

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Texas Tech University

Meeting of November 21, 2017
1:30 PM, Provost Conference Room

MINUTES

Present: Cindy Akers, Dennis Arnett, Stefanie Borst, Bobbie Brown, Jim Bret Campbell, Adrienne Carnes, Todd Chambers, David Doerfert, Cathy Duran, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Paul Frazier, Kristi Gaines, Sheila Gray for Jamie Hansard, Greg Glaus, Saif Haq, Annette Hernandez, Lynn Huffman, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Darryl James, Michelle Kiser, Amy Koerber, Sean Lewis for Robbie Meyer, Robin Lock, Justin Louder, Pat McConnel, Garrett McKinnon, Alison Myhra, Bill Pasewark, David Roach, Brian Shannon, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart chair, Patricia Vitela, Janessa Walls, Aliza Wong

Guests: Christy Blakney, Carlos Carpio, Stephen Devadoss, Jeff Lee, Brenda Martinez, Eduardo Segarra

Action Items:

1. Associate Deans are asked to encourage faculty in their colleges' academic units to participate in the December Commencement ceremonies.
2. Associate Deans are asked to review the proposed revisions to the academic calendars in preparation for a discussion and vote at the December Academic Council meeting.

Stewart called the meeting to order and asked guest and substitute attendees to introduce themselves.

Stewart next introduced Provost Galyean, who discussed a proposal to establish a School of Veterinary Medicine under the auspices of the Office of the Provost. Galyean said the process was complex, and that the next step would be to seek formal approval by the Texas Tech Board of Regents and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). Afterward, initial accreditation would be sought. Galyean added that the new school would be a professional program akin to the Texas Tech School of Law. Durham DeCesaro said the current proposal would result in the creation of an administrative unit only, and that degrees awarded by the school would be proposed and approved separately. After a brief discussion, Akers moved to approve the creation of the School of Veterinary Medicine as proposed, Chambers seconded, and the motion was approved.

Stewart introduced the minutes of the October Academic Council meeting. Hearing no calls for changes, Huffman moved to approve the minutes as submitted, Koerber seconded, and the motion was approved.

Lee discussed a proposal to increase the semester credit hour requirements for the M.S. in Geography. Lee said the degree had originally been set up as a 30-hour program, but the Department of Geosciences wanted to increase the program to 36 hours to correspond with

similar master's degrees offered by the department. He indicated the hours increase would allow for the possible creation of a non-thesis option in the future. Roach moved to approve the hours increase as proposed, Doerfert seconded, and the motion was approved.

Durham DeCesaro discussed a number of program changes submitted through the online curriculum management system, including:

- A proposal to create a minor in Applied Political Economy, a multidisciplinary minor administratively overseen by the College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources (CASNR) and offering courses from within CASNR, the College of Arts & Sciences, and the Rawls College of Business. Durham DeCesaro noted that the 18-hour minor did not require a vote of approval.
- A proposal to change the Bachelor of General Studies degree offered by the Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts to the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Arts. Steele said the degree would have the same basic structure, but the new name would better differentiate the degree from other Bachelor of General Studies degrees offered by the university. Durham DeCesaro noted that if the THECB did not approve the degree as named, the university would propose changing the degree to a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Arts. Wong moved that the degree name be approved as proposed, Koerber seconded, and the motion was approved.
- A Law School plan to offer the Emerging Technologies Law certificate program online, a modality change only. Durham DeCesaro noted the proposal did not require a vote.
- A proposal by Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts to delete the undergraduate minor and concentration in Interdisciplinary Design, Art and Technology. Durham DeCesaro indicated that no vote was required, and that no students were presently enrolled in the minor.
- Lock discussed a proposal to reduce the semester credit hours required for the Ph.D. in Higher Education Research from 96 hours to 90 hours. She said the College of Education had found a way to combine certain courses in order to reduce the hours required. Doerfert moved to approve the hours reduction as proposed, Akers seconded, and the motion was approved.
- Rawls College of Business proposed a change to the undergraduate certificate in Management Information System. The new title would be Information Technology, a name more widely accepted in industry, Pasewark said. No vote was required to approve the proposal.
- A proposal to reduce the SCH in the EdD in Higher Education from 96 to 90 was considered via electronic vote during the week after the meeting. The proposal was approved.

With those programs discussed and approved, Durham DeCesaro discussed proposed revisions to the Core and Multicultural curricula. She indicated seven courses (COMS 2310, ENGL 2310, ENGL 2381, ENGL 2382, ENGL 2383, ITAL 2307, and PHIL 2322) would be added to the Language, Philosophy, and Culture area of the core; one course (EDIT 2318) would be added to the Mathematics and Logic area of the core; two courses (ANTH 2304 and ENGL 2312) would be added to the Multicultural area of the core; two courses (ANTH 2304 and COMS 1310) would be added to the Social and Behavioral area of the core; and three English courses (ENGL 2305, 2306 and 2308) would be deleted from the LPC area of the core. She also noted that two

courses were undergoing administrative changes (a title change to EDLL 2300 and a contact hours/activity change to ENGL 1301). The changes had been approved by the Core and Multicultural committee, and would be submitted to THECB for approval.

McKinnon discussed the course approvals submitted via the online curriculum management system, noting that a late correction request had been submitted separately for EDLL 2300. After a brief discussion, Huffman moved to approve the courses as amended, Doerfert seconded, and the motion was approved.

Brown launched a discussion on a proposal to revise prefixes and courses numbers for affiliated and reciprocal study abroad courses. Brown suggested that reciprocal study courses be identified as RCP and affiliated courses be identified as AFF to allow for easier identification of both course category types. Adding the hours number to the course number would also allow for easier identification of the hours taken. She noted that affiliated courses are those taken by students at a foreign institution and then transferred to Texas Tech University for either direct equivalence or block credit, while reciprocal courses were those taken by TTU students at foreign schools for direct equivalence only and in exchange for foreign students being allowed to take courses at Texas Tech. Blakney noted that the reciprocal courses were not always a one for one swap, but did need to average out equally over a five-year period. Brown said the majority of students chose to take affiliated courses, and that students interested in study abroad courses still needed to confer with the Office of International Affairs to select and take study abroad courses. Brown said that faculty-led TTU courses would keep existing prefixes and course numbers. After a brief discussion, Stewart called for a vote. Wong moved to approve the prefix and course number revision as presented, Akers seconded, and the motion was approved.

Borst discussed a new major code, ASAT (for Arts & Sciences Academic Transition). The degree code would represent a non-degree program for Arts & Sciences students in academic recovery. She noted that due to higher GPA requirements in some Arts & Sciences departments (Biology, Kinesiology and Sport Management, and Geosciences), some students might not qualify for admittance into the degree program, so the new major code would help classify students while they raised their GPAs to the point where they could be re-enrolled in their major of choice. She said there were no associated classes, and that just the major code was under development. Louder inquired about the possibility of expanding the major code to online and regional campuses, to which Borst responded positively and offered to discuss with Louder. Roach asked about the maximum length of time students could be assigned to the code, to which Borst replied that students could only be assigned to ASAT for a maximum of one year, and that one semester was the preferred timeline. She added that by the time students reach the point of being assigned to ASAT, they had already had at least one semester of probation.

Durham DeCesaro discussed HB 1508, a new state law that required universities to notify applicants or enrollees that students with criminal histories might not be eligible to receive licensure in certain professional fields such as engineering or teaching. She said the university was developing a strategy to notify new students in compliance with the law, and that a statement was being distributed on the ApplyTexas website with a check box requiring students to verify that they had read the warning. She said Admissions would notify students who were impacted retroactively, that International Affairs would add the language to applications for

enrollment for international students, and that the Graduate School was adding the requisite language to its graduate admissions forms. She said a longer version of the language was available from the Provost's Office if colleges or departments had any interest in adding it to their websites.

Durham DeCesaro also offered a word of appreciation for those who had responded to her call for nominations to the THECB's field of study committees. She said THECB was trying to align two- and four-year degree programs to ensure that students enrolled in a two-year degree in, for example, marketing, would be allowed to transfer all successfully completed marketing courses if they subsequently enrolled in a four-year degree in marketing at an in-state, public university.

Durham DeCesaro also encouraged faculty members to attend the upcoming December commencement ceremony. She also said that the commencement committee was soliciting a new slate of college readers after having received a comment that all the readers at the August ceremony had been male. She said the committee was looking for a diverse slate of readers to represent the various academic units.

In other business:

- Stewart asked for any observations in light of the previous day's report of a possible explosive device at Talkington Hall. He said he believed emergency management officials would be looking into how notifications were sent and the possible ramifications of attempting to recall students after initial messages had encouraged evacuation.
- Stewart noted that the Chief Financial Officer's office had analyzed above-base funding for summer 2017 and found that \$3 million had been added to the previously approved summer budget, but the university had experienced a total SCH enrollment decline of some 4,000 hours. He said there was a meaningful discrepancy between what was believed to have been needed and what had been needed in reality, and that the Provost's Office would be examining the strategy or lack of strategy that accounted for the discrepancy. He said the hope was that a more systematic approval process for above-base funding could be developed in the future.
- Stewart reminded those in attendance that the SmartEvals electronic course evaluation platform was open for students, and that the traditional paper-and-pencil method would no longer be used. He reminded associate deans to get the message out to faculty that they could send out reminders in addition to the automated reminders being sent to students, and that faculty could take a portion of a class period to allow students to complete evaluations via SmartEvals so long as the faculty were not present in the classroom at the time.
- Stewart noted that the President's Excellence in Teaching and President's Excellence in Research professorship applications were under review, and that recommendations would be forwarded to the Provost by the end of January or early February. After review by the Provost, recommendations would be forwarded to the President, with professorship awards announced during faculty convocation in April.
- McKinnon noted that the 2018-2019 working catalog had been created in the Acalog system, and that departments and colleges with access could begin updating their catalog content. The deadline for updates to catalog content was March 1.

- McKinnon also distributed a proposed revision to future academic calendars that had been created by the calendar committee, and requested that colleges and departments review the calendar for discussion during the December Academic Council meeting.

With no additional business raised, Stewart adjourned the meeting.