

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Texas Tech University

Meeting of
December 18, 2012

MINUTES

Present: Cindy Akers, Stephanie Borst, Bobbie Brown, Gary Elbow, Cliff Fedler, Ralph Ferguson, Ryan Gibbs, Jarod Gonzalez, Melanie Hart, Bob Henry, Sheila Hoover, Lynn Huffman, Jorge Iber, Peggy Johnson, Sue Jones, Debbie Laverie, Ethan Logan, Andrew Martin, Felicia Martin, Pat McConnel, Audra Morse, Michele Moskos, Amy Murphy, Marjean Purinton, David Roach, Christine Self, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart (chair), Kevin Stoker, Carrye Syma for Sam Bradley, Janessa Walls, Vicki West

Guests: Darby Dickerson

Stewart presented the minutes of the November 20, 2012, meeting and noted that Andrew Martin's name should be omitted from the attendance list. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Jones presented the December course approvals. Prior to discussion, Stewart introduced Darby Dickerson, Dean of the School of Law. Dickerson explained the creation of a new Pre-Law Academy and the importance of two proposed new undergraduate courses to the curriculum of the summer program. Huffman moved that all the December courses be approved as presented. Morse seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Jones presented the new detailed 2013-2014 Academic Calendar. The "skeleton calendar" for 2013-2014 had been approved last year, but the Office of Official Publications worked in November with the offices of the Registrar, Housing, Hospitality, Student Business Services, and the Graduate School to complete the detailed calendar.

Jones reminded council members that catalog proofs will be distributed by campus mail the first week in January. The deadline for return of college proofs will be February 4. Catalog deadlines for other program components will vary.

Elbow reported on new Core Curriculum developments, including the recent restoration of MATH 1350 to the mathematics component of the Core.

Elbow led council members in a December commencement debriefing that focused on problem areas and successes.

Brown referred council members to a handout showing 1,358 missing final grades as of 7:35 that morning. The number had declined to 928 by 1 p.m. She stressed the importance of completing grade reports by the established deadlines in order to allow her office to complete required posting, reporting, and mailing prior to Christmas holidays.

Stewart expressed concern about the graduate enrollment for spring 2013 and asked council members to do whatever they could to encourage enrollment in the spring.

Stewart reported that the Doctor of Medical Physics degree had been cancelled due to the university's inability to comply with the Coordinating Board's two-year implementation rule for new degree programs.

Stewart distributed an email correspondence with Sam Segran detailing the online learning materials provided by the IT Division to faculty, staff, and students. IT contracts with SkillSoft to provide online, self-paced, interactive computer-based training that includes more than 5,300 courses and includes an "Ethics" catalog of 147 courses on various ethical topics or topics in which ethics is a component. To access these materials, visit <http://cbt.ttu.edu>.

Old Business:

- Intra-university transfers are still ongoing. Stewart said the university hopes to settle the transfers by January or February in time for inclusion in the new catalog.
- A new ad-hoc committee on backdated withdrawals will be formed soon and will review how the university is affected by backdated withdrawals and what the implications are for the future. Numerous council members volunteered for the committee.

New Business:

- Fedler reported that the Graduate School is in the process of creating an electronic system to offer a one-stop location where students can see admission requirements for every graduate program in the university.

Announcements:

- The Graduate School recently received \$10 million for faculty-nominated scholarships.
- Spring Red Raider Orientation sessions will begin in January.
- *National Jurist* magazine recently named the Texas Tech School of Law second in the nation in terms of professor accessibility.
- Efforts are being made to secure more scholarships for transfer students.
- Institutional Research is developing training sessions to help people know how to use the data it produces.
- A search continues for a new dean of the College of Media and Communication.
- The next Faculty Senate meets on January 15.
- The College of Engineering is preparing a major rewriting of its catalog text.
- The College of Visual and Performing Arts is preparing for an accreditation visit.
- The Staff Senate will soon be making staff scholarship decisions.
- The Admissions Office has become more efficient in data processing and can now determine that we are ahead of last year in the number of incoming freshmen for fall 2013.
- February 1 is the deadline for applications for the Excellence in Teaching Award.