

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Texas Tech University

Meeting of
December 22, 2015

MINUTES

Present: Cindy Akers, Katherine Austin, Todd Chambers, Claudia Cogliser, Cathy Duran, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Clifton Ellis, Ryan Gibbs, Paul Goebel, Melanie Hart, Lynn Huffman, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Darryl James, Michelle Kiser, Mitzi Lauderdale, Lesley Mellinee, Robin Lock, Ethan Logan, Justin Louder, Brenda Martinez for Bobbie Brown, Pat McConnel, Garrett McKinnon, Ron Milam, Audra Morse, Alison Myhra, William Pasewark, David Roach, Brian Shannon, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart chair, Kevin Stoker, Vicki West, Aliza Wong

Guests: Birgit Green, Dorothy Chansky, Timothy Fitzgerald, Ralph Viator, Mary Frances Weatherly

Stewart called the meeting to order and presented the minutes from the November 2015 meeting, which were approved by affirmation.

Viator discussed a proposal to reduce the hours in the Master of Science in Accounting degree, noting the Rawls College of Business wanted to make the program more attractive to students outside of Texas Tech University, and that more than 95 percent of students currently enrolled in the degree program were undergraduate students at Texas Tech. Reducing the hours in the program (to 30 hours from 36) would allow the university to recruit high-quality graduate students from other universities. The hours reduction would be accomplished by moving an internship requirement to the undergraduate degree in accounting, as well as moving an elective requirement to the undergraduate degree. Viator also noted that the hours reduction would reduce the program's completion time to 12 months from 18 months, putting it more in line with competing programs from other institutions. The hours reduction did not require Academic Council approval.

James presented an update on SACSCOC reaffirmation, noting that two monitoring reports had been requested by SACS (regarding institutional effectiveness and the university's new QEP), but otherwise reaffirmation had encountered no snags. Overall, he noted that reaffirmation was a win for the university.

Durham-DeCesaro gave a debrief on commencement, noting the biggest change occurred by having faculty line up on either side of students during the recession, a move that proved popular with both faculty and students.

McKinnon presented the course approvals for the month. Durham-DeCesaro noted that items 4 and 5 (course number changes for HIST 3306 and 3307) could be

approved by Academic Council and later reviewed by the core curriculum committee, since both met multicultural requirements. With no further discussion, Huffman moved to approve the courses as presented, Morse seconded, and the motion was approved.

Morse presented information on a proposed Graduate Certificate in Applied Forensic Engineering to be offered by the Department of Mechanical Engineering. She noted the College of Engineering was working on adding more graduate certificates, and that this certificate would teach engineers to examine and diagnose why items fail and to identify corrective measures. Shannon noted that forensic engineers were often called to testify in product liability litigation. With no further discussion, Wong moved to approve the graduate certificate as presented, Chambers seconded, and the motion was approved.

Cogliser presented a proposal to change the policy on grades of incomplete for graduate students. The revised policy (with the change highlighted in red below) would state:

*The grade of I is given only when a student's work is satisfactory in quality but, due to reasons beyond his or her control, has not been completed. It is not given instead of an F, W, or a low grade. A grade of "PR" or "CR" is not to be used for this purpose. Prior to assigning the I, the instructor must fill out a form available online with OP 34.12 stating the reasons beyond the student's control for granting the I and the conditions to be met to remove the I. The student must also sign the form. After the work has been completed, the instructor should transmit the new grade on a "Change of Grade" form to the Graduate School, who will then send the form to the Registrar. **The grade of I will revert to an F after one calendar year if the conditions for completing the I as stated on the form have not been met.***

Cogliser noted that about 175 active students possessed incomplete grades, 80 of which were more than a year old. The policy would take effect with the Spring 2016 semester. With no further discussion, Wong moved to approve the policy change as presented, Ellis seconded, and the motion was approved.

McKinnon gave a brief update on the progress of the Acalog catalog management system, as well as the Curriculog curriculum management system, both of which were set to go online during the first quarter of 2016.

James reminded those in attendance that colleges possessing accelerated bachelors-to-masters programs should delist those programs having less than 30 exclusive graduate hours per new SACSCOC requirements. He noted that SACSCOC requires 30 graduate hours exclusive of anything double-counted as meeting both graduate and undergraduate requirements.

Durham-DeCesaro presented a proposed update on the institution's policy on awarding credit by examination, a move to ensure the university is compliant with SACSCOC requirements for awarding credit. She said that colleges need to have written policies and criteria for accepting credit by examination in order for said

credit to be accepted at other institutions, and that the same requirements apply for awarding credit based on experience. She asked the council members to consider the proposed policy, which will be revisited and voted on in the Spring 2016 semester.

The council also heard updates on proposals approved or under review by THECB, a new online minor in Technical Communication offered by the Department of English, as well as information on final grades.

With no other business brought to the council's attention, Stewart adjourned the meeting.