ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Texas Tech University

Meeting of
December 17, 2013
MINUTES

Present: Mary Francis Agnello, Stefanie Borst, Bobbie Brown, Cathy Duran, Gary Elbow, Ryan Gibbs, Paul Goebel, Jarod Gonzalez, Melanie Hart, Bob Henry, Sheila Hoover, Lynn Huffman, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Peggy Johnson, Ramona Johnson for Cindy Akers, Sue Jones, Michelle Kiser, Robin Lock, Ethan Logan, Justin Louder, Pat McConnel, Audra Morse, Catherine Parsoneault, Marjean Purinton, David Roach, Brian Shannon, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart (chair), Kevin Stoker, Janessa Walls, Vicky West, Anna Young

Guests: Steven Ekwo-Orise, Dale Ganus, Peggy Miller

Stewart presented the minutes of the November 19, 2013, meeting. Purinton moved the minutes be accepted as presented. Huffman seconded the motion and the motion passed.

In preparation for reconsidering the tabled proposal for the Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree, Roach moved that the degree proposal be taken off the table. Shannon seconded the motion and the motion passed. Hughes addressed the concerns originally expressed by the College of Arts and Sciences. After comments and discussion by other members of the council, Huffman moved that the degree program be approved as presented. Gibbs seconded the motion and the motion passed. Roach followed the approval vote with a motion that the name of the degree be changed to Bachelor of Applied Science. Elbow seconded the motion, but the motion failed.

Louder informed the council that a request from the Department of Journalism and Electronic Media within the College of Media and Communication had been approved to offer an 18-hour concentration in journalism and visual media at TTU Fredericksburg and to make the concentration available at other off-site campuses in the TTU System.

Duran reported on the spring 2014 early enrollment and calling campaign for unenrolled current students.

Brown discussed the problems of having more than half the student body qualify for priority registration. She said the large number of priority registrations is causing the first day of registration to have a significantly higher failure rate because of so many students trying to register at the same time. Stewart appointed the following people to an ad hoc committee to recommend a solution to the problem: Dale Ganus, Audra Morse, Kevin Stoker, Lynn Huffman, and Bobbie Brown.

Stewart reminded council members that THECB requires Texas Tech to submit two programs for the state’s Excellent Programs for Accountability System. He asked for descriptions of
excellent, standout programs to be submitted to him by December 18. West agreed to email past program submissions to council members.

Brown presented a letter that will be sent to faculty members on the 20th class day of the spring semester reminding them to review course rosters online. Federal requirements stipulate that students who receive federal grant assistance must have begun attendance in the course for which they have enrolled. Confirmation of non-attendance via the online course roster is essential in maintaining institutional eligibility compliance for Title IV funding.

Stewart presented the December course approval summary. Stoker moved that the course changes be approved as presented. Purinton seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Elbow presented a recommendation that the catalog wording be modified to reflect a decrease in minimum semester credit hours (SCH) earned at Texas Tech for a student to quality for university honors (i.e., summa cum laude, magna cum laude, cum laude). The new catalog wording would reduce the required hours from 50 percent (60 hours) to 40 percent (48 hours) and would read as follows: “No student is considered for graduation honors unless at least 40 percent (minimum of 48 SCH) has been completed at this institution and that credit must include the senior year.” Jones moved that the recommendation be accepted. Johnson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**Other Business**

- Huffman thanked the Commencement Committee for a well-coordinated graduation and for including live music.
- Stewart said the university president and provost were pleased with the faculty turnout for the president’s inauguration.
- Louder said Texas Tech was recently selected as a winner of the 2014 Campus of Integrity Award sponsored by the International Center for Academic Integrity.