

**Texas Tech University
Academic Council**

**Meeting of November 16, 2021
1:30 PM, Skype**

Attendance

Present: Sandra Addo, Dennis Arnett, Kathy Austin, Nurcan Bac, Mario Beruvides, Andrea Bilkey, Stefanie Borst, Bobbie Brown, Dee Dee Brown-Campbell, Todd Chambers, Robert Cox, John Dascanio, Mayukh Dass, Dottie Durband, Kristi Gaines, Lindsay Hallowell, Kaelene Hansen, Melanie Hart, Callum Hetherington, Bret Hendricks, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Catherine Jai, Darryl James, Michelle Kiser, Amy Koerber, Rodney Lackey, Mitzi Lauderdale, Ryan Litsey, Justin Louder, Brenda Martinez, Pat McConnell, Kuhn Park, Suhas Pol, Reagan Ribordy, Pradip Sahu, Brian Shannon, Rob Stewart (Chair), Carol Sumner, Suzanne Tapp, Clay Taylor, Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo, Nicolas Valcik, Janessa Walls, and Brandon Weeks.

Guests: Lauren Gollahon, Matt Gregory (for Cathy Duran)

Action Items:

1. Associate deans are asked to meet with Student Success and Retention regarding the retention strategies inventory by the December Council meeting.
2. Review the proposed 2027 Academic Calendar for discussion and voting at the December 2021 meeting of Academic Council.

Stewart presented the October Council minutes, which needed to be amended to add Mayukh Dass to the attendance. With no discussion, the minutes were approved.

Hallowell then introduced the summary of course proposals. Item 37, GEOG 1401, which had been tabled at the October Council meeting, needed to be removed from the table to be considered for a vote. Borst motioned to take the course off the table, Iber seconded, and the motion passed. Iber and Chambers requested to table items 16, 18, and 20 pending discussions between Education and Arts & Sciences and Education and Media & Communication. Cox seconded the motions, and the items were tabled. Shannon then moved to approve the remaining course proposals, Iber and Hendricks seconded, and the courses were approved.

James introduced the program proposals. The new program proposals included a Computer Engineering BS-to-Bioengineering M.S. accelerated program; an Agribusiness graduate certificate; and a User Experience (UX) Design undergraduate certificate.

The next voting item was a new MOU between TTU and TTUHSC El Paso. The MOU will create a degree pathway for students to complete the Doctor of Medicine and the Master of Business Administration Health Organization Management degrees in a single program.

The remaining voting items consisted of the addition of an online modality to the Linguistics graduate certificate; a semester credit hour reduction to the M.S. in Couple, Marriage, and Family Therapy; and the following program deletions: Finance, B.B.A.: Real Estate Concentration; Chemical Biology, M.S.; Elementary Education, M.Ed.; and Secondary Education, M.Ed.

Brown asked if the SCH reduction would require THECB approval. James explained it would need THECB approval but not SACSCOC approval. Gaines motioned to approve, Cox seconded, and the program proposals were approved.

James then noted the GPA reduction for the Petroleum Engineering BS program. He explained that reducing the required GPA may go into effect immediately when approved but that *increasing* a GPA requires a one-year delay in implementation from the effective date of the approval.

Hallowell then presented the proposed 2027 academic calendar for consideration of a vote at the December Council meeting. Hallowell mentioned that due to the way the days fall in January 2027, one additional winter intersession day was added to December 23, 2026. No additional changes were made to the approved 2026 calendar.

Lauderdale invited Pat McConnel to present information on Texas Senate Bill 1227 and its implications for CLEP exams. McConnel explained that the bill requires TTU to implement a uniform required score of 50 for CLEP exams, which is equivalent to a C. The change is effective as of Spring 2022.

McConnel added that College Board requires a 3-month delay on CLEP exam retakes, but TTU currently requires a 6-month delay. McConnel proposed that we reduce the TTU delay to match College Board's policy. Chambers motioned to approve the reduced delay, Borst seconded, and the motion passed.

Hughes reminded the Council that Student Success and Retention has created an online inventory for undergraduate-serving colleges to enter retention strategies into. Strategies are requested by the end of the semester. Stewart highlighted this as an action item.

Louder discussed the proposed closure of the TTU Higher Education Teaching Site at Collin. TTU's current agreement with Collin ends in December. Pending approval by the Council, TTU will extend the current agreement by six months and then close the Collin teaching site next summer. Cox moved to approved, Trejos-Castillo seconded, and the proposal was approved. The proposal will also need THECB and SACSCOC approval.

In other business, Hallowell mentioned that Official Publications has hired Guy Rimel as the IT Support Specialist for Curriculog. All Curriculog support requests will be referred to Guy.

Hallowell also notified the Council that catalog copy is being sent out for review. The deadline for the edits is January 14.

Stewart told the Council that on-campus COVID testing is expected to continue with some level of availability through Spring semester. The site between Urbanovsky Park and the Leisure Pool will remain open through the spring break, with a new location needed thereafter when the Leisure Pool opens for the season.

Currently, Student Health is reporting a 3% positive rate on COVID testing, a consistent trend over the past several weeks. The situation is being monitored through the holidays.

Plans for the Spring 2022 semester have not changed with regard to COVID, but departments should plan for the possibility of a temporary pivot to online instruction if needed.

General Counsel is working on how the federal vaccine mandates will affect university personnel.

With no additional items or announcements, Stewart adjourned the meeting.