

# **ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

Texas Tech University

Meeting of  
**January 15, 2013**

## **MINUTES**

**Present:** Cindy Akers, Alex Alston, Bobbie Brown, Cathy Duran, Gary Elbow, Clifton Ellis, Cliff Fedler, Ralph Ferguson, Ryan Gibbs, Jarod Gonzalez, Melanie Hart, Bob Henry, Sheila Hoover, Lynn Huffman, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Peggy Johnson, Sue Jones, Michelle Kiser, Debbie Laverie, Ethan Logan, Justin Louder, Andrew Martin, Pat McConnel, Audra Morse, Juan Munoz, Marjean Purinton, David Roach, Christine Self, Brian Shannon, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart (chair), Kevin Stoker, Janessa Walls, Vicky West

**Guest:** Dale Ganus

Stewart presented the minutes of the December 18, 2012, meeting. Jones moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Morse seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Jones presented the January course approval summary. Akers moved that the course approvals be approved as presented. Purinton seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Elbow reported that the Rawls College of Business has decided to rename the Area of Accounting. The new name will be the School of Accounting. The college is working with an outside donor to add a family name to the school, such as the Smith School of Accounting. Until such a time, the area will be called the School of Accounting at the Rawls College of Business.

Gonzalez reported that the School of Law will have a standardized admission procedure in place by fall 2013 regarding visiting foreign students who want to study at the law school for one semester but are not part of a partnership agreement. He also reported on a new summer law program in Lithuania that will be modeled after the already-existing ABA-approved Summer Law Institute in Guanajuato, Mexico. The new program will differ from the student/faculty exchange agreement that the School of Law now has with Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania.

Morse presented a final update to the proposed changes in admitting students from second and subsequent suspensions. Huffman moved that the council accept the recommendations of the ad hoc committee. Purinton seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Stewart directed Elbow and Jones work out the catalog language based on the recommendations of the committee.

Hart discussed some of the issues troubling faculty in regard to the new deadline for final grades to be reported by 8 a.m. on the Monday after commencement. After extensive discussion among council members, Hart moved that the deadline be rescheduled from 8 a.m. until noon beginning spring 2013 and the Registrar's Office provide a missing-grades report at 8 a.m. to allow four hours for colleges to check on missing grades prior to the deadline. Roach second the motion, and the motion passed.

West provided council members with a lengthy list of basic information constantly being prepared by Institutional Research (e.g., students enrolled in invalid programs, missing place of origin data, missing instructors of record). Because these areas affect many other areas of reporting, it takes three to four weeks at the beginning of the semester to "clean up" this data before processing other reports. She said IR

is preparing a training course to teach university personnel how to use this data. Notices will be sent throughout campus regarding dates and times the course will be offered.

West distributed an update on spring 2013 enrollment as of January 15, 2013. The figures showed enrollment to be 503 students ahead of this time last year but only 98.75 percent of the final enrollment for spring 2012. (NOTE: Spring 2013 enrollment subsequently exceeded enrollment in spring 2012.)

Stewart said the Small Class Reporting portal will remain open until January 22. The Provost's Office wants very few of these small classes "to get through the process without being vetted on the portal."

Stewart reminded associate deans and advising directors to look for the usual messages from Student Business Services indicating students who face cancellation of registrations due to nonpayment. He noted that the assistance of deans' and department offices to attempt contact with these students to avert cancellations is greatly appreciated.

Stewart noted that readers are still needed for the President's Book Award.

#### Other Business

- The backdated withdrawals proposal is still being prepared.
- The Registrar's Office has employed a degree auditor to run reports for the colleges.
- Elbow pointed out the need to consider in the future a standardized approach to accepting D grades in the major. Some colleges/departments accept the grades and others do not.
- Munoz will present in the future a proposal to establish a subcommittee to consider military credit for academic credit. He said Texas Tech has over 1,500 military veterans and dependents.