzi Lauderdale, Robin Lock, Justin Louder, Pat McConnell, Cheryl Hedlund for Garrett McKinnon, Alison Myhra, David Roach, Brian Shannon, Rob Stewart chair, Kevin Stoker, Susan Tomlinson, Patricia Vitela, Janessa Walls, Vicki West

Guests: Lindsay Inscore, Elizabeth McDaniel, Brenda Martinez

Stewart introduced the minutes from the June Academic Council meeting. Gibbs moved to approve the minutes as presented, Austin seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Louder led a discussion regarding proctoring online exams. A system tested by the university failed to meet certain criteria, including facial recognition or identification, and the contract with the vendor was cancelled. Louder said a second system called Software Secure was being pilot tested, adding that TTUHSC currently utilized the system.

Louder also discussed captioning of videos for online courses. He noted that his office had sent a memo to department chairs across the university alerting that the outsourcing of captioning costs \$2.08 per minute, and that the fee would be passed on to colleges. He also reminded those in attendance that the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education had renewed focus on captioning of online videos utilized in courses, and that those videos were required to be accessible for persons with hearing difficulties, even if students had not requested such accessibility.

Hart notified the Council that they were developing a strategic plan that would oversee policies regarding targeted announcements made on Blackboard, and asked for volunteers to serve on a committee that would assist with the strategic plan.

Hughes provided an update on retention initiatives, and noted that FTIC (or “first time in college”) student retention was up 1.5 percent, largely as a result of phone calls being made to encourage re-enrollment.

McDaniel notified Council members that students would be required to complete the Global Scholar Certificate (GSC, a product of the U.S. Department of Education) in order to receive multicultural credit for a Study Abroad course that did not include a built-in multicultural component. The Study Abroad course was also required to be a TTU course, McDaniel noted.

The Whitacre College of Engineering presented a proposal to change the name of the Department of Industrial Engineering to the Department of Industrial, Manufacturing, and Systems Engineering. The name change would better highlight the research goals of the department. After a brief discussion, Gibbs moved to approve the name change as proposed, Chambers seconded, and the motion was approved.

Durham DeCesaro provided an update from recent approvals by THECB, noting that the B.S. in Human Sciences and B.A.A.S. in Leadership offered at Hill College were approved, but that a semester credit hour reduction for the B.S. in Agribusiness, the B.S. in Agricultural and Applied Economics, and the B.S. in Food Science were still pending.

Hedlund presented the course approval for the month, which consisted of a course with a new prefix: LDR for Leadership. The course was developed by the Office of the Provost, but arose from the Marsha Sharp Academy through grant funding. Shannon discussed the oversight of the course and its content, noting that two students identified as team “captains” per varsity sport at the university would be recruited to participate in the course. Further discussion centered on the possibility of expanding the course to include participation by other leadership-based programs on campus. After additional discussion, Gibbs moved to approve the course as presented, Myhra seconded, and the motion was approved.

In other business, Stewart provided an update on the electronic course survey system, noting that some students would be allowed to begin using the course review system beginning with the second summer session. Durham DeCesaro also announced that an updated Core Curriculum list was available on the Provost’s website.

With no further business, Stewart adjourned the meeting.