

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL**  
Texas Tech University

Meeting of  
**March 19, 2013**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Cindy Akers, Stefanie Borst, Bobbie Brown, Cathy Duran, Gary Elbow, Cliff Fedler, Ralph Ferguson, Ryan Gibbs, Jarod Gonzalez, Sheila Gray for Ethan Logan, Bob Henry, Sheila Hoover, Lynn Huffman, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Peggy Johnson, Sue Jones, Michelle Kiser, Debbie Laverie, Justin Louder, Andrew Martin, Pat McConnel, Richard Meek, Audra Morse, Catherine Parsonault, Marjean Purinton, David Roach, Christine Self, Brian Shannon, Rob Stewart (chair), Kevin Stoker, Janessa Walls, Vicky West

**Guests:** Kelli Cargile Cook, Erin Collopy, Miles Kimball, Carl Seaquist, Lorum Stratton

Stewart presented the minutes of the February 19, 2013, meeting. The minutes were approved as presented.

Roach and Seaquist presented a proposal for an 18-hour Graduate Certificate in Mathematics. Stoker moved that the certificate be approved as presented. Morse seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Roach and Kimball presented a proposal for a 15-hour Graduate Certificate in Teaching Technical Communication. Akers moved that the certificate be approved as presented. Morse seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Borst and Stratton presented two requests for consolidation of low-producing programs with the intent of creating (1) the 36-hour M.A. in Languages and Cultures by consolidating programs in Applied Linguistics, Classics, French, and German and (2) the 120-hour B.A. in Languages and Cultures by consolidating programs in Classics, French, German, and Russian Language and Areas Studies. The council considered each degree separately. Iber moved the B.A. be approved, Brown seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Purinton moved the M.A. be approved, Morse seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Huffman and Laverie presented a proposal to create a new dual degree – M.S. in Accounting / M.S. in Personal Financial Planning. Huffman moved the proposal be accepted as presented, Akers seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Morse informed the council that the B.S. in Computer Science / B.S. in Chemical Engineering dual degree has been discontinued by the Edward E. Whitacre Jr. College of Engineering.

Parsonault distributed a summary of low-producing programs at Texas Tech and noted that the threshold of five-year totals for 11 programs ended in FY 12. Programs that did not meet their required degree totals must provide a response to her office by April 3 in order for the university to provide a response to THECB by May 1. An additional eight programs will be evaluated after graduation in 2013 and 2014. Three other low-producing programs are new, which means that THECB does not begin looking at the graduation totals of a new program until the sixth year of

its existence. Parsonault said that when it becomes necessary to discontinue a low-producing program, the program must stay closed for 10 years before another program in that area can be approved.

Louder informed the council that a website named Outsmart.It (<http://outsmart.it/>) is being used by students to avoid plagiarism. If the student copies and pastes a passage of text onto the website, the website will for a fee rephrase the text so that the new wording can be included in the student's paper.

Jones presented the April course approval summary. The council felt that item #7 (ESS 3358 Introduction to Sport Management) should be retitled "Fundamentals of Sport Management." Laverie moved that the courses be accepted as presented except item #7, which would await approval of the department to change the title. Morse seconded the motion and the motion passed. (NOTE: As a follow-up to the meeting, Roach contacted the department and received consent to reword the ESS 3358 title.)

Purinton informed the council that a new 15-hour track in Western Civilization has been added to the Honors Arts and Letters degree in the Honors College.

Akers announced that the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources will be phasing out the Master's of Agriculture and will have a May 2014 termination date.

Elbow announced the phase-out of the undergraduate Latin American and Iberian Studies program, leaving only the LAIS graduate minor.

Stoker informed the council that the College of Media and Communication has moved the administrative home of its new B.A. in Media Strategies from the Dean's Office to the Department of Public Relations.

Huffman announced that two new specializations within the B.S. in Human Sciences will also become minors: (1) Youth Development and (2) Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Education.

Henry (College of Visual and Performing Arts), Huffman (College of Human Sciences), and Laverie (Jerry S. Rawls College of Business) presented a proposal recommending the following:

- Both undergraduate and graduate course forms, once approved at the college level, should be sent directly to the Office of Official Publications for processing and placement on the next Academic Council meeting agenda.
- Copies of graduate course proposal forms should be sent to the Graduate School for informational purposes.
- Language in OP 36.01 should be edited to reflect the changes.

Huffman moved that the recommendations be approved as read, Purinton seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

**Old Business:**

- Stewart resumed discussion of requiring students to take a minimum of 40 credit hours of upper-level courses prior to graduation. Huffman expressed concern that this new requirement might contradict a significant number of curriculum tables in the new catalog about to go to the printer. To avoid this contradiction, Stewart suggested using a qualifying word (e.g., “normally”) in the new catalog but remove the word in the future and enforce the 40-hour rule. (NOTE: The new catalog includes the following wording under Academic Regulations: “Students are normally required to take a minimum of 40-credit hours of 3000- and 4000-level courses prior to graduation.”)
- Stewart referred council members to a draft of Definitions of Graduate Student Teaching Positions. The new definitions were approved earlier by the Dean’s Council with the exception of changing “Assistant Instructor” to “Associate Instructor.” Huffman moved that the council approve the definitions and then send them to the next Faculty Senate meeting for a response. Iber seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- Stewart postponed procedural guidelines on backdated withdrawals.

**Other Business:**

- Hoover informed the council that University Libraries has signed an agreement with HathiTrust to add 3.3 million volumes digitally to the university’s collection.
- In a subsequent March 27-28 email vote solicited by Stewart prior to advanced registration, council members voted to approve priority class registration for student veterans.