

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Texas Tech University

Meeting of
July 19, 2011

MINUTES

Present: Sam Bradley, Bobby Brown, Wesley Cochran, Cathy Duran, Gary Elbow, Ralph Ferguson, Melanie Hart, Bob Henry, Sheila Hoover, Norm Hopper, Lynn Huffman, Jorge Iber, Peggy Johnson, Sue Jones, John Kobza, Ethan Logan, Pat McConnel, Amy Murphy, Juan Munoz, Daniel Nathan, Patricia Perkins for Clifton Ellis, DaNay Phelps, Herschel Mann for Brian Shannon, Rob Stewart (chair), Coy Callison for Kevin Stoker, Janessa Walls, Vicki West

Guests: Joshua Barron, Hansel Burley

Council members reviewed and approved the minutes of the June 21, 2011, meeting. Stewart requested that the name of Adrien Bennings be moved from the list of guests to the list of members present.

Elbow presented a proposal for a new Ph.D. in Special Education, noting that the College of Education proposes to phase out the Ed.D. in Special Education as it phases in the preferred Ph.D. Johnson moved that the council approve the Ph.D. in Special Education, Henry seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Elbow presented proposals approved by both the Distributed Learning Council and the Graduate Council for an online specialization in Youth Development within the already existing M.S. in Human Development and Family Studies and for two 13-credit hour graduate certificates in (1) Youth Development Specialist and (2) Youth Program Management and Evaluation. All of the programs are in collaboration with the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (GPIDEA). Hopper moved that the master's degree specialization be approved, Huffman seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Huffman moved that the two graduate certificates be approved, Cochran seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Elbow presented a proposal from the College of Education for a 15-hour Graduate Certificate in Sensory Impairment and Autism Spectrum Disorders. Jones pointed out problems with course titles in the proposal. Johnson moved that the certificate be accepted with revised course titles, Jones seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Elbow presented a proposal for a 15-hour Graduate Certificate in Medieval and Renaissance Studies. He noted that the prefix for new courses to accompany this certificate had been changed from CMRS to MRST. Roach moved that the proposal be approved with the MRST change, Iber seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Jones presented the July course approval summary, noting that #6 (MRST 7000) had conflicting information on the course approval form regarding the number of requested hours. Council members also questioned a possible conflict between the Career Center and the course content of

#19 (UCIS 3301 Career and Professional Development). Henry moved that items #6 and #19 be tabled but all other course proposals be approved. The motion carried.

Elbow updated the council on the efforts of a four-member committee to prepare a new course approval form to address numerous concerns, including how to differentiate between a primary and secondary activity type. The new form uses four digits to express credit hours rather than three. The council reviewed the new form and noted that the form lacked a means of expressing variable credit. In addition, the council asked the four-member committee to work out the details of how the change in expressing credit hours should be stated in the catalog.

Elbow informed the council that SACSCOC had accepted without changes the university's Fifth-Year Report. Although there is a minor problem with the university's reporting of its Core Curriculum, he expected the problem to be resolved after follow-up contact. The next SACSCOC report is due April 16, 2012.

Although Freshman Convocation had been tabled two years ago, Murphy told council members that a more informal version of convocation has been scheduled for September 13 in Allen Hall. The event will feature a coming together of the freshman class to hear a keynote speaker (to be announced). Faculty will not wear their academic robes.

Stewart provided a letter from President Guy Bailey expressing the commitment of the Office of the President to provide funding for one individual from each college that provides undergraduate programs to travel to student recruitment events in FY12.

Stewart provided information to the council regarding the 2011 Summer Reading Program, a learning opportunity to prepare incoming students for the academic rigor of the college environment.

Huffman questioned the appropriateness of the university's automatic response to closing job positions and described the response as "not sensitive" and "too harsh." Stewart agreed to review the wording of the responses.

Announcements:

- The Ranching Heritage Center's Golden Spur Award will be given to Nolan Ryan.
- President Bailey has accepted the Convocation Committee's recommendation that the 4 p.m. commencement be moved to 3 p.m. In addition, the committee met with the photographer and got good ideas about changes that will streamline the awarding of degrees.