ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Texas Tech University

Meeting of
April 21, 2015

MINUTES


Guests: Todd Chambers

Stewart called the meeting to order and introduced the minutes from the March 2015 Academic Council meeting. With no comments or suggested corrections, the minutes were approved by acclamation.

Roach presented a summary of his attendance at the Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee meeting on April 10, 2015. He noted that the THECB had adopted a more institution-centric policy toward low-producing programs, and would allow individual institutions to decide the fate of their low-producing programs. He also touched on core curriculum guidelines being worked on by THECB staff, and discussed a pair of legislative proposals that would allocate higher education funding and/or tuition increases based on institutional outcomes or metrics.

McKinnon introduced the course approval summary for the month. With no comments or corrections forthcoming, Huffman moved to approve the courses as presented, Roach seconded, and the motion was approved.

Durham DeCesaro presented information on a proposed name change for the Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Exercise and Sport Sciences degrees. The Department of Kinesiology and Sport Management requested that the degrees be changed to Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Kinesiology, respectively, which would ally with the departmental name change. A comment regarding the current Exercise and Sport Science building name was raised, and it was announced that at some point the building name would need to be updated, as well. With no further discussion, Morse moved to approve the degree name changes as presented, Roach seconded, and the motion was approved.
Durham DeCesaro also presented information on a reduction in the number of credit hours for the Master of Science in Architecture degree. The move would reduce the number of hours from 38 to 34 in order to standardize the degree with other master of science degrees in the college. After a brief discussion, Stoker moved to approve the hour reduction, Lauderdale seconded, and the motion was approved.

Pasewark discussed a proposal for an undergraduate certificate in International Business. He noted the Rawls College of Business was ending its formal degree program in International Business due to a lack of demand from employers, but wanted to retain a certificate program due to student demand. Parsoneault noted that the move would be considered a substantive change with SACSCOC and the college would need to provide a report on consequences of the change for faculty and staff. With no further discussion, Wong moved to approve the certificate program as presented, Lauderdale seconded, and the motion was approved.

Carnes announced the addition of a new concentration in Energy Commerce within Rawls College of Business, but no formal vote was required.

Additionally, the Council was apprised of proposals to change the name of the Graduate Certificate in Urban and Community Design Studies to the Graduate Certificate in Urban and Community Design, as well as a proposal for a like-named new concentration within the Master of Science in Architecture degree. It was also noted that the College of Architecture was closing its Historic Preservation and Architecture Studies concentrations.

Parsoneault updated the Council on SACSCOC reaffirmation efforts, noting that the university had still not received the preliminary report, but was nevertheless moving forward on preparing responses. She said members of the reaffirmation committee were in the process of meeting with college deans and other principals in an effort to improve the recording of institutional effectiveness metrics.

In other business:

• Louder discussed the proposed archival policy raised during the March Academic Council meeting, noting that the policy would allow faculty to request that classes not be archived. He also said the Provost’s Office was working with IT to standardize archival retrieval requests and the approval/authorization procedure. Stewart asked Council members to consider the proposed policy and advised that final disposition of the policy would be a primary agenda item for the May Academic Council meeting.
• Durham DeCesaro advised Council members that she was looking into the development of an electronic program proposal process, but until such time as the new process could be finalized faculty should use the forms and workflow charts available on the Provost website in order to submit program or degree changes.
• Martinez noted that 70 percent of students who registered for the summer and fall semesters had done so with new registration system. She also noted that the Registrar's Office would begin sending notification of the registration date change beginning in November, at which time students would for the first time be able to register for both spring and summer semesters.
• Stewart noted the spring commencement dates and expressed a desire to see as many faculty as possible attend the ceremonies.

With no further business, Stewart adjourned the meeting.