

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Texas Tech University

Meeting of
October 21, 2014
MINUTES

Present: Rachel Bobbitt for Cathy Duran, Bobbie Brown, Michael Carter for Pat McConnel, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Keith Dye, Stephen Ekwaro-Osire, Clifton Ellis, Ryan Gibbs, Paul Goebel, Melanie Hart, Lynn Huffman, Peggy Johnson, Michelle Kiser, Mitzi Lauderdale, Savannah Leonard for Cindy Akers, Robin Lock, Ethan Logan, Andrew Martin, Randy McBee, Garrett McKinnon, Richard Meek, Ben Montecillo, Audra Morse, Alison Myhra, Catherine Parsonault, William Pasewark, David Roach, Brian Shannon, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart chair, Kevin Stoker, Janessa Walls, Vicki West, Aliza Wong

Guests: Brian Enderson, Brenda Martinez, Jacob Price, Gary Smith

Stewart called the meeting to order and welcomed guests. Thereafter, he presented the minutes from the September meeting. Meek moved to approve the minutes as presented, Lauderdale seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Price updated the Council on classroom renovation projects completed during the summer of 2014. Two rooms in Holden Hall were renovated as seminar-style classrooms ideal for graduate classes. In addition, Price noted that ASFR was working with Operations Division to install remotely controllable electronic locks in the rooms. Price also discussed the restoration of the furniture in Human Sciences 169, and noted that technology updates would be performed on the theater-style room next summer.

Martinez and Enderson from the Office of the Registrar discussed the development of an online system for handling university withdrawal requests that would replace the current PDF-based system. The system was designed with a 48-hour lag time to give students an opportunity to reconsider withdrawing from the university, as well as to allow departments to contact students and communicate with them regarding their withdrawal intentions. They also reassured the Council that the system was designed to educate students regarding the difference between withdrawing from the university and dropping one or all courses.

Smith provided the Council with an update on work performed by the QEP committee. The university's first QEP program, which covered the period from 2006-2010, was focused on ethics. The proposed QEP program would focus on communicating in a global society. As part of that, Smith noted the QEP committee was working to expand the current writing intensive requirement for courses to a "communication intensive" requirement. Smith said that the final QEP document would be sent to SACS-COC on December 23. Parsonault added that what the

university was attempting to do with its QEP program—specifically combining communication with a global mindset—had, to her knowledge, never been attempted by any other university.

James presented updated guidelines for combined or accelerated bachelors-to-masters programs. The updated guidelines would apply to approximately 15 such programs at the university, and would include minimum standards such programs would have to meet. Parsonault noted that the guidelines should include a mention of SACS-COC in a paragraph that discussed comprehensive standards. James indicated this change would be made, and noted that the Graduate School would work with existing programs to revise their standards to comply with the new guidelines. He also noted that undergraduate students pursuing a combined/accelerated degree would be allowed to take graduate-level classes within the final 30 hours of their bachelor's program. Huffman motioned to approve the guidelines pending addition of the SACS-COC clarification, Morse seconded, and the guidelines were approved.

McKinnon presented the course approval summary. James suggested that all graduate class approvals be tabled pending further discussion by the Graduate School, as well as tabling the addition of CHE 4376 since it included a tandem course corollary. Morse addressed concerns noted by the Graduate Council regarding the topic of the tandem CHE 5376/4376 "Entrepreneurship for Chemical Engineers," specifically concerns that other courses already cover the topic of entrepreneurship. She noted that the course was designed with the chemical plant engineering process in mind, and was thus unique in its approach to "entrepreneurship," a term not exclusive to business. Further discussion of the Graduate Council approval process was initiated by Roach and Huffman, with James noting that the dean of the Graduate School had discussed changing the current graduate course approval process to one that would allow a more thorough analysis of proposed graduate courses. With discussion ongoing, Morse motioned that all undergraduate courses be approved as presented, Roach seconded, and the undergraduate courses were approved. Discussion continued regarding the approval of graduate courses, with Academic Council members noting that because current approval procedure had been followed, and owing to the necessity for timely implementation of the proposed courses, the graduate courses should be approved. Huffman thereafter made a motion to approve the graduate courses as presented, Stoker seconded, and the graduate courses were approved.

McKinnon presented a proposed general academic calendar for calendar year 2019. Stewart advised Council members to discuss the calendar internally for approval at a future meeting. In other calendar discussion, Shannon advised the Council regarding a proposed 2015 football schedule that would have interfered with the scheduled date of finals. Shannon noted that the university's Athletic Department had asked the Big 12 conference to come up with an alternate schedule so the existing academic calendar would not have to be heavily revised.

Stoker presented information on a proposed undergraduate certificate in Sports Media that was first introduced during the September 2014 Academic Council meeting. He noted that after meeting with the department of Health, Exercise and Sport Sciences in the college of Arts and Sciences, the college of Media and Communication had opted to include two sport management courses currently offered by HESS as options for those pursuing the certificate, and that Arts and Sciences had opted to waive prerequisites in those courses for students in the certificate program. He also noted that the certificate program would become effective with the Fall 2015 semester. After some discussion, Morse moved to approve the certificate program as presented, Roach seconded, and the motion was approved.

Durham DeCesaro presented the Council with an update on writing intensive requirements, and noted that the Office of Provost website had been updated to include information on writing intensive requirements and core curriculum.

Durham DeCesaro also presented an update on prerequisite change procedures, noting that everything except prerequisite changes for core courses could be presented as an information-only item at Academic Council. Changes to prerequisites for courses included in the core curriculum must follow a formal procedure, which Martinez and Enderson noted the Registrar's Office was working to develop.

Roach reported on a meeting of the THECB's Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee, which advises the Coordinating Board on a variety of items. He noted that the Coordinating Board was relaxing its stance on low-producing programs, and that the Board would advise universities that low-producing programs need to be changed.

With no other business to discuss, Stewart adjourned the meeting.