

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Texas Tech University

Meeting of
July 15, 2014
MINUTES

Present: Cindy Akers, Cathy Duran, Keith Dye, Cliff Fedler, Ralph Ferguson, Ryan Gibbs, Paul Goebel, Melanie Hart, Bob Henry, Sheila Hoover, Jorge Iber, Peggy Johnson, Mitzi Lauderdale, Robin Lock, Ethan Logan, Andrew Martin, Brenda Martinez for Bobbie Brown, Pat McConnel, Garrett McKinnon, Richard Meek, Audra Morse, Catherine Parsonneault, David Roach, Toni Riley for Ethan Logan, Brian Shannon, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart chair, Kevin Stoker, Baleigh Waldrop for Hayden Hatch, Janessa Walls, Vicki West

Guests: Dale Ganus

Stewart presented the minutes from the June meeting. A typographical amendment was suggested. Thereafter, Meek moved that the minutes be accepted as revised, Iber seconded, and the motion was approved.

McKinnon presented the summary of course approvals. Roach moved that the course changes/additions be approved as submitted, Johnson seconded, and the motion was approved.

Waldrop opened discussion of the Student Government Association's position on Spring Break, specifically the Spring Break schedule for 2016. The SGA is concerned that the break as scheduled does not coincide with other major universities in the state. After some discussion, Stewart directed McKinnon to prepare a report on Spring Break dates as announced by other universities (both public and private) in the state of Texas, as well as other Big XII institutions. Awaiting this information, the issue was tabled.

At the request of Huffman, who was unable to attend the meeting, a proposed notification of an hours change for the Early Childhood degree was tabled.

Stewart led discussion of a proposal to exempt Spanish-language hours taken on the Texas Tech University campus—but under the auspices of South Plains College—from the current transfer hours limit. The proposal would allow for up to 10 hours of Spanish credits to be exempted from the transfer hours limit. Iber indicated that the department of CMLL does not have sufficient faculty to handle the demand for Spanish courses. Parsonneault cautioned that SACSCOC limits the percentage of allowable transfer hours, and granting the exception would limit options for additional transfer hours. Walls also noted that other departments (History and English) offer similar classes, and that granting an exemption for Spanish could lead

to a ripple effect. After further discussion, Stewart tabled the item for additional consideration.

Johnson discussed a trio of graduate certificates proposed by the College of Education. Under the Teacher Advancement Program rubric, the certificates would be available in Educational Leadership, Literacy, and STEM. Johnson noted that funding for the program occurred through a grant, and that the college hopes the certificates will have a positive impact on classroom education in local districts. Individual course tracks will be offered for each certificate. After a brief discussion, Johnson moved that the certificates be approved, Morse seconded, and the motion was approved.

Stoker next initiated discussion on a proposal to move the Department of Communication Studies from the College of Arts and Sciences to the College of Media and Communication. Stoker indicated that unifying communication studies with media and communications departments is part of a broad trend in higher education institutions across the country, and that the motion enjoyed great support from faculty in both colleges. He indicated that Communication Studies would remain an independent department within the College of Media and Communication, though the graduate program may at some point in the future be incorporated, as the College currently offers a single master's program with different tracks of study. The move would require approval by the Board of Regents, as well as THECB and SACSCOC notification. After more discussion, Meek moved that the proposal be accepted, Morse seconded, and the motion was approved.

Stewart updated the Council on enrollment numbers for the second session of summer school, and while he noted that enrollment was down compared with 2012, he added that enrollment for the totality of summer should equal or surpass that of 2012.

Stewart advised the council on the establishment of a Provost's Task Force on Summer School, a pilot program to start in Fall 2014 whose aim is to increase summer enrollment for 2015.

The Council heard about ongoing efforts regarding Strategic Planning Assessment Reports from colleges. Stewart wanted to ensure that there is no disconnect between the university's strategic plan and individual strategic plans initiated by colleges. Parsonneault noted that consultants with whom the Provost's Office has worked suggest the creation of an assessment task force to ascertain how well strategic goals are being met.

Parsonneault provided an update on SACSCOC Reaffirmation and gave an update on QEP. The University's draft response to SACSCOC is receiving input. The QEP planning committee has begun to draft the first stage of the plan, tentatively titled: "Bear Our Banners Far and Wide: Communicating in a Global Society"

In other business

- Jarod Gonzalez will be replaced by Allison Myra for assoc dean at law school.
- Ganus noted that a new online faculty grading system and attendance tracking systems are on horizon, and that Information Systems is working to help faculty by including student photographs on the student profile page.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.