

**Texas Tech University  
Academic Council**

**Meeting of February 20, 2024  
1:30 PM, TLPDC, Room 151 and via Zoom**

**Attendance**

**Present:** Cindy Akers, Nurcan Bac, Andrea Bilkey, Stefanie Borst, Ashlee Brown, Bobbie Brown, Chad Cain, Todd Chambers, Christiana Christofides, Robert Cox, John Dascanio, Mayukh Dass, Debbie Davis, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Dottie Durband, Stephen Ekwaro-Osire, Kristi Gaines, Kaelene Hansen, Heather Greenhalgh-Spencer, Lindsay Hallowell, Jennifer Hughes, Wendy-Adele Humphrey, Jorge Iber, Darryl James, Rodney Lackey, Ryan Litsey, Brenda Martinez, Pat McConnel, Kuhn Park, Narissra Punyanunt-Carter, Pradip Sahu, Kymberli Saldaña, Preston Schmid (for Joel Rivero), Sarah Schwintz, Kamau Siwatu, Suzanne Tapp, Dino Villegas, Janessa Walls, and Stephanie West.

**Action Items:**

1. None.

James called the meeting to order by introducing the minutes from the January meeting. Schwintz reminded Council members to sign in or their names would not be included in the attendee list. Hallowell ensured to add Schwintz' name to the list for January. Hearing no further discussion, James called for a motion. Greenhalgh-Spencer moved, Litsey seconded, and the minutes were approved.

For the next item of business, Hallowell introduced the summary of course proposals, beginning with the voting items, which were items 1-56. The Council discussed a few proposals and their potential degree implications, but with no needed changes, James called for a motion. Greenhalgh-Spencer moved, Bac seconded, and the courses were approved. Hallowell then highlighted the informational items, to include adding the existing ART 2310 to the Creative Arts core course options.

Next, Hallowell introduced the program proposals, beginning with the voting items, which were items 1-55. The associate deans discussed the proposals from their areas. With no questions or concerns, James called for a motion. Cox moved to approve the proposals, Bilkey seconded, and the motion carried. Please see the voting items at the end of the minutes. Hallowell then pointed out the informational items, which were largely curricular changes.

For the next item of business, Tapp introduced the Teaching Evaluation Initiative which is a 3-5 year project that hopes to improve the culture around teaching evaluation. The goal is to define Teaching Excellence at TTU into four pillars of excellence: 1). Student-Centered, 2). Intentional, 3). Evidence-Based, 4). Engaging. The definition is meant to give everyone common language. Tapp asked for the endorsement of Academic Council, and James called for a show of hands to support the work. The Council showed full support.

In other business, James gave an update on faculty credentialing. Colleges and departments determine the qualifications of faculty to teach courses based on their degrees and can choose to credential faculty for all discipline courses or specific courses, depending on the faculty member's education. Credentialing for specific courses will require revisiting those credentials from time to

time. The recommendation is to credential faculty members for as much as possible to avoid needing to reevaluate their credentials. For graduate courses, the first step is for the Office of Provost to determine if a faculty member is qualified to teach a graduate-level course, and then the Graduate School makes the final determination. The Office of the Provost is reaching out to everyone to work on those credentials in anticipation of our March 2025 site visit.

In another item of other business, Lackey asked for confirmation that there will not be a fall break for the 2024-25 academic year, but there are intentions of having a fall break for the 2025-26 academic year. James confirmed that while discussions are ongoing regarding the potential implications of adding a fall break, everyone has agreed to push those discussions forward to the 2025-26 academic year. Joel Rivero, the SGA President, will present to the Faculty Senate in March.

By way of announcement, Chambers apologized for any confusion caused by the previously proposed career ladder for academic advising. The goal is for the conversation to be at the college level. Chambers has been sending a copy of the proposal to any advisor who reaches out to him.

Hearing no other business or announcements, James adjourned the meeting.