

ACADEMIC COUNCIL 1

Texas Tech University

Meeting of
November 15, 2016

MINUTES

Present: Thad Brock for Ben Sharp, Ashlee Brown, Adrienne Carnes, Savannah Chambers for Cindy Akers, Todd Chambers, Vicki Coverstone, David Doerfert, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Sheila Hoover, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Darryl James, Michelle Kiser, Mitzi Lauderdale, Elizabeth Massengale for Cathy Duran, Robin Lock, Mitchel Locke for Jamie Hansard, Justin Louder, Andrew Martin, Felicia Martin, Pat McConnel, Garrett McKinnon, Alison Myhra, Bill Pasewark, David Roach, Brian Shannon, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart chair, Patricia Vitela, Janessa Walls, Vickie West

Guests: Sam Jackson, Kristina Mitchell

Stewart called the meeting to order and presented the minutes from the October 2016 Academic Council meeting. With no corrections suggested, the minutes were approved by acclamation.

McKinnon presented the course approval summary. With no questions or revisions raised, T. Chambers moved to approve the courses as presented, Lauderdale seconded, and the motion was approved.

Durham DeCesaro announced that the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources had requested to remove NRM 4322 from the course deletion list. The course had been approved for deletion at the October Academic Council meeting, but the department was not yet prepared for its deletion. Doerfert moved that the class be restored, T. Chambers seconded, and the motion was approved.

The Council heard a proposal for a modality addition to the B.S. in Wind Energy. While the degree already existed, the proposal would add online modality to the program. Hughes noted that the online courses already existed. Concern was raised regarding the use of a single faculty member to oversee the program, with instructors utilized for the bulk of the instructional duties. Stewart noted that a proposal was under review by the office of the Provost to re-class the instructor positions. After a brief discussion, Lauderdale moved to approve the program as presented, Doerfert seconded, and the motion was approved.

Carnes discussed a proposal to bring back an Undergraduate Certificate in Accounting. She noted that the certificate was originally deleted due to a lack of resources, but the Rawls College of Business wanted to bring it back to provide students who are unable to major in accounting a backup plan. Pasewark moved

that the certificate be approved as proposed, Doerfert seconded, and the motion was approved.

Roach discussed a proposal to deliver a Master of Public Administration degree at regional sites, specifically the university's Collin campus. Mitchell explained that one-third of the classes would be delivered face-to-face at the regional site, one-third would be delivered synchronously via remote presentation, and one-third would be delivered online. She added that Lubbock students would be able to take the online courses on a case-by-case basis as warranted by work schedules or other circumstances. Louder added that the regional sites pay the salary for adjunct faculty who teach the courses. James raised the point that since the adjunct faculty at Collin did not possess a terminal degree, SACSCOC would need justification in the form of transcripts in order for the adjunct instructor to teach graduate level courses for the degree. After a brief discussion, the proposal was tabled pending a review of the adjunct instructor's transcripts.

In informational items:

- Louder noted that an online modality was being added to the minor in Women's Studies.
- Louder also noted that the Bachelor of Science in Human Sciences would be offered at the Waco campus. The degree had been approved for offering at other regional sites, but the Waco campus had been omitted from the approved list in an oversight.
- T. Chambers noted that the Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies would be offered at the Waco campus. He noted that the courses had been offered at the campus for a while, but students were requested a full degree. He said the program was structured so that all lower-division courses were taken through McLennan Community College and all upper-division courses were taken at the campus through Texas Tech University. Louder noted that the Waco campus now offered eight degrees, and represented the university's largest regional site.

Durham DeCesaro discussed a new policy regarding academic standing that would provide students with more opportunities and resources to improve their academic standings. Major policy highlights would include: 1) the lack of an attend-while-suspended policy; 2) summer would be considered a single term; 3) two levels of dismissal (two-year and permanent) would be implemented. She added that the policy would likely result in a bump in attendance for the spring 2018 semester, and that much communication with advisors would be necessary to ensure they had the correct information. She noted that transfer course work would not impact a student's TTU GPA, something advisors would need to understand before discussing academic standing with students. She said the proposal put the emphasis on students taking advantage of individual college recovery plans, as well as grade replacement. Shannon suggested a minor language change. After further discussion, Iber moved to approve the policy as proposed and amended, T. Chambers seconded, and the motion was approved.

Lauderdale provided an update on recommendations from the ad hoc committee investigating grades of X and I. She said the committee had opted to focus specifically on current students initially, with their stated goal to fix active students' grades by the beginning of the spring semester. She said the committee recommended doing nothing with regard to inactive students, as the grades of X or I were not creating an issue. Roach questioned the proposal to allow faculty to award a grade even if a student did not finish a semester, and Lauderdale explained the policy change was meant to allow faculty members the option of assigning a grade so long as the work missed at the end of a semester would not cause the student to fail. Iber said he supported the current policy of allowing an I to revert to an F after one year, while Louder noted that ultimately it was up to faculty to award a grade, and the proposed policy simply allowed faculty the option of awarding something other than an F. Lauderdale said the committee would move forward with specific policy and OP changes.

McKinnon proposed a revision to the catalog printing, with a large batch of undergraduate-only catalogs printed for distribution at Red Raider Orientation, and a smaller batch of combined undergraduate and graduate catalogs printed for distribution to faculty, staff, and potential graduate students. After a lengthy discussion, the consensus was that the catalog should be maintained in its current format of combined graduate and undergraduate sections.

Durham DeCesaro noted that the THECB had approved the name change of the J.T. and Margaret Talkington College of Visual and Performing Arts, as well as a reduction in the semester credit hours required for the B.S. in Multidisciplinary Studies to 120 hours from 123.

In other business, Brock from the Student Government Association noted that applications for student regent and THECB student representative were still being accepted.

With no additional business raised, Stewart adjourned the meeting.