

**Texas Tech University
Academic Council**

**Meeting of June 21, 2022
1:30 PM, Microsoft Teams**

Attendance

Present: Kathy Austin, Nurcan Bac, Andrea Bilkey, Stefanie Borst, Bobbie Brown, Dee Dee Brown-Campbell, Todd Chambers, Robert Cox, John Dascanio, Mayukh Dass, Dottie Durband, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Kristi Gaines, Heather Greenhalgh-Spencer, Matt Gregory, Jamie Hansard, Kaelene Hansen, Melanie Hart, Wendy-Adele Humphrey, Jorge Iber, Catherine Jai, Darryl James (Chair), Michelle Kiser, Amy Koerber, Rodney Lackey, Mitzi Lauderdale, Ryan Litsey, Brenda Martinez, Shirley Matteson, Randy McBee, Pat McConnel, Pradip Sahu, Sarah Schwintz, Rob Stewart, Carol Sumner, Amelia Talley, Suzanne Tapp, Clay Taylor, Dino Villegas, Patricia Vitela, Janessa Walls, and Brandon Weeks.

Guest: Whitney Longnecker.

Action Items:

1. Members interested in discussing a COVID-related insurance policy for student domestic travel should contact James.

James presented the May Council minutes. With no discussion, James called for a motion. Bac moved, Austin seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Hansen introduced the summary of course proposals, starting with items 4 and 7-14, courses related to Renewable Energy, which were tabled at the May Council meeting and would need a motion to remove them from the table. Bac moved, Austin seconded, and the motion carried. Bac and Dass explained that the content of those courses overlaps with several areas in Engineering and Business. However, Renewable Energy is a multidisciplinary topic, so they have no objection.

Chambers asked to table item 1, Risk and Crisis Communications in Agricultural and Natural Resources, to discuss potential overlap in the Department of Public Relations and Strategic Communication Management. With no further discussion, Chambers moved to table item 1 and approve items 2-15. Cox seconded, and the motion carried.

James then introduced the program proposals, beginning with the new programs. The new programs included a graduate concentration in Civil Rights & Anti-Discrimination Law and two undergraduate concentrations in Interdisciplinary Diversity Studies and Spanish in the United States.

The next voting item was to change the title of the undergraduate certificate in Community Arts Entrepreneurship to Community Arts in order to clarify its content.

James called for a motion for the voting items. Greenhalgh-Spencer moved to approve them as presented, Chambers seconded, and the program proposals were approved.

The informational items included curricular changes for the undergraduate concentrations in Composition and Fashion Merchandising, the graduate concentration in Historic Preservation, and the undergraduate certificate in Information Technology.

James then shared that proposals for two new courses, SVM 5310 and its tandem course ANSC 4310, will be presented to the Council for emergency vote once ANSC 4310 has all the required approvals.

For the next item of business, James updated the Council regarding discussions from TTU administration to add Juneteenth as a holiday, specifically for the 2023 academic calendar. Stewart explained that this change would be System-wide. The TTU Health Sciences Center has already begun adjusting its schedules and will declare a Juneteenth holiday. The TTU Human Resources office is also considering the holiday from a staff perspective.

Hansen shared mockups of the 2023-2026 academic calendars with the Juneteenth holiday. She explained that in order to maintain the same number of instructional days, the full summer and summer I terms would begin a day sooner, and the faculty on duty date would be the first day of class. In order to start those terms a day sooner in 2025 and 2026, the terms would start on a Friday instead of a Monday. James and Hansen clarified that this would not affect the fall or spring semesters. With no further discussion, James called for a motion to approve the adjusted 2023 academic calendar as shown. Koerber moved, Sumner seconded, and the motion carried. The remaining calendars will be discussed in the fall.

For the next item of business, Jai asked the Council if their colleges have a COVID-related health insurance policy for any of their Study Away Programs. The Honors College recently paid for the cost of separate hotel rooms for students who tested positive on a Study Away trip because there was not a COVID quarantine policy in place.

Longnecker explained that the Study Abroad Unit worked with the TTU System Office of Risk Management to add a robust insurance policy for students, faculty, and staff for international travel. They added quarantine coverage when study abroad programs resumed, which covers housing, meals, and flight changes should a traveler have to quarantine. Longnecker clarified that their policy is international, so it is not applicable to domestic travel.

James asked who pays for the insurance. Longnecker said the cost is passed directly to the students. The policy is also shared by all the System components, so they benefit from bulk pricing.

James then asked about other programs that have a Study Away component. Jai suggested that field tips should be considered as well. Dascanio and Greenhalgh-Spencer shared about two programs in the School of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Education that require long-term travel.

Stewart recommended discussing an applicable policy with the Office of Risk Management. James said that interested Council members can contact him, and he will include them in that discussion.

James then asked for items of other business. Lauderdale announced Red Raider Orientation is almost at the halfway point, and some classes are starting to fill up. She asked Council members to contact the respective departments or her if there is a shortage of seats so that she can see about facilitating more classes.

Gaines shared in the chat that the New TA Workshop is scheduled for August 17.

James reminded the Council that there will not be a July meeting and any items needing a vote will be sent via email.

James also announced that this was Stewart's last Council meeting, as he is returning to the faculty in August, and thanked Stewart for his work. Many members expressed their appreciation as well.

With no other business or announcements, James adjourned the meeting.