ACADEMIC COUNCIL  
Texas Tech University

Meeting of  
November 18, 2014

MINUTES

Present: Cindy Akers, Kathy Austin, Stefanie Borst, Bobbie Brown, Adrienne Carnes, Cathy Duran, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Keith Dye, Cliff Fedler, Ralph Ferguson, Ryan Gibbs, Paul Goebel, Sheila Hoover, Lynn Huffman, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Peggy Johnson, Michelle Kiser, Robin Lock, Ethan Logan, Andrew Martin, Pat McConnel, Garrett McKinnon, Richard Meek, Ben Montecillo, Alison Myhra, Catherine Parsoneault, David Roach, Brian Shannon, Geleah Sharp, Rob Stewart chair, Kevin Stoker, Janessa Walls, Vicki West, Aliza Wong

Guests: Brian Enderson, Dale Ganus, Brenda Martinez, Ranadip Pal, Geleah Sharp

Stewart called the meeting to order and introduced guest speakers. The minutes of the prior month’s meeting were then reviewed, with Huffman moving to approve the minutes as presented, and Meek seconding. Thereafter, the minutes were approved by voice acclamation.

Lumpkin presented a proposal to change the name of the Department of Health, Exercise, and Sport Sciences to the Department of Kinesiology and Sport Management. Lumpkin, the new chair of the department, noted that with “health” no longer applying as an area of study within the department, the new name more closely fit the department’s current focus. She noted the renamed department’s two primary areas of study would be exercise science/kinesiology and sport management, and changing the name reflected those areas. She added that the term “kinesiology” was in use by a number of other institutions, and the area of “sport management” was growing in popularity. After some discussion, Fedler moved that the name change be approved as presented, Shannon seconded, and the motion was approved.

Lumpkin also presented a proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Sport Management, a degree that would mesh with the renamed department’s focus. The degree would allow students to gain experience and knowledge in the management of sport and sport-related activities. The college began offering a Sport Management track in 2013. She noted that the move would coincide with the elimination of the Physical Education Teacher Education track, and would effectively combine the Exercise Science track with the Exercise and Health Promotion track. Lumpkin added the department planned to offer additional degrees in the future, including a master’s in sport management, and a bachelor’s degree in exercise science or kinesiology. The department was also in the process of creating an Athletic Coaching minor in conjunction with the College of Education. After a brief discussion, Huffman moved
to approve the degree as presented, Goebel seconded, and the motion was approved.

The council next heard a presentation from Pal regarding a proposed Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering. He noted that the university currently offered a number of courses closely related to the field of bioengineering, and in studying similar programs in existence across the country the College of Engineering decided only three new courses would be necessary in order to offer the degree. The degree would have two tracks of study: biomechanical and biochemical. Pal noted that the field of bioengineering was experiencing very large growth and was in high demand among students, with graduates from bioengineering programs in equally strong demand among employers. Pal responded to questions about the program by noting that no new faculty would have to be recruited for the degree program, and that the 129-hour program was similar to the hourly requirements for comparable programs across the country. Parsoneault noted that the THECB identified engineering and architecture as five-year degree programs, implying that the programs can have more hours than typical four-year degree programs. After further discussion, Roach moved to approve the degree as presented, Wong seconded, and the motion was approved.

Parsoneault presented an update on SACS-COC reaffirmation, and alerted council members to the fact that follow-up work on faculty rosters and credentials might be forthcoming. She noted that SACS-COC representatives might want to revisit credentials in three instances: when an instructor’s credentials were not laid out (e.g. the courses being taught by an instructor did not align with his or her academic credentials); when a lab instructor or other instructor (not the instructor of record) was listed as the instructor of record inadvertently; and when instructors who should not have been in charge of a lab or course were listed as the instructor (i.e. people not credentialed as instructors were instructing a class or a lab). She noted that a response would only be required in cases where a specific follow-up was requested, but that the turnaround time for providing the response would be very short given the holidays.

Parsoneault also provided an update on the QEP program, noting an excellent response to the QEP booth at the university's autumn festival.

Durham DeCesaro next discussed a moratorium issued by SACS-COC regarding accelerated bachelors-to-masters programs. She noted that the accrediting body was not accepting any new programs of the type until questions about existing ones accredited by the body could be addressed. Fedler inquired about the impact to existing programs, and was told by Parsoneault that any concerns regarding existing programs at Texas Tech University would have been specifically addressed by SACS-COC, and the biggest concern for SACS-COC was the use of undergraduate hours for graduate credit by some institutions, but not Texas Tech.
As an information item, Durham DeCesaro presented an update to the Writing Intensive requirement as outlined in the university’s catalog, specifically relating to double majors and general studies majors. After some discussion, Huffman noted that the College of Human Sciences and College of Visual and Performing Arts both offered general studies degrees, and language pertaining to those specific degrees needed to be added as well. Durham DeCesaro requested specific revisions be emailed to her.

Enderson and Martinez discussed a new system for submitting prerequisite and corequisite changes, and announced a Course Inventory Review website and procedure that would begin within weeks. The website/procedure would allow colleges to review their course inventory and update or address any areas of concern. Durham DeCesaro reminded council members that per the Council’s policy, prerequisite changes could only be made once per year, though in instances where changes were making courses less restrictive, the Provost’s Office was granting permission to proceed with changes immediately. However, she noted that unless the Council decided to revisit the prerequisite change policy, ultimately the Registrar’s Office would begin adhering to the stated policy. Durham DeCesaro also reminded council members that any changes to prerequisites for courses that fell into the core curriculum would need to be approved by Academic Council.

McKinnon presented the summary of course approvals. After some discussion, Huffman requested that ESS 3347 Nutrition for Exercise and Physical Activity (item five on the summary) be tabled pending discussion with the chair of the Department of Nutrition, Hospitality, and Retailing regarding course overlap. In addition, Stoker requested that ESS 3373 Sport Communication (item eight) be tabled pending review of the syllabus by the College of Media and Communication. Wong requested the same of ESS 3372 Sport History (item seven) by the Department of History, and Hughes requested that ESS 3374 Personnel Management in Sport (item nine) be tabled pending a review of similarity between HR courses offered through the Provost’s Office. After additional discussion, Wong moved to approve all undergraduate courses save for the tabled items (five, seven, eight, and nine), Akers seconded, and the motion was approved.

Turning to graduate courses, Fedler questioned whether overlap existed between FSCI 5352 Ethics in Forensic Science (item 43) and FSCI 5353 Research Methods in Forensic Science (item 44) and currently available courses. Duran noted that specialized fields do exist in the broader area of ethics, and that the proposed FSCI 5352 fit an “applied ethics” template. Similar discussion was held regarding the specialized research methods to be utilized and taught by FSCI 5353. After additional discussion, Roach moved to approve all graduate courses as presented, Stoker seconded, and the motion was approved.

McKinnon opened a discussion into the use of “effective term” on course approval forms, noting that some users of the form construed the terminology to mean the first term during which the course would be taught, while others construed it to
mean the first term during which a course could be taught. After a brief discussion, the general consensus among Council members was to denote that the terminology meant the first term in which a course was **available** and able to be taught.

McKinnon also asked for a vote approving the proposed calendar structure for 2019. Huffman moved that the calendar be approved as presented, Fedler seconded, and the motion was approved.

In other business:
- Durham DeCesaro requested a review of the prerequisite changes policy, potentially leading to a twice-yearly schedule for prerequisite changes.
- McKinnon announced plans to modify the printed university catalog, creating separate graduate and undergraduate sections in response to requests by advisors and catalog users.
- McKinnon also announced plans to replace the list of static course descriptions on the university's online catalog with dynamic lists exported from Banner course descriptions. Doing so would reduce the number of manual changes made to course descriptions, and reduce the opportunity for error.

With no further business, Stewart adjourned the meeting.