

**Texas Tech University
Academic Council**

**Meeting of September 20, 2022
1:30 PM, TLPDC 151 and via Zoom
Attendance**

Present: Nurcan Bac, Andrea Bilkey, Shane Blum, Bobbie Brown, Dee Brown-Campbell, Jana Campbell, Todd Chambers, Robert Cox, Mayukh Dass, Dottie Durband, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Heather Greenhalgh-Spencer, Matt Gregory, Jason Hale, Lindsay Hallowell, Kaelene Hansen, Bret Hendricks, Jorge Iber, Catherine Jai, Darryl James (Chair), Amy Koerber, Rodney Lackey, Mitzi Lauderdale, Ryan Litsey, Brenda Martinez, Pat McConnel, Kuhn Park, Austin Phillips, Pradip Sahu, Sarah Schwintz, Brian Shannon, Jaeki Song, Brian Still, Amelia Talley, Suzanne Tapp, Clay Taylor, Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo, Dino Villegas, and Janessa Walls.

Guests: Patrick Bohn, Elizabeth Massengale, and Elizabeth Sharp.

Action Items:

1. None.

James called the meeting to order and had the Council members introduce themselves. James then introduced the August minutes. Hearing no discussion, James called for a motion. Greenhalgh-Spencer moved to approve the minutes, Chambers seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Hallowell introduced the summary of course proposals, beginning with the voting items. Chambers asked about the course content and description for item 8, IS 6305, regarding the use of the phrase “interpersonal communication” and the qualification of the faculty to teach such content. After a discussion of the intention of the course, Greenhalgh-Spencer agreed to update the course description to more accurately reflect the course content. With no further discussion of the voting items, James called for a motion. Chambers moved, Greenhalgh-Spencer seconded, and the voting items were approved. Hallowell then introduced the informational items.

Next, James introduced the program proposals, beginning with the voting items. The three new program proposals were for a B.A. in Women’s and Gender Studies and a graduate minor and certificate in Indigenous and Native American Studies. James asked if the new certificate would be available to the public. Greenhalgh-Spencer said further discussions are needed before that decision is made. James reminded the Council that SACSCOC requires full Institutional Effectiveness reporting on any certificate being pursued independently of other TTU programs. With no additional discussion on the new programs, Cox moved to approve, Talley seconded, and the new programs were approved.

The next two voting items were program title changes. Item 4 proposed to change the title of the existing Energy Commerce Interdisciplinary Energy Certificate to Energy Economics and Finance Interdisciplinary Energy Certificate. Iber requested to table this proposal on behalf of the Department of Economics, as they would like the opportunity to review the curriculum of the certificate. Dass pointed out that the curriculum for the program had already been approved and that the proposal was only to change the title of the existing program. James recommended that the discussion of the courses take place outside the Council. After much discussion, the Council decided to table the proposal temporarily so the Department of Economics, the Graduate School, and the Area of Energy Commerce and Business Economics can discuss the curriculum as needed.

Item 5 proposed to change the title of the existing Wind Energy undergraduate minor to Renewable Energy. James called for a motion to table item 4 and to approve item 5. Chambers so moved, Koerber seconded, and the motion carried.

The next two voting items were proposals to add online modalities to the Personal Financial Planning, Ph.D. and the Spanish undergraduate minor. Greenhalgh-Spencer moved to approve, Phillips seconded, and the items were approved. The last voting item was to renew the MOU between the College of Human Sciences and the Rawls College of Business to offer the dual M.B.A./M.S. in Personal Financial Planning. Cox moved, Talley seconded, and the item was approved. Hallowell then introduced the informational items, which consisted of curricular changes. James recommended the possibility of having the associate deans review curricular changes before they reach Academic Council so there is a chance to discuss the changes as needed.

For the next item of business, Brown introduced the changes in the study abroad course numbers and prefixes to better identify those courses. The prefix for affiliated courses will change from GST to AFF, and the prefix for reciprocal exchange courses will change from GST to RCP. Lauderdale added that Arts & Sciences recommended lowering the course number of GST 3013 to AFF 2001 to avoid conflicts when transferring coursework back to TTU. Walls asked if Law students should use the same course numbers for study abroad programs. Brown said that decision should be left up to the School of Law, since they have their own process.

Lauderdale then introduced a new process for students who do not need a credit-bearing credit in their graduating term. The previous policy required students to be enrolled in one credit-bearing hour in their graduating term, and a change to the catalog was approved by Academic Council last year, removing the credit-bearing requirement. A new process will provide an alternate pathway to satisfy the course registration requirement for students in unique circumstances. The goal is to have students active in the university in their graduating term, but on rare occasions, students do not need additional course credit. The new process will create a non-credit-bearing course, PROV 4001, that carries a fee of \$250 to apply to those rare occasions and allow students to graduate. The deadline for students to submit a request to add this course is the last day of classes of the term in question. Lauderdale encouraged associate deans to meet with their advising staff to ensure this policy is followed consistently throughout the university. Brown referenced the attached document for process details and added the Office of the Registrar would implement this alternative pathway for this fall semester.

Talley asked why the policy only applied to undergraduate students. Greenhalgh-Spencer explained that the Graduate School policy requires students to be enrolled in 3 hours in their graduating term and that it is rare for graduate students not to be enrolled in their graduating term. Greenhalgh-Spencer agreed to meet with Lauderdale to determine whether a change is needed to the Graduate School policy.

For the next item of business, Martinez reminded the Council that the times for the Advance Registration time tickets have changed, effective this November. The Office of the Registrar will begin notifying the university community of the change on Monday, September 26.

Lauderdale then discussed the new expedited late add process piloted for fall 2022. The process removed the required instructor approval for students to add courses between the 5th and 9th class days but maintained instructor approval requirements from the 10th-12th class days. A pilot of the new process took place this semester, and the students are being tracked to monitor student success. The student success data will help inform future semester late addition practices. The

Office of the Provost will seek feedback from the various areas involved to gain insight on ways to improve and potentially automate the process if it is recommended for continuance.

In other business, Bohn gave a summary of the Learning Center and Supplemental Instruction areas. He invited Council members to identify any areas where tutors are lacking so they can continue improving their services.

Chambers then asked if other colleges have experienced Wi-Fi connectivity issues in classrooms and campus buildings. Several other Council members also expressed having issues. The concern is the continued increase in synchronous online instruction without an infrastructure that can support it. Phillips concurred that the connectivity issues are causing problems for students on campus and in classrooms. James agreed that the issue should be brought forward to the Provost.

Hearing no other items of other business, James asked for any announcements. Hearing none, James adjourned the meeting.