

**Texas Tech University
Academic Council**

**Meeting of August 15, 2023
1:30 PM, via Zoom**

Attendance

Present: Kathy Austin, Nurcan Bac, Andrea Bilkey, Carol Bonner, Stefanie Borst, Bobbie Brown, Deedee Brown-Campbell, Chad Cain, Todd Chambers, Christiana Christofides, Robert Cox, Mayukh Dass, Debbie Davis, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Dottie Durband, Stephen Ekwaro-Osire, Kristi Gaines, Heather Greenhalgh-Spencer, Lindsay Hallowell, Bret Hendricks, Wendy-Adele Humphrey, Jorge Iber, Darryl James (Chair), Amy Koerber, Rodney Lackey, Mitzi Lauderdale, Ryan Litsey, Brenda Martinez, Pat McConnel, Anthony Cricchio (for Kuhn Park), Sahu Pradip, Narissra Punyanunt-Carter, Joel Rivero, Kymberli Saldaña, Sarah Schwintz, Brian Shannon, Amelia Talley, Clay Taylor, Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo, Dino Villegas, and Janessa Walls.

<p>Action Items:</p>

<p>None.</p>

James called the meeting to order by introducing the minutes from the June meeting. Hearing no discussion, James called for a motion. Talley moved, Shannon seconded, and the minutes were approved.

For the next item of business, Hallowell introduced the summary of course proposals, beginning with the voting items. Hallowell pointed out that item 1, CONE 4305, had been tabled in March and was being presented again with an updated title. With no further discussion of the voting items, James called for a motion. Greenhalgh-Spencer moved, Carter seconded, and the courses were approved. Hallowell then presented the two informational items.

Next, Hallowell introduced the program proposals, beginning with the voting items. Semester credit hour reductions were being requested for the Gerontology graduate certificate, the J.D./M.S. Sport Management dual degree, and the M.D./M.S. Sport Management dual degree. Borst clarified that the Sport Management, M.S. had previously undergone an SCH reduction, meaning these dual degrees needed to have their shared hours adjusted accordingly. With no further discussion, Cox moved to approve the proposals as presented, Hendricks seconded, and the motion carried. Hallowell then introduced the one informational item, which was a curricular change for the Spanish, Ph.D. program.

For the next item of business, Lauderdale reminded Council members that the Raider Success Hub is where advisors should be scheduling appointments. Over 80% of incoming students are using Raider Success Hub, but there are some advisors who aren't yet available to make appointments with via Raider Success Hub. Lauderdale explained that messaging will go out to affected advisors soon. Chambers mentioned that the Advising Council is up and running. He added that students who have gone through RRO are expecting to be able to schedule appointments with their advising teams via Raider Success Hub, so it is important to get the rest of the advisors on board.

Next, Lauderdale explained to the Council that we piloted a program starting in fall 2022 to change the late add process. For fall 2022, passing grades were 76%; for spring 2023, 71% passed.

Lauderdale asked if we want to continue the pilot program we started. She explained that the new late add process removes instructor consent and now requires advisor approval to make late adds between the 5th and 8th class days, but instructor consent is still required to add between the 9th and 12th class days. The number of passing grades for students who added between the 9th and 12th class days was similar to the number for the adds between the 5th and 8th class days.

The Council discussed the implications of maintaining the new procedure and its potential effects on retention, student success in the classes, and drop/withdrawal rates. The Council agreed that removing obstacles for students is a benefit, especially when the students are still performing successfully in the classes; however, it would be beneficial to compare this data to previous years' data to better gauge student success with the late adds.

Lauderdale asked if the Council could vote on continuing the program for the fall 2023. James asked the Council members if they preferred to vote for fall only or for the academic year. Greenhalgh-Spencer made a motion to vote on the program for the full academic year, and Schwintz seconded. The motion carried, and the program was approved to be continued.

James asked for items of other business. Hallowell mentioned that Official Publications is hiring a third full-time employee in the department, and she is hoping to introduce the new team member at the September meeting.

James reminded the Council members that two years ago, we submitted the recommended course sequences for all our undergraduate courses. The THECB pointed out several errors on our submissions, so he and Pradip are working on correcting those errors, and they will likely be reaching out to the departments to get their assistance with the corrections.

Chambers mentioned that an Advisor Training Center is being developed to be a resource for advisors and to supplement existing training. They are accepting applications for a director, and interviews are planned for August 18.

James reminded the Council members that updated language is required on syllabus statements. Durham DeCesaro added that the updates have been published, and faculty should link to those statements rather than copying and pasting the statements into their syllabi. Using the live links, will automatically update syllabi whenever updates are made. Instructions for adding the live links is available through the TLPDC and in Blackboard.

James added that commencement was almost 2 weeks ago, and nearly 2000 students walked. James thanked everyone for their work.

With no further discussion, James adjourned the meeting.