

**Texas Tech University  
Academic Council**

**Meeting of March 20, 2018  
1:30 PM, Library Room 309**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Cindy Akers, Dennis Arnett, Kathy Austin, Jim Bret Campbell, Adrienne Carnes, Todd Chambers, Lora Deahl, David Doerfert, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Maggie Gilchrest, Sheila Gray for Jamie Hansard, Greg Glaus, Birgit Green, Saif Haq, Lynn Huffman, Jorge Iber, Darryl James, Michelle Kiser, Amy Koerber, Ryan Litsey, Robin Lock, Andrew Martin, Pat McConnel, Garrett McKinnon, Tara Miller for Cathy Duran, Alison Myhra, David Roach, Brian Steele, Patricia Vitela, Janessa Walls, Vicki West

**Guests:** Brenda Martinez, Rob Peaslee

*Note: In Rob Stewart's absence, Durham DeCesaro facilitated the meeting.*

Action Items for Associate Deans:

1. Share the proposed language (included on pages 3-4 of the minutes) concerning second degree graduation honors with advising staff in preparation for discussion at May Associate Deans meeting.
2. Share list (was sent with April AC Agenda) of added and deleted core and multicultural curriculum courses with advising staff.
3. Contact Vice Provost Durham DeCesaro if interested in serving on a working group to consider the proposed clarifications on the curricular structure of graduate degrees (see page 2 of the minutes for more information).
4. Encourage areas proposing increases to minimum SCH required for degrees to provide thorough and detailed justifications.

Durham DeCesaro announced the absence of Rob Stewart and called the meeting to order. She presented the minutes of the March 20 Academic Council meeting, and Haq asked for a clarification to the minutes. With no other revisions suggested, Haq moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Myhra seconded, and the motion was approved.

McKinnon presented the summary of course approvals, noting that item 34 (POLS 3326) had been tabled during the March meeting and would require a motion to remove from the table. Roach so moved, Huffman seconded, and the course was removed from the table. McKinnon noted that item 12 (ECE 4369) had been proposed as a tandem course with ECE 5369, but no proposal for the graduate-level course had been submitted via the Curriculog curriculum management platform. Durham DeCesaro recommended that the item be tabled until such time as a proposal for the corresponding ECE 5369 could be considered. With no further discussion, Akers moved to table item 12 and approve the remaining courses, Haq seconded, and the motion was approved.

The council heard a number of program proposals:

- Akers briefly discussed a proposed Agricultural Leadership track for the Ph.D. in Agricultural Communication and Education, as well as a proposed Agricultural Leadership concentration for the M.S. in Agricultural Education and M.S. in Agricultural Communication degrees. She said the new lines of study were simply additions to current degree programs. Durham DeCesaro noted that since the degree programs were not new, the items were informational only and would not require a vote.
- Carnes noted a proposal to rename the Telecommunications/Networking concentration in the Information Technology B.B.A. as the Cyber Security concentration, as well as a proposal to rename the Web Application Design concentration in the same degree as the Application Development concentration. The proposal did not require a vote.
- The minor in Construction Engineering added a number of prerequisites, a move that, again, did not require a vote.
- Carnes discussed a proposal to add an undergraduate certificate in Data Analytics. She said the certificate program would be for business students from any major, and that employers were increasingly seeking employees with additional technical skills. She said the certificate program would potentially accept students outside of the Rawls College of Business Administration in the future if resources allowed. Chambers moved to approve the proposal as submitted, Koerber seconded, and the motion was approved.
- Peaslee discussed a proposed undergraduate certificate in Motion Picture Production, which he noted was a collaboration between the College of Media & Communication and the J.T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts. He said the certificate would require 6 credit hours of courses from each college, plus 3 hours of elective credit, and would teach students production skills. The certificate will be open to students in any major. Doerfert moved to approve the program as presented, Deahl seconded, and the motion was approved.
- Finally, Huffman noted a proposal to reduce the semester credit hour requirement for the Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies to 72 from 84. She noted this was accomplished through the removal of elective courses and placed the degree program more in line with those offered at peer institutions. Chambers moved to approve the hours change as presented, Haq seconded, and the motion was approved.

Durham DeCesaro provided a list of updates from THECB:

- Approval of a semester credit hour increase in the M.Ed. in Educational Psychology.
- Approval of a proposal to offer the B.A.A.S. in RHIM online.
- Approval of a proposal to offer the M.S. in Manufacturing Engineering online.
- Approval of a semester credit hour reduction in the B.S. in Architecture.
- Approval of a semester credit hour reduction in the Ph.D. in General Experimental Psychology.
- Approval of a revision of the phase-out date of the B.A. in Electronic Media and Communication.
- Approval of core curriculum proposals for 2018-2019.

She did note, however, that a pair of proposals to increase semester credit hours had been rejected and requested that colleges take care to include adequate justification for hours increases at all levels.

Doerfert presented a proposed revision to the development guidelines for graduate degree programs. He said that in discussions with THECB, Texas Tech University had requested clarification of what the 18-hour “core” for master’s and doctoral programs should consist of. The proposed guideline, which had been passed by Graduate Council, noted that colleges could set their own standards for “core” requirements within a degree, and that the 18 hours could come from a menu of courses students could consider. He said the proposal would not impact existing programs and was simply a guideline to bear in mind when developing new programs. Ultimately, he said, degree programs are shells in which departments could decide what “brand” of study they would offer, and the “brands” could differ from student to student. James inquired whether such a model might permit the adoption of a European-style program that consisted solely of research credit, and Doerfert acknowledged that, according to THECB, it could. Doerfert added that it would be up to individual colleges to oversee the academic rigor and requirements of their graduate programs in association with the individual accrediting bodies that monitored their programs. Martin said that while the responsibility for development resided with departments, some level of oversight—perhaps at the Provost’s Office level—should be required. James said such a proposal could significantly change the way graduate programs could be run. Durham DeCesaro said that due to the amount of discussion taking place, the Council should consider the proposal as a recommendation, and that action items in the Council meeting minutes should record a request to form a working group to review the recommendation before presentation of a finalized proposal at Academic Council in coming months.

In other business:

- Austin requested a future agenda item to present new information about faculty permissions and credentials.
- Durham DeCesaro discussed transfer evaluations, noting that the number of outstanding syllabi under review had declined from more than a thousand as recently as two years ago to 39 as of the meeting date. She requested that departments provide a “pat on the back” to departmental reviewers for their hard work.
- Durham DeCesaro also discussed a proposed update to the existing undergraduate graduation with honors policy. She noted that some students seeking second degrees at TTU were being denied honors due to the fact that the GPA earned for the second degree did not meet the required threshold for graduation with honors because TTU coursework taken as part of the students’ first degrees was being included in the calculation. She proposed an addition to the existing policy, as follows: ***Graduation with Honors for Second Degree Students:*** *Students are considered for graduation honors only if a minimum of 24 semester credit hours have been completed at Texas Tech University after the completion and awarding of the first degree. Honors for the additional undergraduate degree will be based upon Texas Tech University coursework taken following completion and awarding of the immediate prior degree.*

Huffman questioned whether such a policy would be fair to first-degree seeking students who performed poorly in their core courses but well in their major courses. Martin questioned whether the policy could be modified to allow for all courses counted toward the second degree. Roach asked how many concerns or inquiries were coming forward on this issue. Durham DeCesaro noted that we don’t track the number of second degree students who would have been eligible for graduation with honors if the proposed policy revision was already in place, but acknowledged that the total number of second degree students is very small. After additional

discussion, Durham DeCesaro thanked the Council for bringing forward very good questions and requested that Council members discuss the proposed policy change with advising staff and report back during the Associate Dean's meeting on May 1 so that the issue could be decided prior to commencement.

- Finally, Durham DeCesaro noted that several Texas Tech faculty and students had been aboard the Southwest Airlines flight that experienced an engine failure earlier during the day and requested that consideration of travel difficulties and emotional impact of the event be given to those affected.

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