

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL**  
Texas Tech University

Meeting of  
**January 21, 2014**  
**MINUTES**

**Present:** Mary Francis Agnello, Cindy Akers, Stefanie Borst, Bobbie Brown, Adrienne Carnes, Cathy Duran, Gary Elbow, Cliff Fedler, Ralph Ferguson, Ryan Gibbs, Paul Goebel, Jarod Gonzalez, Sheila Gray for Ethan Logan, Melanie Hart, Bob Henry, Sheila Hoover, Lynn Huffman, Jorge Iber, Peggy Johnson, Mitzi Lauderdale, Robin Lock, Justin Louder, Andrew Martin, Randy McBee, Pat McConnel, Garrett McKinnon, Catherine Parsonault, David Roach, Brian Shannon, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart (chair), Kevin Stoker, Misra Sukant, Janessa Walls, Vicky West, Anna Young

**Guests:** Nikki Bohannon, Dale Ganus, William Garnder, Jennifer Hughes, Laura Lowe, Nicci Price, Elizabeth Stuart, Kimberly Wagner

Stewart presented the minutes of the December 17, 2013, meeting. Huffman moved the minutes be accepted as presented. Akers seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

A proposal to delete the Graduate Certificate in Health Care Change was presented by Elbow, and the proposal was approved by affirmation.

Elbow and Lowe presented a proposal for a Masters in Social Work degree. It was noted that additional faculty members will need to be hired for the program, but that such additions are necessary for the degree's accreditation. Elbow moved that the proposal be accepted, Iber seconded, and the motion passed.

A proposal for the adoption of the Human Resources Management concentration was heard. The concentration would add one capstone course (which RCOB is still developing) but otherwise consist of management courses already offered by RCOB, as well as human resources development (HRDV) courses already offered as an area of concentration for the University Studies major. The concentration was approved by affirmation.

Parsonault and Morton presented information on the proposed Strategic Partners for Institutional Effectiveness program, the aim of which is to strengthen recruitment of faculty interested in participating in assessment programs that measure student learning. Letters will be sent to deans and associate deans requesting assistance with the project.

The CASNR presented a case for adding a Graduate Certificate in Agricultural Communications Leadership, a program targeted at mid-career professionals that can be delivered via distance learning. Stoker motioned that the graduate certificate be approved, Roach seconded, and the motion passed.

Stewart and Elbow lead discussion on the necessity of formally and procedurally identifying course terms such as “cross-listed,” “piggy-backed,” “dual enrollment,” and others. It was recommended that an ad hoc committee be created to develop policy statements on such terminology, and Stoker, McKinnon, Fedler, Walls, and Elbow were selected to serve on the committee, with Stoker serving as chair. The committee’s report is due at the February council meeting.

Elbow announced a policy change that will restrict changes to prerequisites and co-requisites from taking effect until the first catalog noting the changes is published.

McKinnon presented the course approval summary. After discussion and clarification regarding the justification for adding EPSY 5312, Louder moved that the course changes be approved. Huffman seconded, and the motion passed.

Brown discussed the recommendations created by an ad hoc committee to study the issue of priority registration, which in the past has been available to more than half the student body, resulting in server and connectivity issues. The subcommittee recommended dividing the student body into groups, and no longer affording preferential registration status to scholarship students. Brown noted that the division of groups and the distribution of priority registration over a period of several days will help alleviate the load on servers and should help students register in an easier fashion. The subcommittee motioned to forward the proposal for the Provost’s consideration and ultimate approval, Huffman seconded, and the motion passed.

Parsonault provided an update on SACSCOC reaffirmation, noting that the reaffirmation deadline is Sept. 1, 2014. Prior to the upcoming site visit by SACSCOC officials, the Provost’s office will need to secure transcripts for all faculty members who taught classes during the fall 2013 and spring 2014 semesters. A list of faculty members who have not yet provided transcripts will be forwarded to college deans and associate deans, and instructions on discerning the transcript status for faculty members via Digital Measures will be emailed. All official transcripts will be due March 3, 2014.

### **Other Business**

- Hart requested to be informed if a college wants to offer a concentration available for the University Studies or forthcoming B.A.A.S. degrees, including programs offered via distance learning or at regional sites.
- Sukant updated the council on an international recruitment endeavor that will see country- and/or region-specific task forces created to address all aspects of the university’s cooperation with institutes of higher education from those countries or regions. Three task forces will initially be created to foster cooperation in Latin America, China, and India. Faculty and staff from those regions/countries or with experience in those regions/countries are being sought to serve on the task forces.
- Price announced that preliminary results from a new academic audit program, Degree Works, are forthcoming. Specifically, the audit has revealed that Texas Tech University guidelines require a minimum of 40 hours of upper level courses be taken as part of an approved degree plan, but that some colleges do not offer sufficient upper level courses

to meet this requirement, forcing students to take additional upper level courses. This results in students enrolled in 120-hour curriculum plans having to take extra courses.

- Wall announced that restricted space requests are due via email by February 3, 2014.
- Stewart noted that the university's new core curriculum had received THECB approval, and lauded Elbow for his work in getting the core curriculum approved.
- Elbow noted that the Provost's office is still working to update the university's multicultural requirement.
- Brown reminded council members that faculty will need to confirm course rosters by the 21<sup>st</sup> class day (February 13) so that financial aid can return unused funds. Stewart noted that a representative from the U.S. Department of Education will attend the February 2014 Academic Council meeting to discuss the ramifications of failing to confirm course rosters by the deadline.