ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Texas Tech University

Meeting of
February 17, 2015

MINUTES

Present: Cindy Akers, Stefani Borst, Bobbie Brown, Adrienne Carnes, Michael Carter
for Pat McConnel, Cathy Duran, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Stephen Ekwaro-
Osire, Cliff Ellis, Cliff Fedler, Ryan Gibbs, Paul Goebel, Melanie Hart, Sheila Hoover,
Lynn Huffman, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Peggy Johnson, Michelle Kiser, Mitzi
Lauderdale, Ethan Logan, Justin Louder, Andrew Martin, Felicia Martin, Garrett
McKinnon, Richard Meek, Ben Montecillo, Audra Morse, Alison Myhra, Catherine
Parsoneault, William Pasewark, David Roach, Brian Shannon, Brian Steele, Rob
Stewart chair, Kevin Stoker, Vicki Walls, Janessa Walls, Aliza Wong

Guests: Jennifer Bard, Todd Chambers, David Ernst, Ralph Ferguson, Greg Gellene,
Jacob Price

Stewart called the meeting to order and introduced the minutes from the January
2015 Academic Council meeting. Corrections were requested to the Rawls College of
Business transfer policy, noting that the policy applied to both _internal_ and external
transfer students, and for the College of Visual and Performing Arts proposed name
change for the Department of Theatre and Dance, noting that Texas Tech University
was the only _public_ university in Texas with accreditation in the areas of art/design,
dance, music, and theatre. With these corrections noted, Meek moved to accept the
minutes as amended, Lauderdale seconded, and the motion was approved.

Logan discussed the ramifications of House Bill 5, which revised high school
curriculum in the state of Texas. The graduating class of 2018 would be the first to
completely transition to the new curriculum, he said, noting that the changes would
introduce new types of graduation plans, and that certain changes may impact
admissions requirements at Texas Tech University. Logan noted that the university
would give admission consideration to students who graduated under Foundation,
Foundation-Endorsements, and Foundation-Distinguished high school curriculum
plans, but that the last two would be more competitive.

Logan also discussed the pending redesign of the SAT exam effective spring 2016.
He said the College Board had expanded the writing section of the exam, and gone
back to the traditional 1600-point scoring system. He noted the new SAT would
have a richer scoring environment, and would include an evidence-based reading
and writing section. The new exam would also be more transparent regarding
student ability, he said, adding that the new SAT would have little impact on Texas
Tech University's admission policy.

McKinnon introduced the course approvals, including a mass deletion of Whitacre College of Engineering course in engineering technology, with the college having terminated that course of study. After a brief discussion, a correction was suggested in a course number change request. Following that, Morse made a motion to approve the courses as amended, Stoker seconded, and the motion was approved.

Durham DeCesaro introduced a set of proposed changes to the 2015-2016 core courses list. With the initial motion to approve all changes as proposed coming from the core curriculum committee, Roach seconded, and the motion was approved.

Durham DeCesaro also discussed a change to the university's transfer credit policy, and sought input from colleges ahead of a formal vote in March. She noted that the university was seeking to increase the allowable transfer hours from two-year institutions to 80 from 72.

In addition, Durham DeCesaro announced a proposed change in Texas Tech University policy regarding WECM (Workforce Education Course Manual) vocational courses. The amended policy would clarify in what instances the university would accept WECM credit toward a degree.

Durham DeCesaro also proposed a change to the university's policy regarding pass/fail courses, noting that the current language was unenforceable from a degree audit perspective. She said the revised language would put the bulk of control over pass/fail courses with the colleges, and the language would state that students wishing to take a course pass/fail would have to obtain approval from their college's academic dean's office. Stewart suggested adding language regarding minors taken from other colleges.

Pasewark introduced a proposal to change the Master of Science degree in Management Information Systems to the Master of Science in Data Science. He said the change represented the evolution of the discipline, which incorporated more data analytics. He noted that "MIS" was an increasingly archaic term. He added that the undergraduate degree in MIS would not change. Stoker made a motion to approve the name change as proposed, Morse seconded, and the motion was approved.

A pair of certificate programs was introduced. The graduate certificate in Psychological Methods and Analysis was proposed by the College of Arts and Sciences, and would supplement graduate students' methodological training. Huffman moved to approve the program as presented, Morse seconded, and the motion was approved. The College of Education proposed a graduate certificate in Informal Science Education. Johnson said the concept dealt with education at venues such as aquariums, zoos, historic battlefield sites, and others. She noted that a number of courses dealing with such topics already existed, meaning no new courses would be required to offer the certificate, which would also be offered

online. After some discussion involving the need for review of the program by the eLearning council, Morse moved to approve the program as presented pending approval by the eLearning council, Stoker seconded, and the motion was approved.

The Council considered a proposal to expand the Master of Arts in English degree to online delivery. Roach noted that the courses already existed. Meek moved to approve the delivery method expansion, Lauderdale seconded, and the motion was approved.

Similarly, Johnson proposed an expansion in the delivery method of the Master of Education in Higher Education degree. She noted that demand for online masters degrees from students studying remotely was increasing. Akers moved to approve the delivery method expansion, Meek seconded, and the motion was approved.

The Council head a number of informational items, including the introduction of a new minor in Astronomy for the Fall 2015 semester, new tracks of study in the Department of Hospitality and Retail Management, and new GPA requirements for Media Strategies majors in the College of Media and Communication.

In other business:
• Stewart noted that a request to supply students with physical certificates had been introduced to the Provost's Office, and he requested that Council members consider adopting a uniform document for certificates, and what that document might look like.
• The Council was reminded that the ADIA fees due date was Monday, February 23. Stewart advised that colleges with online courses could contact Melanie Hart regarding the attachment of fees other than the ADIA fee. Roach inquired about the possibility of increasing the $45 limit, noting that some hard science courses were already at that limit.
• ASFR advised the Council that the annual classroom audit would begin during spring break instead of the summer.
• McKinnon noted that the online catalog had been updated to the new Texas Tech University web platform, and requested that colleges and departments check their websites for any links to the online catalog, as some links had changed.

With no other business on the agenda, Stewart adjourned the meeting.