

**Texas Tech University
Academic Council**

**Meeting of August 16, 2022
1:30 PM, Zoom
Attendance**

Present: Kathy Austin, Nurcan Bac, Andrea Bilkey, Stefanie Borst, Bobbie Brown, Jana Campbell, Luciana Cavazos, Todd Chambers, Mayukh Dass, Dottie Durband, Genevieve Durham, Kristi Gaines, Heather Greenhalgh-Spencer, Matt Gregory, Lindsay Hallowell, Jamie Hansard, Kaelene Hansen, Melanie Hart (Chair), Bret Hendricks, Raegan Higgins, Jorge Iber, Amy Koerber, Mitzi Lauderdale, Ryan Litsey, Justin Louder, Brenda Martinez, Pat McConnel, Kuhn Park, Austin Phillips, Pradip Sahu, Sarah Schwintz, Brian Shannon, Carol Sumner, Amelia Talley, Suzanne Tapp, Clay Taylor, Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo, Dino Villegas, Patricia Vitela, and Janessa Walls.

Action Items:

1. Associate deans are encouraged to have faculty and staff who volunteer between August 25, 2022, and the end of the fall 2023 semester to log any volunteer hours on the forthcoming Centennial web page.

Hart called the meeting to order by presenting the June Council minutes. With no discussion, Hart called for a motion. Gaines moved, Trejos-Castillo seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Austin then presented a document that summarizes the various roles and their associated permissions within Blackboard. Permissions are assigned by an authoritative team or are automated through Banner and ePAFs. Chambers asked if an Emergency Other option can be added in the event a faculty member leaves mid-semester. Louder said in those instances the new instructor is added under the Instructor role.

For the next item of business, Austin reminded the Council that TTU has negotiated a strategic partnership with Top Hat to standardize classroom engagement technology. Austin then explained that Top Hat serves as a publishing house that specializes in online publishing and has a lucrative faculty contract. Part of TTU's goal in partnering with Top Hat is to reduce the cost of textbooks by TTU faculty developing course materials through Top Hat or by adopting Top Hat materials. Austin added that Top Hat is on campus this week and highlighted the various events taking place during their visit.

Austin then announced that IT will be conducting a formal evaluation of faculty activity software and solutions. TTU will publish an RFP for Digital Measures and their competitors to present their software. TTU will conduct a campus evaluation and then hold a forum for faculty to evaluate finalist vendors.

For the next item of business, Louder gave a presentation on correspondence courses. TTU ceased offering correspondence courses with the closing of University College; however, eLearning has worked to relaunch the correspondence program under the name Self-Paced Education. The timeline is to finalize the program during the fall with an initial launch in the spring. Taylor invited colleges to bring forth courses that could be taught under this program.

Hallowell introduced the summary of course proposals, beginning with two courses that had been previously tabled. ANSC 4304 was resubmitted with a new syllabus, and EDLD 6345 was resubmitted with a new title. Greenhalgh-Spencer motioned to remove the two courses from the table. Iber seconded, and the motion carried. Hallowell then summarized the remaining course proposals. Iber requested to table item 4, ENCO 3355, pending conversations with Renewable Energy. Dass seconded the motion, and the item was tabled. With no further discussion of the courses, Iber moved to approve the remaining voting items, Trejos-Castillo seconded, and the courses were approved.

Hallowell then introduced the program proposals. The voting items consisted of a master's-level certificate in Advancing K-12 STEM Master Teacher Leadership (Basic), a doctorate-level certificate in K-12 STEM Education Advocacy Research (Advanced), and a doctoral track in Land Use, Design, and the Built Environment for the Land-Use Planning, Management, and Design, Ph.D. Park motioned to approve the voting items, Chambers seconded, and the programs were approved. Hallowell mentioned that she moved forward the effective dates of the three curricular changes to fall 2023 because they likely will not complete the Curriculog process until after the academic year starts, and we are not able to make changes to programs once the academic year begins.

Hart asked for items of other business. Hart mentioned that TTU is trying to reach one million volunteer hours as part of the Centennial. Any faculty or staff volunteering during this time are urged to log those hours on a dedicated Centennial website.

Hart then asked for announcements. Sumner announced that this time next month the Black Cultural Center will open. There will be several events over the opening weekend. Sumner added that the Intercultural Center and the Hispanic/Latino Cultural Center are underway. Anyone interested in serving on the advisory committees for either of these centers should contact Sumner or Jade Silva-Tovar.

Shannon announced that tickets are on sale for the first football game on September 3.

With no other business or announcements, Hart called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tapp moved, Louder seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.