

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Texas Tech University

Meeting of
November 15, 2011

MINUTES

Present: Sam Bradley, Bobbie Brown, Wes Cochran, Cathy Duran, Gary Elbow, Clifton Ellis, Ralph Ferguson, Ryan Gibbs, Melanie Hart, Robert Henry, Sheila Hoover, Cherif Amor for Lynn Huffman, Patrick Hughes, Peggy Johnson, Ramona Johnson for Cindy Akers, Sue Jones, Michelle Kiser, Debbie Laverie, Ethan Logan, Felicia Martin, Pat McConnel, Alex Moore for Tyler Patton, Marjean Purinton, Nicci Price for Janessa Walls, David Roach, Brian Shannon, Rob Stewart (chair), Kevin Stoker, Vicki West

Guests: Joshua Barron, Jerry Hudson, Tanya Karp, Marcus Tanner

Tanya Karp presented a brief overview of the Student Fulbright Program for university seniors and graduate students. The program provides more than 1,000 Research Study Grants and 600 English Teaching Assistantships on an 8- to 12-month basis in foreign countries. The application deadline on campus is the end of September or early October. Students who receive Fulbright awards leave in August.

Stokes and Hudson presented a proposal from the College of Mass Communications for a new 120-hour Bachelor of Arts in Media Strategies. Jones pointed out errors in the listing of required and elective courses, and Elbow expressed concern about courses listed as writing intensive and Core approved. Noting that these problems could be easily resolved, Jones moved that the proposal be accepted. Purinton seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Elbow summarized new Core Curriculum objectives approved by THECB at its meeting on October 27, 2011. He noted that the old Core focused on factual knowledge but the new Core emphasizes behavioral objectives and limits the Core to 42 hours. THECB will approve all changes to the Core in each institution and the changes must be implemented in fall 2014. The emphasis will be on freshman/sophomore level courses with upper-level courses discouraged or disallowed. Because Texas Tech has a 47-hour Core and the new Core limits natural science to 6 hours, Elbow expects that the university will eliminate its Technology and Applied Science requirement for the Core and every degree program will teach discipline-appropriate technology within the major. To begin the process of making changes to the university's Core in compliance with state requirements, Elbow anticipates suspending after December 16, 2011, acceptance of applications to add new courses to the Core.

Jones presented the course approval summary for December. After several members questioned the appropriateness of devoting an entire course to the history of lynching in America, Elbow moved that item #23, "The History of Lynching," be tabled for further review. Brown seconded the motion and the motion passed. Elbow then moved that the remaining course approvals be accepted. Purinton seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Stewart presented the October minutes of the Academic Council. Brown moved the minutes be accepted as presented, Elbow seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Stewart briefly explained the history of efforts to reconcile complicated issues presented by future academic calendars. He noted that the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Calendars met with members of the Faculty Senate's subcommittee on calendars and determined that the main concern of the university is approval of calendars appropriate for the institution's academic program. Extracurricular activities such as Carol of Lights must schedule their events accordingly. Given that background, the council considered proposed calendars for 2013 through 2016. After noting a potential problem with the start date for the spring 2015 semester, Stewart suggested that the council reconsider the calendars at the December meeting.

Laverie presented a summary of the Rawls College of Business executive-style International MBA Program for professionals in the energy industry. Students can remain employed while completing a 20-month program involving technical, lecture-style material delivered electronically and six modules of in-class, face-to-face instruction. Two of the six residential modules will include touring energy-related sites in Western Europe and South America.

Other Business

- Price announced a March 1 deadline for deciding what courses will be writing intensive in 2012-13. More information will be forthcoming.
- Stewart discussed instructor conduct in social interactions with students, emphasizing that the interaction should exclude the use and/or purchase of alcohol for students.
- Stewart announced that the next meeting of the council would be December 13 at the Marsh Sharp Center for Student Athletes.