

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Texas Tech University

Meeting of
April 19, 2016

MINUTES

Present: Savannah Chambers for Cindy Akers, Todd Chambers, Claudia Cogliser, David Doerfert, Cathy Duran, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Keith Dye, Clifton Ellis, Ryan Gibbs, Kate Haenchen for Patricia Vitela, Melanie Hart, Darryl James, Michelle Kiser, Mitzi Lauderdale, Lesley Mellinee, Robin Lock, Ethan Logan, Justin Louder, Pat McConnel, Randy McBee, Garrett McKinnon, Audra Morse, William Pasewark, Seshadri Ramkumar, David Roach, Brian Shannon, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart chair, Kevin Stoker, Janessa Walls, Vicki West, Holton Westbrook, Ashley Whisenant for Liz Inskip-Paulk, Aliza Wong

Guests: Jackie Luft, Brenda Martinez, Ricardo Molina, Anna Novotny, Paola Prada, Lori Rodriguez, Kelly Trlica

Stewart called the meeting to order and introduced the minutes from the pair of Academic Council meetings conducted in March. Ramkumar requested a correction to the spelling of his name. Subsequent to that request, Doerfert moved to accept the minutes as presented, Ramkumar seconded, and the motion was approved.

The council heard a proposal to change the name of the Department of Physics to the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Roach noted that much thought had gone into the proposal, which enjoyed full faculty input and support from both the department and the College of Arts and Sciences. Stoker moved that the proposal be accepted as presented, Morse seconded, and the motion was approved.

McKinnon presented the course approvals for the month. With no objections or questions raised, Ramkumar moved to accept the course approvals as presented, Doerfert seconded, and the motion was approved.

Haenchen provided an update on the annual classroom audit scheduled to be conducted by Operations in late May. She noted that the audit would update classroom capacities in several university databases, and urged council members to email her if anything unusual was noticed subsequent to the audit. James requested that useful classroom features (e.g. whiteboards, projector systems, etc.) be included in future audits.

Louder presented information on the university's accessibility website, which explained how to update documents and university websites to increase accessibility. He noted the revamped site (www.ttu.edu/accessibility) also included

guidelines for social media and information/links to additional accessibility resources.

Martinez noted that during the first four days of advanced registration, the Registrar's Office had received 56 prerequisite change requests, most of which were more restrictive in nature. She said that the Registrar's Office would like to put a group together to research the most student-friendly manner and timeline for updating courses, while also serving departmental needs. She indicated that she would be reaching out to department chairs to form a committee to address the issue.

Durham DeCesaro discussed THECB-approved programs, and shared a degree inventory from THECB that listed TTU degree programs and their approved hours. She noted that the Coordinating Board did not care about concentrations as long as all concentrations have the same number of hours, but that degree programs could not be more or less than their approved hours.

Lauderdale discussed a new minor in Human Sciences, which would be offered by the office of the Dean. She noted that the courses already existed, and that the minor would be available to students outside of the college, as well.

She also discussed a new Apparel Design and Manufacturing track in the Master of Science in Environmental Design degree. She added that the track would benefit students seeking advanced degrees in apparel design, and that only a few courses would be added to allow for the new track.

Stewart discussed the Sept. 29, 2016 Thursday night football game, and noted that the concern from an academic standpoint was the potential for disruption to nighttime classes and labs on the north side of campus. He said individual faculty would be allowed to decide whether to conduct classes or labs that evening, and that a general campus plan would be in place by the start of the fall 2016 semester to account for potential disruptions.

Stewart also provided an update on the electronic course evaluation project, and noted that teams were working on various items such as instructions, reports, etc., and how to account for differences in data between the traditional manual evaluation system and the new electronic system.

He reminded council members that state mandate required instructors to select textbooks and have a list publicly available 30 days prior to the start of classes, and that for contractual purposes book selections should be submitted to the campus bookstore. He asked that council members continue talking up the importance of ordering books early. Duran noted that the campus bookstore would price match other physical bookstores, as well as online sellers such as Amazon.

Durham DeCesaro discussed the THECB's move toward requiring Texas colleges and universities to provide students with "identified marketable skills." She noted that a recent conference had provided an opportunity to discuss the initiative with other colleges and universities, and that the Coordinating Board had provided information about what would be considered "marketable skills," including oral communication skills, creative problem solving, writing skills, and others. She added that institutions would be allowed to define what "marketable skills" should be.

She also gave an update on items approved by THECB, including an increase in semester credit hours for the B.F.A. in Theatre Arts, the phase out of the graduate certificate in Petroleum Engineering, a reduction in semester credit hours for the B.S. in Architecture, and the creation of the M.S. in Nutrition and Dietetics (though she noted this degree was still pending SACSCOC notification and response).

In other business:

- Architecture proposed two new tracks for the M.S. in Architecture: Healthcare Facilities Design and Health and Wellness Design. A graduate certificate was proposed, as well. However, pending discussion with the chairman of the Department of Design, all tracks and certificate proposals were tabled.
- Stewart announced that Logan had been named the Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management.
- Chambers inquired as to whether a concise source of information regarding campus carry requirements would be made available to students, faculty, and staff. A brief discussion ensued, and Duran indicated that, with regard to new students, Red Raider Orientation staff would be trained how to respond to questions regarding campus carry.

With no other business raised, Stewart adjourned the meeting.

Pursuant to the meeting, Stewart reintroduced the proposals for the Healthcare Facilities Design and Health and Wellness Design tracks, as well as a graduate certificate in Healthcare Facilities Design, to council members via email. With a quorum of council members responding via email, the proposals were approved as presented.