ACADEMIC COUNCIL  
Texas Tech University  

Meeting of  
April 15, 2014  
MINUTES

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

Guests: Matt Brockman, Jennifer Hughes, Andrea McCourt, Jacob Price

Stewart presented the minutes of the March 18, 2014 meeting. No corrections were advised, and Huffman motioned to approve the minutes. Henry seconded, and the motion was approved.

Brockman shared with Council members regarding academic opportunities at the National Ranching Heritage Center (NRHC). In addition to giving a brief history of the NRHC and the Ranching Heritage Association, Brockman discussed current collaborative efforts between the NRHC, College of Ag Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR), Architecture, National Wind Institute, and others.

J. Price discussed an upcoming classroom audit to be conducted by ASFR. The audit will take place between May 19 and May 30, and will review room capacity and features to ensure accuracy within the Ad Astra system.

McKinnon presented the course approval summary. Stoker requested that faculty members completing course approval forms in the future clarify their justifications rather than repeating the same justification multiple times, an idea with which Parseoneault concurred. Stewart advised members that course descriptions need to be distinctive and informative in order to advise potential students regarding the use of. Additionally, it was advised that colleges and departments should in the future avoid the use of the word “core” when discussing a block of courses, as this may cause confusion when compared with the University’s Core academic courses. Following this discussion, Morse moved to approve the courses as presented, Agnello seconded, and the motion was approved.

The proposed Undergraduate Certificate in Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure, as well as the proposed Graduate Certificate in Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure, were tabled by Morse pending additional information.
The council discussed a proposed Undergraduate Certificate in Strategic Leadership in Human Resource Development. TTUHSC administrators approached the Provost's Office regarding a collaborative effort that would allow TTUHSC human resource professionals (as well as HR professionals from other entities) to earn the proposed certificate, with most of the courses offered online. Brown raised the point that the certificate was proposed in such a way that it could be offered to students who were not otherwise seeking a degree, something not offered by any other undergraduate certificate program. Additionally, it was noted that offering the certificate as a stand-alone program could have federal financial aid implications. Pending further review and clarification of the proposed certificate, Stewart tabled the item.

Parsoneault presented an update on SACSCOC reaffirmation, and noted the April 2 visit by a pair of noted consultants had gone well.

Huffman reintroduced the topic of a Bachelor of Science in Early Child Care degree initially proposed and later tabled during the March 18, 2014 meeting. Huffman noted again that the degree was a distance program offered in cooperation with IDEA. The proposal was initially tabled after it was learned that the name originally proposed for the degree (B.S. in Early Childhood) already existed at Texas Tech University. After a discussion of the revised name, Johnson moved to approve the degree program as submitted, Akers seconded, and the motion was approved.

Under new business:

- Logan was asked when proposed changes would take effect for the ApplyTexas application portal, and if colleges could begin submitting requests for the new terminology to be used. The changes will take effect August 1, 2014 for 2015-2016 applications.
- Stewart noted that Noel Sloan, the University’s CFO, will be presenting information during the May 2014 Academic Council meeting regarding the advising process and advisor registration of students, a procedure that can cause issues.
- Hughes noted that lists of unenrolled students were set to be disseminated in coming weeks, and that a new online application has been developed that will assist colleges and the Provost’s Office in recording and analyzing the outcome of subsequent calling campaigns.

Finally, Stewart announced that Elbow would be stepping down from his position in the Provost’s Office to return to teaching at the end of the summer.