

**Texas Tech University
Academic Council**

**Meeting of October 18, 2022
1:30 PM, TLPDC 151 and via Zoom
Attendance**

Present: Nurcan Bac, Andrea Bilkey, Shane Blum, Stephanie Borst, Deedee Brown-Campbell, Todd Chambers, Mayukh Dass, Dottie Durband, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Kristi Gaines, Heather Greenhalgh-Spencer, Matt Gregory, Lindsay Hallowell, Kaelene Hansen, Melanie Hart, Bret Hendricks, Wendy-Adele Humphrey, 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, Jaeki Song, Carol Sumner, Amelia Talley, Suzanne Tapp, Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo, Dino Villegas, and Janessa Walls.

Guests: Debbie Davis and Kelsey Kern.

Action Items:

1. The September minutes will be voted on through an email vote.

James called the meeting to order and announced that the September minutes will be distributed after the Council meeting and voted on through an email vote. James then had the Council members introduce any guests.

Hallowell then introduced the summary of course proposals, beginning with the voting items. With no discussion of the new courses, Greenhalgh-Spencer moved to approve the new courses. Durband seconded, and the new courses were approved. Hallowell then introduced the remaining voting items. James called for a motion. Dass moved, Greenhalgh-Spencer seconded, and the remaining voting items were approved. Hallowell concluded the course proposals section with a summary of the informational items.

Next, Hallowell introduced the program proposals, beginning with the voting items. Two new programs included an undergraduate certificate in Sustainable Energy for Business Professionals and a doctoral track in Fibers and Biopolymers. Lauderdale asked if the undergraduate certificate was available to non-degree-seeking students, and Villegas confirmed that the certificate was only available to degree-seeking RCOBA students.

The third voting item was the title change of the existing Energy Commerce Interdisciplinary Energy Certificate to Energy Economics and Finance Interdisciplinary Energy Certificate, which had been tabled at the September meeting. Greenhalgh-Spencer moved to untable the item, Dass seconded, and the motion carried. The fourth voting item was an administrative unit change to move the undergraduate minor in Mexican American and Latina/o Studies from University Studies to the Department of History. With no further discussion, James called for a motion to approve the voting items. Villegas moved, Iber seconded, and the programs were approved.

Hallowell then introduced the informational items, which largely consisted of curricular changes. In addition to the curricular changes, the Strategic Communication and Innovation, M.A. will now accept up to 6 hours of coursework transferred from other TTU colleges or departments.

For the next item of business, Hollowell introduced the revised calendars for 2024 through 2027 to include the Juneteenth holiday. Hollowell pointed out that to accommodate the holiday, the first summer term start dates need to move forward one day, which causes the faculty on duty date to coincide with the first day of the term. James asked if adding Juneteenth would affect the winter vacation days, and Hollowell said it would not. (N.B. After the meeting, Hollowell was informed by HR that adding Juneteenth would in fact reduce winter vacation by one day in many years, to include 2023.)

The Council discussed the implications of the faculty on duty date coinciding with the start of classes in the summer as well as the closeness of the faculty on duty date to the start of fall classes. Hollowell explained that while there are regulations from the THECB for the start of the semesters and for the number of contact hours for students, she is unaware of THECB regulations for the faculty on duty dates. James said that with those questions on the table, we will consider the calendars for a vote in a future meeting. Hollowell then introduced the proposed 2028 calendar. James asked what the minimum contact hours are, and Hollowell explained that per the THECB, we are to aim for 45 contact hours each semester.

Durham DeCesaro later explained that the faculty working days and the end of the fiscal year influence the faculty on duty date. She recommended for the Council to create a working group to present some solutions for HR to consider.

Lauderdale then introduced some outdated language in the catalog regarding foreign language requirements. The language stipulates that students may not use first-year foreign language courses to satisfy any other university requirements. Lauderdale proposed to remove this language to allow these courses to double count as is allowed with core curriculum courses. Greenhalgh-Spencer mentioned that some Texas high schools allow computer science and similar courses to count as foreign language and asked if those courses would satisfy TTU's requirement. Lauderdale said those courses satisfy the requirement to attend TTU, but it is up to the colleges whether to count them toward the university's foreign language requirements. James asked the Council members to review the language to consider for a vote at the November Council meeting.

Lauderdale then discussed the proposed revisions to the language for honor roll requirements. The current policy requires a minimum of 12 credit hours to be graded for students to be eligible for honor roll lists. The proposed language requires a student to be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours, but a minimum of 3 credit hours must be graded. This will allow various populations that are required to take a majority of their classes pass/fail to still be eligible for honor roll lists. Lauderdale requested for the Council to vote on the proposed language. Lauderdale added that if approved, the updated policy could take effect this semester. James called for a motion. Dass moved, Bac seconded, and the motion carried.

James asked for items of other business. Lauderdale gave an update on the Raider Success Hub and mentioned that the goal is to have it active early spring 2023. James added that this platform will provide a more integrated view of student success and retention on campus.

James asked for other items of other business. Hearing none, James mentioned that the Academic Council membership needs to be updated. In addition, language regarding the policies and procedures of the Council needs to be reviewed because there are no written bylaws. James asked Council members to review what the Council does and what it votes on to bring to the Provost for approval. James proposed to create a subcommittee to start this process.

Hearing no other items of other business, James asked if we needed a motion to adjourn. Koerber

so moved, Hendricks seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.