

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Texas Tech University

Meeting of
January 18, 2011

MINUTES

Present: Wendell Aycock, Bruce Bills, Wesley Cochran, Cathy Duran, Gary Elbow, Greg Elkins, Dale Ganus, Bob Henry, Sheila Hoover, Norm Hopper, Lynn Huffman, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Peggy Johnson, Sue Jones, Bobbie Latham, Ethan Logan, Pat McConnel, Juan Munoz, Walt Oler, Valerie Paton, DaNay Phelps, Beverly Pinson, Marjean Purinton, David Roach, Brian Shannon, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart (chair), Kevin Stoker, Janessa Walls, Vicki West

Guests: Simone Barnhill, Christy Blakney, Philip Gipson, Kathleen Harris, Kay Rhodes, Mark Wallace

Barnhill and Rhodes reported on their joint effort with the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center to implement a new web-based technology, ECRT, to assist in providing state and federal certifications of an individual's effort in relation to sponsored and non-sponsored research programs. The ECRT system will "go live" in July.

Elbow, Gipson and Wallace presented a new proposal for a B.S. in Conservation Law Enforcement. The Department of Natural Resources Management, in consultation with the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife and the South Plains College Criminal Justice Program, will administer the proposed degree. The 120-hour program will be available only to students who have completed an Associate's Degree in criminal justice. The council, while approving the concept of the degree, expressed concern that the proposal needs to include more upper-division law enforcement and criminal justice related courses in the curriculum. After assurance that the proposal would be revised, Hopper moved that the council accept the proposal. Duran seconded the motion. Stoker amended the motion to request that the revisions be made available to the council in order to confirm that the revisions were made and to ensure the proposal's acceptability. The motion as amended passed.

Blakney informed the council that Student Business Services has identified two "holds" that have no grade restrictions and thus lack effectiveness in prompting student response:

TN—Students cancelled during final cancellation of each term

TP—Students with unpaid balances

These two hold codes only restrict registration and transcripts. Because the holds are many times not placed until after registration has opened, the restrictions are ineffective. As a result, SBS will begin implementing grade restrictions as a better means of prompting student response.

Council members reviewed the December 7, 2010, minutes of the Academic Council. Stewart asked that the last paragraph be revised to express that the Provost's Office was seeking reviewers, not nominations, for the President's Book Award. Aycock moved that the council accept the minutes as amended, Huffman seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Elbow presented the recommendation of the Core Curriculum Committee that ECE 1304 be substituted for ECE 1305 as an option for fulfilling the Technology and Applied Science requirement beginning in fall 2011. ECE 1304 contains an ethics component that is not present in ECE 1305. Henry moved that the recommendation be accepted, Aycock seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Jones presented the January course approval summary. Roach moved the courses be accepted as presented, Latham seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Jones presented the detailed academic calendar for 2011-12. Council members asked that (1) “Junction Center” be changed to “TTU Center at Junction” and (2) references to “student-initiated drop” be reworded and bolded to emphasize that all drops are the responsibility of the student. Stoker moved that the council accept the detailed calendar with revisions, Purinton seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

On behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Calendars, Jones presented the committee’s second report detailing options for how the university’s future academic calendars can address the issue of moving fall commencement a week earlier to avoid grade processing during the Christmas holidays. Because the options are a departure from past scheduling practices (e.g., no fall break, no final exams for seniors, 120-minute final exams), the council recommended the following: (1) the committee discuss its recommendations with both the Faculty Senate and the Student Government Association, (2) the committee expand its report to add more details explaining the issues and the necessity of change, and (3) the Academic Council reconsider at a later date the recommendations and the responses from the Faculty Senate and SGA.

Purinton noted a problem with the Core requirements as expressed in the catalog for POLS 1301 and 2302 in the Social and Behavioral Sciences area of the Core. Paton asked that the discussion be postponed to give her an opportunity to check on changes at the state level. In addition, Stewart will consult with the chairperson of the Department of Political Science.

McConnel presented a draft of a syllabus statement for faculty who require proctored exams for distance courses. The statement defines proctor qualifications, explains how to locate qualified proctors in the student's location, and informs students that they should expect varying policies and proctoring fees based on the entity providing the services. McConnel also provided a bulleted list describing procedures for proctoring services, test scheduling, and final exam testing offered by Academic Testing Services. Paton asked to review a list of the courses being proctored in order to assure compliance with state regulations. The council agreed to revisit in February the cost issues faced by the ATS office.

Jones explained that the previously approved October 19, 2010, council minutes did not accurately reflect the recent changes in the curriculum of the College of Visual and Performing Arts. She presented revised minutes and moved that the council accept the minutes as revised and make the substitution. Stoker seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

As an information item, Elbow referred council members to an inventory listing of CIP code changes in the Department of English.

Paton urged departments to review their degree programs and seek Academic Council approval in February for any programs in excess of 120 hours that have not already been approved.

Postponed Agenda Items:

- Approving bachelor’s programs with more than 120-hour minimums (Paton)
- Low Producing Programs Report (Paton)
- Quarterly Update on Strategic Priorities (Paton)