

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Texas Tech University

Meeting of
September 15, 2015

MINUTES

Present: Cindy Akers, Stefanie Borst, Bobbie Brown, Adrienne Carnes, Claudia Cogliser, Cathy Duran, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Keith Dye, Stephen Ekwaro-Osire, Cliff Fedler, Ryan Gibbs, Paul Goebel, Lynn Huffman, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Michelle Kiser, Mitzi Lauderdale, Savannah Leonard for Cindy Akers, Robin Lock, Ethan Logan, Justin Louder, Felicia Martin, Randy McBee, Pat McConnel, Garrett McKinnon, Audra Morse, Alison Myhra, William Pasewark, Seshadri Ramkumar, Brian Shannon, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart chair, Kevin Stoker, Patricia Vitela, Janessa Walls, Aliza Wong

Guests: Todd Chambers, Dale Ganus, Darryl James, Brenda Martinez

Stewart introduced the minutes from the July 2015 meeting (note: the September meeting was cancelled). Without any discussion, the minutes were approved by acclamation.

Martinez provided background on the selection process of the Acalog academic catalog management platform and the Curriculog curriculum management platform, which were scheduled to be implemented by the first quarter of CY 2016. McKinnon presented a video demonstration of the Acalog platform, and answered questions regarding the software.

Stewart introduced the academic calendar for CY 2020. With no objections raised as to the calendar timeline, Huffman moved that the calendar be approved as presented, Stoker seconded, and the motion was approved.

McKinnon presented the course approval summary. Prior to discussion, Huffman requested that items 1 and 8 (PFP course number changes) be tabled pending additional internal discussion with the College of Human Sciences. Hughes noted that the IS courses on the agenda would be used with a possible certificate. With no further discussion, Wang moved to approve the courses as presented, Morse seconded, and the motion was approved.

Durham DeCesaro discussed proposed revisions to the “Early Walking Participation Agreement” form. She noted that the new form contained updated criteria for eligibility for student seeking inclusion in a commencement program prior to their actual graduation date. The revised criteria included a statement specifying enrollment at Texas Tech University; that no CLEP exams were allowable for

completion of final hours remaining in the student's major, minor, or area of study; and spelled out GPA requirements. The "contract" between the student and the university also contained revised language, adding a statement that attendance at a commencement program does not imply the awarding of a diploma, and that no honors designations would be noted for students attending commencement in advance of their degree completion date. After a brief discussion, a revision concerning college deans' authority over exceptional cases was proposed. Stewart advised that an electronic vote be taken to approve or disapprove the proposed revisions. (Note: In a subsequent electronic vote, the motion was approved, with an amendment that the agreement would apply to undergraduate students only.)

Durham DeCesaro also discussed a proposal regarding clarification of declaring students "inactive." She noted that students cannot be declared inactive if enrolled at Texas Tech University. She also noted that students who request to participate in a commencement ceremony scheduled for a later date than their actual graduation semester could do so with the approval of their collegiate dean.

Carnes announced that the Rawls College of Business would be phasing out the Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Management Information Systems, and updating the degree terminology to the more current "Information Technology." The phase-out period would last four years.

A proposed graduate certificate in Applied Forensic Engineering was tabled.

The council heard information-only items on a new minor in Community, Family, and Addiction Sciences; the addition of the term "International" to the Agribusiness minor and concentration; and a new Interdisciplinary Design, Arts and Technology (IDAT) track to the Bachelor of General Studies degree within the College of Visual and Performing Arts, a move made in an effort to contemporize areas of study.

Martinez discussed a proposed change to the advisor add period, and requested moving the final date from the fifth day of class to the 12th day of class. Students would retain the right to drop themselves from courses.

Durham DeCesaro discussed a proposed policy on grade replacement and core curriculum attribute retention. She noted that students who took a course that was part of the old core curriculum and failed the course were not able to replace the grade for that course. Under the proposed revision, students would be able to take a new core curriculum course and replace the old, failing grade.

In other business:

- Durham DeCesaro proposed an undergraduate certificate in academic advising that would make use of the approved IS courses.
- Revisions to the core curriculum web page on the Provost's office website were announced. The changes were designed to help faculty looking to add, change, or remove courses from the core curriculum.

- Durham DeCesaro also discussed the multicultural credit for the Study Abroad program, and noted that beginning with the Fall 2016 semester, Study Abroad courses will not automatically include the multicultural credit, and that individual courses will have to be reviewed by the multicultural credit committee. She noted that the university wanted to ensure that students are informed that Study Abroad courses have the potential to qualify as multicultural courses if the Global Scholar Certificate program (via the U.S. Department of State) is completed. That certificate would require students to complete certain requirements prior to their Study Abroad experience.
- Brown and Martinez reminded the council about changes in the registration schedule.
- James announced that SACSCOC had made a ruling regarding accelerated bachelors-to-masters programs, and so long as programs met a 150-hours minimum and 30-graduate-hours minimum, they would be accepted. He said the university was awaiting clarification on whether existing programs that did not meet the standard would be grandfathered.
- James also reminded the council about the pending formation of the college-level institutional effectiveness committees, whose main thrust would be assessment plans for particular programs.
- Stewart discussed some realignment within the Provost's office, with Catherine Parsonneault having resigned her position. James was announced as the Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, with Institutional Research now reporting to him, while Durham DeCesaro was given the title of Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, with Official Publications and the University Writing Center reporting to her.

With no other business, Stewart adjourned the meeting.