

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Texas Tech University

Meeting of
January 19, 2016

MINUTES

Present: Cindy Akers, Stefanie Borst, Hendrika Buelinckx for Ron Milam, Adrienne Carnes, Michael Carter for Pat McConnel, Todd Chambers, Claudia Cogliser, Cathy Duran, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Keith Dye, Ryan Gibbs, Lynn Huffman, Jorge Iber, Darryl James, Michelle Kiser, Mitzi Lauderdale, Robin Lock, Ethan Logan, Justin Louder, Felicia Martin, Brenda Martinez for Bobbie Brown, Garrett McKinnon, Audra Morse, William Pasewark, Elizabeth Paulk, David Roach, Brian Shannon, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart chair, Kevin Stoker, Holton Westbrook, Janessa Walls, Aliza Wong

Guests: Dennis Arnett, Birgit Green

Durham DeCesaro, acting as chair in the absence of Rob Stewart, called the meeting to order and introduced the minutes from the December meeting. With no revisions requested, Akers moved that the minutes be approved as presented, Morse seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Durham DeCesaro introduced a number of revisions to the university's core curriculum. Changes were:

Social and Behavioral Sciences:

- MCOM 1301: Introduction to Digital and Social Media
- WS 2305: Intersectionality: Race, Class, and Gender in a Global World

Creative Arts:

- MUHL 2307: Music and Globalization

Language, Philosophy, and Culture:

- CMLL 2306: Introduction to World Cinema
- HUMA 1300: The Humanities in the 21st Century
- ITAL 2307: Italian Culture
- PHIL 2330: Science and Society

Life and Physical Sciences:

- CHEM 1301: Introductory Chemistry

Multicultural:

- ARTH 2302: Art History Survey II: Renaissance to Late 19th Century
- CLAS 2303: Sport and Spectacle in the Ancient World
- CLAS 2304: The Ancient World: Prophets, Warriors, Poets
- CLAS 2335: Archaeologies of the Classical World
- CMLL 2306: Introduction to World Cinema
- LARC 2302: History of Landscape Architecture

- MCOM 2350: Communicating in a Global Society
- MUHL 2307: Music and Globalization
- NRM 1300: Environmental Science as a Social Pursuit
- WS 2305: Intersectionality: Race, Class, and Gender in a Global World
- ARTH 3303: Survey of Modern Art
- GERM 1310: Survival German
- SPAN 1310: Survival Spanish

After a brief discussion, Morse moved that the revisions be accepted as presented, Huffman seconded, and the motion was approved.

In addition, a number of administrative changes were proposed to core curriculum courses. The title of MCOM 2310 was proposed as Business and Professional Communication and IE 2311 was proposed to change to IE 2324. After some discussion, Morse moved to accept the proposed administrative changes as presented, Huffman seconded, and the motion was approved.

Wong presented a proposal to revise language on student diplomas. The diploma text would mirror oral pronouncements at commencement, and note that students graduating with honors would be designating as “graduation with Honors from the Honors College” or “graduation with Highest Honors from the Honors College.” Wong noted the request had originated from students disappointed that their diplomas did not mention their association with the Honors College. After a brief discussion, Chambers moved that the diploma text be revised as presented, Akers seconded, and the motion was approved.

McKinnon presented the course approval summary. Stoker requested that items 18 and 19, originally presented as EMC 2301 and 2302, adopt the prefix of JEM (Journalism and Electronic Media), as that prefix had just been approved by the Registrar’s Office. With those changes noted, Morse moved to approve the courses as presented/revised, Wong seconded, and the motion was approved.

Item five on the agenda, a proposal on additional diploma orders, was tabled at the request of the Registrar’s Office.

James provided an update on SACSCOC monitoring reports as part of the university’s accreditation. He noted the institutional effectiveness report was due September 6.

Duran presented information regarding the “Ready. Set. Register” program that was created to promote second-year engagement and student retention. The event was designed for students finishing their first year or beginning their second year, and would assist students with planning their curriculum. The event was slated to be held in March 2016.

Durham DeCesaro followed up on a discussion from the December meeting regarding the process of awarding academic credit by exam. She noted that the SACSCOC policy on the process was attached to the agenda, and that awarding credit by exam was not prohibited but required ample amounts of documentation to support that internal mechanisms were in place for reviewing and awarding such credit. She noted that she would be happy to meet with anyone who had questions about the requirements.

Durham DeCesaro also clarified procedures for early commencement participation, a policy enacted by Academic Council in Fall 2015 as it related to students who failed a course during their final term. She noted that the Council did not vote on a policy with regard to students who wanted to participate in commencement early due to scheduling or familial issues, and that individual colleges would be able to handle such requests on a case-by-case basis.

It was announced that Peggy Flores, the longtime commencement coordinator for the university, would be retiring in August 2016, and that a search for her replacement was underway.

Vitela provided an update on common final exams, noting that the university was running out of space for such arrangements. She noted that she would be reaching out to individual professors to determine if they planned on utilizing their assigned room for final exams, as well as developing a confirmation mechanism of same, and would utilize any unused space. She invited Council members to submit recommendations for pairing course exams, as well as any other ideas to better utilize existing classroom space. She said ASFR would be proposing a common form for exception requests, possibly as an addendum to OP 34.10. There followed a discussion to move the deadline for confirmation so the syllabus could reflect the correct exam date and location. Chambers submitted the possibility of the university adding a day for common finals and/or revision of the academic calendar to expand the finals period. Durham DeCesaro noted that formal proposals would be discussed during a future Academic Council meeting.

Durham DeCesaro provided an update on THECB approvals, noting that an hours reduction for the M.S. in Accounting had been approved; online delivery for the M.S. in Mechanical Engineering, the M.S. in Industrial Engineering, and the M.S. in Civil Engineering had been approved, and that the B.A.A.S. in RHIM had been approved. She noted four proposals were still under review.

In other business:

- The college of Media and Communication noted that some of its course prefixes would be changing, and that the JEM prefix would be utilized for more existing courses. Also, the MCOM prefix was under review, with alternatives being discussed (including COMC) to reflect the fact that the Department of Communication Studies had moved to the college.

- Durham DeCesaro reminded members that the small class reporting deadline was nearing, and urged colleges to examine their course attendance.
- Doerfert noted a clarification of the process for submitting graduate-level degree and certificate programs, or changing existing programs, reminding those present that the first step in doing so should be approval from the Graduate School.
- McKinnon provided an update on the Curriculog adoption, noting that the final stages of implementation were underway, and “beta” tests with certain colleges would commence later in the spring. Durham DeCesaro noted the paperless course and program approval process should be totally implemented in time for the fall semester.
- Durham DeCesaro noted a change on the routing sheets for changes to existing programs. Language was inserted onto the sheets requesting information on the level of faculty support and review enjoyed by the programs, as well as the inclusion of an asterisk denoting that programs and curricular changes not enjoying widespread faculty support might still be approved by a department chair or dean if in the best interest of the department or college. Wong noted that the faculty senate might take issue with such language.
- Duran noted that Amy Murphy had left her position as dean of students, and that in the interim she and others would be carrying out those duties. Duran noted a proposal to create two positions (a Dean of Students and a Director of the Center for Campus Life) to fill the duties for which Murphy had been responsible.
- Finally, James announced that SACSCOC had opted to “grandfather” students already enrolled in a combined bachelors-to-masters program, noting that so long as students had enrolled in the graduate portion of such a program prior to July 22, 2015, they would be able to finish the program as originally developed. SACSCOC had previously ruled that accelerated programs without a minimum of 30 graduate hours exclusive of any graduate hours also included as part of an undergraduate curriculum would no longer be accredited. James asked any colleges with questions regarding specific students to contact his office to review the cases individually.

With no further business raised, Durham DeCesaro adjourned the meeting.