

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL**  
Texas Tech University

Meeting of  
**November 20, 2012**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Cindy Akers, Bobbie Brown, Tim Dodd for Lynn Huffman, Cathy Duran, Gary Elbow, Clifton Ellis, Ralph Ferguson, Ryan Gibbs, Jarod Gonzalez, Sheila Gray for Ethan Logan, Melanie Hart, Bob Henry, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Sue Jones, Michelle Kiser, Pat McConnel, Juan Munoz, Audra Morse, Michele Moskos, Marjean Purinton, David Roach, Christine Self, Brian Shannon, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart (chair), Kevin Stoker, Janessa Walls, Mary Elkins for Vicki West.

**Guests:** Christy Blakney, Dale Ganus, Jobi Martinez, Martha Mouret-Sanders, Aliza Wong

Stewart presented the minutes of the October 23, 2012, meeting and noted that the Undergraduate Certificate in Community Arts Entrepreneurship should be listed as 15 hours, not 18. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Martinez explained the interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary open teaching concept introduced in fall 2012 by the Cross-Cultural Academic Advancement Center.

Blakney discussed the consequences of backdated withdrawals. She said revenues go to departments as soon as students register. Backdating withdrawals could mean financially impacting a department for numerous years and threaten the reporting for those years. Blakney also discussed the problems of students making a mid-term degree change. She said the student's advising fee is deposited in the account of the college where the student is enrolled. If the student makes a mid-term degree change involving another college, a revenue change occurs in the Banner system. This type of change in large numbers can adversely affect revenues of many colleges. Blakney said she would present at a later date figures showing the impact of mid-term changes and would be open to any changes the council thinks advisable.

Under directive of the Academic Council, a committee was formed in August to discuss the current policy of readmission for students returning to Texas Tech after suspension. Committee members presented recommendations to the council for revision of the policy section focusing on readmission after two semesters away from the institution following suspension. After extensive discussion, the committee representatives decided to reconvene and make revisions to their recommendations with the goal of implementing the revisions in early spring.

Jones distributed as an informational item a summary of course approvals involving 11 courses with prefixes of PADR (Programs for Academic Development and Retention). Because students taking these developmental courses do not receive semester credit hours, the courses were approved by the Provost's Office and did not require Academic Council approval.

Jones presented the November course approvals. Jones moved that item #3 (BTEC 5313), which was tabled in October, be taken off the table and reconsidered with the November course approvals. Morse seconded the motion and the motion passed. Gonzalez expressed the desire of the School of Law that the PLAW (Pre-Law) courses listed as items #4 and #5 be withdrawn. Henry moved that all the courses on the November course summary be accepted except the two withdrawn PLAW courses. Akers seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Morse asked the council for approval of increasing by 3 SCH the degree requirements of the B.S. in Chemical Engineering from 129 to 132 hours. This would allow the department to add a process safety course to the curriculum in order to meet new ABET requirements for the program. Jones moved that the council approve the increase and solicit approval from THECB. Purinton seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Stewart and Walls presented revised descriptions for the university's composite courses, which are two or more courses or course sections scheduled at the same time with the same instructor(s) of record, the same or similar learning requirements, and the same or similar course content as outlined in the syllabi. The new descriptions differentiate between several types of composite courses, including cross-listed courses, combined graduate/undergraduate courses ("piggybacked courses"), and multi-modal or multi-site synchronous sections of the same course.