Present: Kathy Austin, Todd Chambers, Claudia Cogliser, Cathy Duran, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Keith Dye, Stephen Ekwaro-Osire, Sheila Gray for Ethan Logan, Melanie Hart, Sheila Hoover, Lynn Huffman, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Michelle Kiser, Savannah Leonard for Cindy Akers, Robin Lock, Justin Louder, Felicia Martin, Sheila Gray for Ethan Logan, Brenda Martinez for Bobbie Brown, Pat McConnel, Randy McBee, Garrett McKinnon, Jeffrey Mercer, Alison Myhra, William Pasewark, Elizabeth Insip-Paulk, Seshadri Ramkumar, David Roach, Brian Steel, Rob Stewart chair, Kevin Stoker, Patricia Vitela, Janessa Walls, Mary Weatherly, Vicki West

Guests: Brent Guinn, Lori Rodriguez, Andrew Swift, Andrew Vernooy

Stewart called the meeting to order and introduced the minutes from February meeting. With no corrections or amendments suggested, Huffman moved to approve the minutes as presented, Chambers seconded, and the motion was approved.

Durham DeCesaro presented a number of curricular items. First was a proposed decrease in the required semester credit hours for a Bachelor of Science in Architecture, to 128 from 131. Stoker moved to approve the proposal as presented, Ramkumar seconded, and the motion was approved.

The Council also heard a proposal for an increase in semester credit hours for the M.S.B.A. in Healthcare Administration, to 39 from 36. The proposed increase would consist of an internship. Chambers moved to approve the proposal as presented, Ramkumar seconded, and the motion was approved.

A dual-degree J.D. and M.S. in Sport Management was proposed. The combined dual-degree program would not change the hours requirements for either degree, but combine them by sharing 12 hours between the degrees. In all, 114 total hours would be required for both degrees. Roach moved to approve the dual-degree program as presented, Ramkumar seconded, and the motion was approved.

The College of Engineering presented a request to delete the graduate certificate in Petroleum Engineering, which had no students enrolled. Huffman moved to approve the request, Ekwaro-Osire seconded, and the motion was approved.

The Council heard a number of informational items. A proposed graduate certificate in Energy Economics was tabled by the College of Business, while a 15-hour
graduate minor in Business Statistics within the Area of Information Systems and Quantitative Sciences was announced.

Huffman announced a new 18-hour minor in Human Sciences to be offered by the College of Human Sciences. She noted the minor would be useful for students earning a B.G.S. degree within the college. Since the minor would be offered both face-to-face and online, Louder requested that the request be routed through the e-Learning council before further consideration by Academic council.

Ekwaro-Osire discussed a revised GPA requirement for Mechanical Engineering and Petroleum Engineering majors. The new standards would require a 3.0 GPA for admission into the programs, which he noted were among the highest enrolling programs on campus. He said the increased GPA standards would assist with keeping student-faculty ratios manageable, which would also help with accreditation.

In a similar vein, Huffman discussed an increase in GPA requirements (to 3.0) for students seeking a Nutrition Science and Dietetics degree and a Nutrition degree with a pre-professional concentration. She noted that the move was not expected to impact enrollment, but would ensure that students were prepared for the rigor of the programs.

The council heard an informational item on a change for the doctoral concentration of Biochemical and Molecular Nutrition, which was updated to Nutritional Biochemistry and Physiology.

Galyean presented a proposal for the establishment of a Department of Veterinary Science within the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. He noted the department would form the nucleus for the eventual development of a School of Veterinary Medicine and Biological Sciences, which was planned to be contained within Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center’s Amarillo campus. Galyean said the Department of Veterinary Medicine would be a graduate department with a research focus. Long term, he said it would serve as a liaison between the College, the School of Veterinary Medicine, and the rest of the Texas Tech University campus. He noted that the college’s pre-veterinary medicine curriculum would be unchanged. The department’s formation would require the hiring of three new faculty members and joint appointees, but he noted that the department would include faculty from both TTUHSC and the School of Pharmacy with animal health backgrounds. Galyean said that while the veterinary school would ultimately focus on animal food production and rural animal health, the Department of Veterinary Science would provide an important research avenue in veterinary medicine. Representatives from the TTU Library expressed concern that materials regarding the topic had not been collected, and Galyean indicated that he would meet with library representatives to discuss the needed materials. The Council was also apprised that Tedd Mitchell, president of TTUHSC, was fully in support of the establishment of both the Department of Veterinary Science and the School of
Veterinary Medicine. After a brief discussion, Chambers moved to approve the formation of the department, Ramkumar seconded, and the motion was approved.

McKinnon presented the course approvals. With no changes noted, Huffman moved to accept the course proposals as presented, Stoker seconded, and the motion was approved.

Hughes gave the Council an update on the Retention Symposium hosted by the university, which attracted a lot of regional interest and was attended by representatives from more than a dozen colleges and universities. Hughes noted that the ideas shared reflected many high-tech/high-touch solutions, and strategies to increase student retention and success were shared.

In other business:
• James updated the Council on the status of programs being considered by SACSCOC, and reminded the members that no programs may be closed without approval from SACSCOC, and neither may new programs be offered without approval. He also cautioned that while approval was often a straightforward process, if SACSCOC decided to review a program’s prospectus in detail, it could take many months for approval to be issued. He noted one recent program required 17 months between submission to SACSCOC and final approval. He further noted that submission to SACSCOC could only occur after programs had been approved by the THECB.
• Louder noted that THECB regulations for offering face-to-face courses on remote campuses required a report to be submitted to his office by April 1, and if colleges intended to offer remote face-to-face courses or group teleconference courses, his office would need to be advised.
• Stewart noted that a number of graduate proposals and courses had been submitted for consideration by Academic Council at a late date, and proposed a second Academic Council meeting on March 22, 2016 to consider those proposals.

With no other business, the March 8 meeting was adjourned.

Meeting of
March 22, 2016

Present: Adrienne Carnes, Todd Chambers, Claudia Cogliser, David Doerfert, Cathy Duran, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Keith Dye, Clifton Ellis, Ryan Gibbs, Sheila Hoover, Lynn Huffman, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Darryl James, Michelle Kiser, Savanah Leonard for Cindy Akers, Robin Lock, Ethan Logan, Justin Louder, Pat McConnel, Garrett McKinnon, Audra Morse, Alison Myhra, William Pasewark, Seshadri Ramkumar, David Roach, Linda Rodriguez, Terry Roger for Vicki West, Rob Stewart chair, Patricia Vitela, Aliza Wong

Guests: Andrew Swift, Marcus Tanner
Stewart called the meeting to order and noted that for expediency’s sake, the minutes from both March meetings of Academic Council would be combined and reviewed during the April meeting.

Durham DeCesaro gave an update on the new programs website, noting that THECB had published new forms pertaining to new programs and program alterations. She noted that the Provost’s website had been updated with the new forms and routing sheets.

A trio of new minors was announced by Louder. A political science minor would be offered online and at regional sites, while an agricultural leadership minor would be offered online and at Texas Tech’s regional campus in Waco. Finally, a natural resources management minor would be offered at the Waco campus; Louder noted that this minor would be helpful for students wishing to pursue a career as a game warden. He said the minors were open to students pursuing interdisciplinary B.G.S., B.A.A.S. or B.U.S. degrees.

Huffman presented a proposal for a pair of accelerated bachelors-plus-masters degrees. The B.S. in Apparel Design and Manufacturing would be paired with the M.S. in Environmental Design (Apparel Design and Manufacturing track), while the B.S. in Retail Management would be paired with the M.S. in Hospitality and Retail Management. Both sets of accelerated degrees would require 150 hours total, and would consist of a 4-hour overlap. Morse moved to approve the accelerated degree plans, Chambers seconded, and the motion was approved.

The Council also heard a proposal for a combined B.A. or B.S. in University Studies and an M.A. or M.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies. The proposal would allow students to take graduate courses during their senior year in the University Studies program, and would consist of 157 hours total. (Note: As part of the proposal, two new courses—INTS 5100 and a tandem INTS 4300/5300—were included for approval.) The Council was reassured that the B.A. degree would be fused with the M.A., while the B.S. would be fused with the M.S. After a brief discussion, Huffman moved to approve the program and courses as presented, Wong seconded, and the motion was approved.

Morse discussed a proposed on-campus and online M.S. in Manufacturing Engineering, to be offered by the Department of Industrial Engineering. She noted the degree had been carefully vetted by the College of Engineering in terms of job prospects for students. Doerfert moved to approve the degree as presented, Ramkumar seconded, and the motion was approved.

Huffman discussed the proposal for a Ph.D. in Addiction Disorders and Recovery Studies. She noted that as far as the College of Human Sciences knew, the degree would be the only one of its kind in the country since its focus was on disorders and recovery. She said a pool of students was already eager to enter the program, and she projected that ultimately as many as 20 students could join the program. She
also noted that the College of Human Sciences had sufficient existing faculty to handle the program, which she said the college hoped to start in the fall of 2017. Stewart noted that the program had received support from a majority of faculty in the college. After a brief discussion, Cogliser moved to approve the degree program as presented, Morse seconded, and the motion was approved.

McKinnon presented the course approvals, which consisted of a pair of graduate course proposals. Doerfert moved to approve the courses as presented, Chambers seconded, and the motion was approved.

Stewart discussed ongoing efforts by the president’s office to encourage students to take 30 hours of courses each year. He noted that the executive council was looking at methods to encourage students to do so, and that the effort did not necessarily consist of focusing on the traditional 15-hour course load in the fall semester and 15-hour course load in the spring semester. He noted that online courses were one possibility, and said that some research existed to support the contention that students who took 30 hours of courses annually finish their degrees at a higher rate than those who did not. Roach inquired about the possibility of including a financial consideration to the proposal, such as offering 15 hours of courses for the price of 12, similar to the manner in which some smaller colleges did. Chambers inquired about the current average, and Stewart noted that it was about 13.4 hours per semester. After more discussion, Stewart encouraged the Council members to consider the issue and bring ideas for consideration during a future meeting.

Durham DeCesaro discussed the Teaching Excellence and Student Success Forum, which was scheduled for March 23. She noted that the Provost’s office had initiated a dialogue regarding giving teaching a “voice” in addition to the research “voice” already prevalent on campus. She said panelists at the forum would discuss the issues, challenges, etc. of promoting teaching excellence. She also said a second forum had been tentatively scheduled for April 22.

In other business:
• Morse lauded the Provost’s office for supporting the TEMPO teacher mentorship program, which she noted would be starting its fourth year in the fall.
• Council members were reminded about the deadline for application to the Teaching Academy.
• Stewart revisited the fact that the director of the QEP program position was still open, and encouraged applications.
• Duran noted that diversity week at Texas Tech University was ongoing, and encouraged faculty support.

With no other business on the agenda, Stewart adjourned the meeting.

Subsequent to the March 22 meeting, the College of Human Sciences proposed another accelerated degree, this one a B.S. in Restaurant, Hotel and Institutional
Management with a M.S. in Hospitality and Retail Management. The program would be a 150-hour accelerated degree program similar to the others approved during the March 22 meeting. Stewart called for a vote via email. Dye motioned to approve the program as presented, Wong seconded, and the motion was approved via email vote per Stewart.