ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Texas Tech University

Meeting of
March 18, 2014
MINUTES

Present: Mary Francis Agnello, Tess Barlow for Vicki West, Adrienne Carnes, Lori Dudley for Cindy Akers, Cathy Duran, Keith Dye, Gary Elbow, Cliff Fedler, Ralph Ferguson, Ryan Gibbs, Paul Goebel, Jarod Gonzalez, Melanie Hart, Bob Henry, Sheila Hoover, Lynn Huffman, Jorge Iber, Peggy Johnson, Michelle Kiser, Mitzi Lauderdale, Robin Lock, Ethan Logan, Justin Louder, Andrew Martin, Brenda Martinez for Bobbie Brown, Pat McConnel, Garrett McKinnon, Audra Morse, Catherine Parsoneault, David Roach, Brian Shannon, Brian Steel, Rob Stewart (chair), Kevin Stoker, Susan Tomlinson, Janessa Walls, Anna Young

Guests: Doug Hamman, Jacob Price

Stewart presented the minutes of the February 18, 2014 meeting. No corrections were advised, and Fedler motioned to approve the minutes. Roach seconded, and the motion was approved.

Price presented an update from Academic Support & Facilities Resources regarding updates to two classrooms in Holden Hall. The updates, scheduled to begin in Summer 2014, will result in the creation of a pair of seminar-style rooms appropriate for graduate-level classes. A question was raised on the possibility of installing acoustic panels on the classrooms' walls to reduce exterior noise, and Price indicated he would look into the costs of doing so, though he noted that the process is too far along for such changes to be made to the pending renovations.

The council heard a proposal from the College of Arts & Sciences to change the name of the Department of Psychology to the Department of Psychological Sciences. Roach explained that the change is in keeping with current trends seen at universities around the country, and emphasizes the science aspect of psychology. He indicated the faculty in the college was heavily in favor of the name change. Locke motioned that the name change be accepted as presented, Morse seconded, and the motion was approved.

Johnson initiated discussion of a proposal to create a new Department of Teacher Education within the College of Education, a proposal that was tabled during the February 18, 2014 meeting. Johnson said internal discussions are continuing, but that the proposal had received support of the college's faculty. Agnello noted that the College faculty were not opposed to the creation of the new department, but had serious reservations about how the idea was brought to fruition, and the amount of
faculty input that was reflected in the proposal. Agnello asked that the meeting minutes reflect the faculty's concern over the procedure used to foster the proposal and that the College's faculty was not allowed to vote on the idea. Stewart noted that the Council's main concern was in regard to the substantive issue of approving the new department, and not departmental or college governance. With no further discussion, Henry moved to accept the proposal as submitted, and Kiser seconded. The motion carried by acclamation, with Agnello abstaining.

The council heard a proposal from the College of Human Sciences regarding the introduction of a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood, a program to be delivered online and aimed largely at military servicemen and women and their families. Parsoneault noted that since the university already possesses a B.S. in Early Childhood degree, the College would have to submit a different name for the program. Huffman said the College will propose a new name, and the item was tabled pending that revision.

Rawls College of Business introduced a number of proposals, including:

- The deletion of the International Masters of Business Administration (I.M.B.A.) degree, which was in poor demand from students. Parsoneault noted that SACSCOC will require assurance from the college regarding the disposition of faculty and the ability of current students to complete the program, and Pasewark responded that the College was prepared to do so.
- A reduction in the number of hours required for the Masters of Business Administration (M.B.A.) degree from 48 to 42, a move that Pasewark indicated would put TTU in lockstep with programs offered by other universities, as well as the College's own STEM M.B.A. Pasewark said that one of the two courses being eliminated from the curriculum was redundant, and the other involved entrepreneurship and was not judged to be critical to the program.
- The deletion of the General Business concentrations of Major Intelligence, Health Concentration, and Operations Management, and the renaming of the Project Management concentration to Construction Management.
- The deletion of the Finance concentrations of Investments and Managerial.
- The addition of the Management Information Systems concentration of Business Analysis.
- The addition of an undergraduate certificate in Finance.

Roach moved to bundle the proposals and approve as presented, Morse seconded, and the motion was approved.

Elbow presented an informational update to OP 34.11 that was developed by the ad hoc tandem course subcommittee. The proposed change will clarify the definition of a tandem course as well as the parameters within which a tandem course can be instructed.
Walls requested feedback regarding the seat availability reports that ASFR provides to faculty on a regular basis. After some discussion, the general consensus was for less frequent reports with more directed and less total information.

The council heard from McKinnon regarding the list of course approvals for the month. A clarification was made to GEOG 5320, which was originally proposed as a tandem course. Subsequent correspondence between the instructor and the Graduate Council indicated a desire on the part of the instructor to drop the tandem course characterization. Huffman motioned that the course changes be approved with the understanding that the proposed GEOG 5320 be amended to drop the tandem course qualification, Lauderdale seconded, and the motion was approved.

McKinnon opened a discussion regarding an updated course approval form, which reflected a request from Online & Distance Learning within the Provost’s office to incorporate a distance-learning checkbox field, as well as a request from Institutional Research to incorporate a series of signature boxes on the fee form. Huffman requested that an additional field indicating a selection of “No” be added to the distance learning answers available.

Huffman announced a proposal from the College of Human Sciences to delete the existing Department of Nutrition, Hospitality, and Retailing and spread its resources into a pair of separate departments: the Department of Hospitality and Retailing Management and the Department of Nutritional Sciences. Huffman indicated that this is an amicable move that reflects growing enrollment in both areas, and that the separate departments would be better equipped to serve the needs of their respective students. Henry moved that the proposal be accepted as presented, Agnello seconded, and the motion was approved.

Other business:

- Louder discussed an issue with Blackboard that will impact faculty’s ability to combine courses while the system is being updated. He said an announcement will be forthcoming to all faculty regarding the issue.
- Louder also noted that all faculty members who reside out of state need to be identified and authorized by the Provost’s Office.
- Louder also announced that the university will be hosting a Responsible Conduct of Research Conference on April 8, and encouraged faculty, staff, and students to attend.
- Morse noted that the Department of Construction Engineering & Engineering Technology is dropping its Mechanical/Electrical and General Contractor concentrations.
- Barlow distributed the latest version of the TTU Fact Book.
- The council heard from the Registrar’s office that Degree Works, a new online application, will be rolled out to students on March 24, 2014. The application should include all available programs by the fall semester.
• Logan presented a mockup of changes to the ApplyTexas application form that were first proposed during the Feb. 28, 2014 council meeting; the changes involve applying by intended major, and not college. After some discussion, Huffman motioned to approve the changes with the proviso that departments and colleges maintain the ability to submit change requests and add descriptors to the list of majors at some point in the future. The motion was approved by acclamation.

• Logan announced that year-to-date more than 20,000 applicants had petitioned for enrollment at Texas Tech University for the Fall 2014 semester, the largest number ever.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.