

**Texas Tech University
Academic Council**

**Meeting of March 21, 2023
1:30 PM, TLPDC 151 and via Zoom
Attendance**

Present: Cindy Akers, Kathy Austin, Nurcan Bac, Andrea Bilkey, Stefanie Borst, Bobbie Brown, Chad Cain, Todd Chambers, Christiana Christofides, Robert Cox, John Dascanio, Debbie Davis, Dottie Durband, Stephen Ekwaro-Osire, Kristi Gaines, Matt Gregory, Lindsay Hallowell, Kaelene Hansen, Bret Hendricks, Wendy-Adele Humphrey, Jorge Iber, Darryl James (Chair), Amy Koerber, Rodney Lackey, Mitzi Lauderdale, Ryan Litsey, Brenda Martinez, Pat McConnel, Lissa Munoz, Kuhn Park, Austin Phillips, Pradip Sahu, Sarah Schwintz, Brian Shannon, Jaeki Song, Carol Sumner, Amelia Talley, Suzanne Tapp, Clay Taylor, Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo, Dino Villegas, and Janessa Walls.

Guest: Philip Smith.

Action Items:

1. Associate deans are asked to review information regarding summer camps and activities [here](#).

James called the meeting to order and turned the floor over to Tapp for a presentation of two recommended syllabus statements. One statement includes a list of mental health resources for students. Shannon mentioned that the statement lacks information on who to call in a mental health emergency situation. Tapp offered to pass that along. Dascanio added that local resources would be different depending on the campus a student is attending. James agreed that additional resources would be beneficial for regional campus students.

The second statement lists risks associated with the use of animals in courses. Phil Smith, representing the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, explained that Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) identified a gap in informing students of the risk of working with animals. This statement will fill that gap and is recommended to only be added to syllabi of affected courses in Animal and Food Sciences and Natural Resources Management.

Dascanio mentioned that the School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) sees more diverse animals than those listed in the statement, but the SVM does not use such statements in their syllabi. Smith explained that EH&S thought it would be an overreach to add statements to the SVM syllabi because the nature of the SVM program has students working with animals. James asked Smith if these statements should be added to the SVM syllabi, and Smith said these statements should only apply to the main TTU campus courses. With no additional questions, James called for a vote to approve the statements, with additions of mental health emergency and regional site information to be added to the first statement. Shannon moved, Talley seconded, and the motion carried.

For the next item of business, James introduced the minutes from the February meeting. Hearing no discussion, James called for a motion. Gaines moved, Koerber seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Next, Hallowell introduced the summary of course proposals, beginning with the voting items. Park expressed concern for possible confusion between item 5, CONE 4305 (Building Information

Modeling), and existing Architecture courses. Ekwaro-Osire recommended tabling the course for the two colleges to discuss further. Shannon asked about possible overlap between item 6, CRIM 3300 (Special Topics in Criminology), and current criminal law courses taught by the Law School. It was agreed to table the course pending discussions. Iber motioned to approve the new courses and to table items 5 and 6, Cox seconded, and the motion carried.

Durband asked the Council to consider an emergency prefix change for the recently approved APF courses to PFI. This will reduce confusion for students, and the school will submit the courses via Curriculog. With no further discussion of the voting items, Brown moved to approve the remaining courses, Schwintz seconded, and the courses were approved, to include the APF prefix changes. Hallowell highlighted the informational items.

Hallowell then introduced the program proposals, beginning with the voting items. New program proposals consisted of undergraduate concentrations in Aerospace for the Mechanical Engineering, BS, and Jazz for the Music, B.M.; a B.A.A.S. and B.S. in Fashion Merchandising; a B.A. in Human Resource Development; an undergraduate minor in Community, Family, and Addiction Sciences; and an undergraduate certificate in Strategic Communication Management.

Talley asked if the CFAS minor includes Drugs, Alcohol, and Behavior from Psychology. Brown clarified that this is an old minor that is being brought back. Durband explained that the minor is for majors only and consists of only department courses. Brown asked if the Jazz concentration was unique to the B.M. because Jazz is already a concentration. Bilkey confirmed that the concentration is only for the B.M. program.

The Cross-Cultural Studies graduate minor and graduate certificate were proposed to move from Human Sciences to the Graduate School. The Department of Design proposed to add a 100% synchronous online modality to the existing Environmental Design, M.S.

The School of Personal Financial Planning proposed to delete the graduate certificate in Personal Financial Planning. Durband explained that there is one student finishing up coursework in the program, so they will phase it out. James asked how many hours the certificate required. Because the certificate requires 18 hours, we must notify SACSCOC of the deletion.

The last voting item was a title and curricular change for the existing Big Data Strategy concentration for the M.B.A. program. The proposed title is AI and Data Science in Business. With no further discussion, Bac moved to approve the voting items, Park seconded, and the programs were approved.

Hallowell concluded by introducing the informational items. James asked Lauderdale to clarify the policy on programs changing their GPA requirements. Lauderdale explained that increases to GPA requirements are required to be published in the catalog for one academic year prior to the policy taking effect. However, lowering GPA requirements can be effective immediately.

For the next item of business, Lauderdale explained to the Council that the Graduate on Time program has been inaccurately interpreted as a tuition rebate, which has created confusion and frustration for students and parents. Lauderdale proposed to delete the statement from the catalog. Brown agreed that it should be deleted.

Sumner mentioned that the information is a helpful resource and asked where else it could be presented throughout the university. Lauderdale said we could reframe the messaging to continue using it in discussion with students. Shannon mentioned recalling a Texas Education Code Section

which might be relevant, and Lauderdale said she would look into whether we will still be in compliance if we delete the section.

Next, Chambers told the Council that nominations are still being sought for the Advising Council. Chambers added that they would like a diverse Council and detailed the types of members that could represent each college. An email was sent to the dean and undergraduate associate dean of each undergraduate degree-awarding college/unit to seek nominations from their areas. Nominations will close April 7. Sumner asked for clarification on the title Academic Advisor and how those providing advising outside an academic college fit into the Advising Council. Chambers said they are seeking representation from units outside the academic colleges as well.

Next, Chambers reminded the Council about the upcoming second annual TTU/SPC Transfer Summit on March 31. Those interested in attending should RSVP [here](#).

James asked for items of other business. Lauderdale mentioned the recent Provost Office retreat. Akers said that the Provost's Office is working as a team to manage the current legislative session with a focus on supporting our faculty, staff, and students. More information will be provided as it comes available.

Sumner mentioned that DE&I has started receiving inquiries regarding summer camps and activities. Information on summer camps and trainings can be found [here](#). Questions regarding camps or campus carry can be directed to Dr. Kimberly Simón (Kimberly.Simon@ttu.edu).

James reminded the Council that the El Paso site has been approved to offer more than 50% of a degree program. Next month, April 18-19, a SACSCOC substantive change committee, which includes the Provost from Auburn, will be visiting the El Paso site to review the M.S. in Architecture program. James added that during the visit, they are able to ask for anything related to TTU's accreditation, so Council members are asked to watch out for requests from OPA during that time and be ready to respond promptly.

Hearing no other items of other business or announcements, James called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Talley moved, and the meeting was adjourned.