ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Texas Tech University

Meeting of
May 20, 2014
MINUTES

Present: Mary Francis Agnello, Stefanie Borst, Bobbie Brown, Carnes, Adrienne, Keith Dye, Cliff Fedler, Paul Goebel, Melanie Hart, Hayden Hatch, Bob Henry, Sheila Hoover, Lynn Huffman, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Samuel Jackson for Cindy Akers, Michelle Kiser, Mitzi Lauderdale, Robin Lock, Ethan Logan, Justin Louder, Randy McBee, Pat McConnel, Garrett McKinnon, Audra Morse, Amy Murphy, Stephen Ekwaro-Osire, Catherine Parsoneault, Patti Perkins for Clifton Ellis, David Roach, Brian Shannon, Brian Steel, Rob Stewart (chair), Susan Tomlinson, Janessa Walls, Marijane Wernsman for Kevin Stoker, Vicki West

Guests: Kyle Galyean, Jennifer Hughes, Andrea McCourt, Peggy Miller, Noel Sloan, Joseph Urban

Stewart presented the minutes of the April 15, 2014 meeting. No corrections were suggested, and the minutes were approved by affirmation.

Sloan presented information on TTU’s fixed tuition program, which will be offered to incoming TTU freshmen and undergraduate students per new state regulations. The TTU model is a plan that students can opt into, but are not forced to enter. The plan fixes tuition for 12 consecutive semesters (including both summer sessions as one semester).

Stewart and Sloan discussed the President’s Summer Scholarship initiative, which they indicated had been very well received and had lead to an increase of approximately 2,400 student credit hours of summer enrollment. They also commented that
preliminary enrollment figures for the Fall 2014 semester look promising.

Galyean presented an update on the AlcoholEdu program administered by Student Health Services. According to survey data collected, the required program has been successful in educating incoming freshmen students regarding risky behavior associated with drinking.

Hughes briefed the council on TTU’s Retention Initiative, an ongoing effort to encourage re-enrollment by students. Hughes indicated the project is analyzing persistent patterns in student data to identify students potentially lacking progress in a particular degree field so advisors may be able to discuss alternative degree plans with them.

Hughes also presented information on resources being made available for visiting students. Specifically, a portal is being created that will walk students and advisors through the visiting student advising process, answer FAQs, etc. Hughes requested that colleges review their list of courses that will not be available to visiting students and update the currently available list.

Stewart advised that the June Academic Council meeting will include a discussion regarding grades of P/F in the core curriculum. Also, the Council will review the requirement that the last 30 hours of credit will be required in residence in order for students to graduate with honors.

Urban presented information on proposed undergraduate and graduate certificates in Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure. The undergraduate certificate is being made available as part of a grant award and will be built on three “core” courses plus two electives. Urban indicated that the Department of Homeland Security has identified 16 individual sectors needing cybersecurity upgrades, and students earning these certificates will be able to
assist in securing vital infrastructure. Urban also indicated that Engineering is willing to work with other departments on campus in offering these certificates, which will be available to degree-seeking students. After some discussion, Huffman moved to approve the certificates as presented. Roach seconded the motion, and the Council approved.

The Council discussed an undergraduate certificate in Leadership in Human Resource Development proposal that had previously been tabled. The Provost's Office, which is offering the program, resolved that the certificate will be limited in availability to degree-seeking students. Huffman moved that the revised proposal be accepted, Morse seconded, and the motion was approved.

Henry announced a change in hours for the Master of Arts in Theatre Arts degree. The decision was made as a result of a visit from the college's accrediting agency, and will result in an increase from 30 to 36 hours for the degree. Parsoneault reminded those in attendance that THECB must approve hours changes to degree plans, and that her office maintains the requisite forms to do so. She also reminded the Council that increases in credit hours must be justified.

McKinnon submitted the course approval summary for consideration. Huffman voiced some concern with ARCH 4325 and 4392, and asked if these courses might overlap courses already offered by Human Sciences. The Council was informed that these courses are being proposed as part of a certificate that will be offered as part of Architecture’s El Paso program, and that the courses in question would only be offered in El Paso. With no further objections, Morse motioned that the courses be approved as presented, Agnello seconded the motion, and the course changes were approved.

McKinnon also presented information on a revised course approval form based on an all-electronic architecture, and requested
feedback on same.

Parsoneault updated the Council on SACSCOC reaffirmation efforts, and announced that the Provost’s Office will be launching a social media campaign for students and faculty asking them to use #bearourbanners with photos to garner interest and support for the university’s QEP program, the proposed title of which is “Bear Our Banners.”

Stewart updated the Council regarding the May commencement ceremonies, and indicated that President Nellis had expressed satisfaction with all programs. He did indicate that the Council should encourage greater faculty representation at future commencement ceremonies.

In other business:

- Stewart noted that the campus book store contract is up for renewal, and called for faculty volunteers to serve on the committee that will weigh options for the contract.
- It was noted that *U.S. News & World Report* listed TTU engineering among its top programs.
- McKinnon announced that printed catalogs were available to anyone who needed one.
- Morse reminded the Council that ASFR’s facility audit is ongoing.
- Brown reminded the Council that academic standing for students had been updated by the Registrar’s office.

With no additional business, the Council was adjourned.