ACADEMIC COUNCIL 1
Texas Tech University

Meeting of
October 18, 2016

MINUTES

Present: Kathy Austin, Ashlee Brown, Adrienne Carnes, Savannah Chambers for Cindy Akers, Todd Chambers, Claudia Cogliser, David Doerfert, Vicki Coverstone, Cathy Duran, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Keith Dye, Sheila Gray for Jamie Hansard, Saif Haq, Melanie Hart, Sheila Hoover, Lynn Huffman, Darryl James, Michelle Kiser, Mitzi Lauderdale, Robin Lock, Justin Louder, Felicia Martin, Pat McConnel, Garrett McKinnon, Jeff Mercer, Alison Myhra, Bill Pasewark, David Roach, Ben Sharp, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart chair, Janessa Walls, Aliza Wong

Guests: Brian Enderson, Nathan Hall, Angela Lumpkin, Brenda Martinez, Wendy Arnett

Stewart called the meeting to order and introduced the minutes from the September meeting. Duran requested a correction to reflect that it was her, not Austin, mentioned in the September minutes with respect to ad hoc committee formation. With no other corrections requested, Austin moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Dye seconded, and the motion was approved.

Sharp presented an update on Student Government Association (SGA) activities and priorities. He noted that one of SGA’s main functions is campus engagement, and that the organization had hosted multiple events in recent weeks with that function in mind, including a tailgate to promote the availability of financial aid, a presidential debate watch party, and a meeting with Texas Secretary of State Carlos Cascos. In addition, Sharp said SGA was creating a commission on student veterans and non-traditional students to seek to understand the unique issues facing these groups. He indicated a preliminary report would be made to Student Senate in February. Sharp also touched on SGA's diversity efforts, and called for nominations for students to serve as student regent or as the student representative to THECB.

Lumpkin presented a proposal for a Ph.D. in Exercise Physiology. Roach noted that the proposal was proactive and in keeping with national trends. The degree, which was scheduled for a fall 2018 implementation, met a national need, said Lumpkin, who added that the degree would emphasize prevention and healthy lifestyles, and would address a shortage of professional exercise physiologists. She said it was not an existing area of preparation at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, but indicated that conversations for collaboration were ongoing. After a brief discussion, Wong moved that the degree be approved as proposed, Doerfert seconded, and the motion was approved.
Lock presented a proposal to change the name of the Graduate Certificate in Dual Sensory Impairment to the Graduate Certificate in Deafblindness. The name change was in keeping with current trends regarding the study, she said. Chambers moved that the name change be approved, Huffman seconded, and the motion was approved.

Roach discussed a proposal to consolidate the B.S. in Zoology with the B.S. in Biology. He noted that the Zoology had been a low-producing degree program for a number of years, and that the College of Arts and Sciences would maintain its offering of zoology courses. A specialization in Zoology would then be available for the B.S. in Biology. James noted that SACSCOC would consider the move tantamount to the degree being phased out so the college would need to follow the steps inherent in that process. With no further discussion, Doerfert moved that the degree change be approved as presented, Wong seconded, and the Council approved the motion.

Dye presented a proposal to increase the semester credit hours for the Bachelor of Music degree to 124 from 121, a move he said was made in compliance with the THECB SCH hours limit for the degree. After a brief discussion, Wong moved to accept the hours increase as proposed, Huffman seconded, and the motion was approved.

McKinnon presented the summary of course approvals. GEOL 4351 and 5351, which had been tabled the previous month, were once again tabled, as Roach indicated the faculty member responsible for those courses had been unable to provide the requested information. With no further discussion, Chambers moved to approve the non-tabled courses as presented, Cogliser seconded, and the Council approved the motion.

Durham DeCesaro announced that the THECB had approved the M.S. in Finance degree.

Additionally, Durham DeCesaro asked for confirmation that the Communication Literacy Plan would be distributed prior to the February 2017 deadline. She also announced that the Registrar’s office would be updating coding for internship programs, and that comprehensive information on the move would be released at the November meeting.

Duran presented an information on the ad hoc excused absence committee. She noted that feedback indicated the current system of granting excused absences was by and large working based on discussions with faculty and students. She indicated that minor changes meant to clarify the policy were forthcoming, and would be discussed at the next Associates Dean meeting.

In other business:
• Lauderdale provided an update on the workings of the ad hoc committee investigating the awarding of grades of X and I in Banner. She said initial findings had raised some concerns, and that unofficial recommendations were already being implemented. She said the committee was currently working on identifying potential causes of grades of X and I.

• Hall provided an informational item regarding the launching of a new concentration in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. The new companion animals concentration would not be restricted to ag majors, and would provide training for students wishing to enter the companion animal field.

• Durham DeCesaro noted that the convocations committee had received a request for a public marriage proposal during the December commencement ceremony and, as a result, adopted a policy that would allow marriage proposals in private spaces such as the practice court at dedicated times before or after the commencement ceremony, but that no sanctioned marriage proposals would be allowed during the ceremony.

• Durham DeCesaro noted that one course change proposal (ADRS 2327) had propagated through the Curriculog curriculum management system. Roach moved to approve the course as submitted, Chambers seconded, and the Council approved the proposal.

• Stewart encouraged faculty to apply for state teaching awards, noting that mid-career faculty, especially, could benefit from such awards.

• McKinnon noted that the 2017-2018 working catalog would be created in the Acalog catalog management system later during the month, and said training on the system was available.

With no further business raised, Stewart adjourned the meeting.