

**Texas Tech University  
Academic Council**

**Meeting of September 18, 2018  
1:30 PM, Library Room 309**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Dennis Arnett, Jon Mark Bernal, Todd Chambers, Lora Deahl, Dottie Durband, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Greg Glaus, Sheila Gray for Jamie Hansard, Melanie Hart, Saif Haq, Annette Hernandez, Patrick Hughes, Sam Jackson for Cindy Akers, Darryl James, Amy Koerber, Mitzi Lauderdale, Sean Lewis, Robin Lock, Brenda Martinez for Bobbie Brown, Elizabeth Massengale for Cathy Duran, Pat McConnel, Garrett McKinnon, Alison Myhra, David Roach, Emily Skidmore, Brian Steele, Robert Stewart, Carol Sumner, Janessa Walls, Vicki West

**Guests:** Nural Akchurin, Erin Justyna

**Action Items:**

1. Associate Deans are asked to remind area coordinators/departments chairs/school directors about the faculty development opportunities recently announced by the OVPR.
2. Associate Deans are asked to remind area coordinators/departments chairs/school directors of the upcoming due date for programmatic assessment (Nuventive Improve) and also to encourage area coordinators/departments chairs/school directors to follow up on previously noted actions for improvement.

Stewart called the meeting to order and recognized new members Bernal (from the Staff Senate) and Skidmore (from the Faculty Senate).

Stewart next introduced the minutes from the August meeting. Hearing no suggestions for revisions or corrections, Stewart said the minutes would be considered approved by silent acclamation.

McKinnon introduced the course approvals. Chambers moved that the courses be approved as proposed, Haq seconded, and the motion was approved.

The Council heard a trio of program approvals:

- The College of Arts & Sciences presented an informational item on an update to the catalog description for the undergraduate Book History and Digital Humanities minor.
- The Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts presented an informational item on a proposed Transmedia Concentration for the B.F.A. degree. Deahl said a similar Transmedia minor had proved so popular, the college opted to create a concentration available to certain majors within the college.
- The College of Architecture presented a proposal to increase the semester credit hour requirement for the Master of Architecture (M.Arch.) degree to 60 hours from 42. Haq noted that the M.Arch. is the professional and terminal degree in the field, whereas the college also offers a M.S. in Architecture, which is a research-based degree focused on academic careers. Haq said

the hours revision was part of a restructuring of the curriculum for architecture students, and that the undergraduate architecture degree had been reduced to 124 hours from 128. He also noted that the college had examined peer programs and found that 60 hours for the M.Arch. degree was close to the midpoint, and that the degree would offer more professional training for architects. Durham DeCesaro noted that the hours increase would require notification and response to SACSCOC, in addition to approval by THECB. Lauderdale suggested notifying potential students of a change in hours at least a year in advance so students applying to a program would understand the credit hour requirement for graduation. After a brief discussion, Deahl moved to approve the hours change as proposed, Chambers seconded, and the motion was approved.

Durham DeCesaro gave a presentation on the resources available to faculty via the Office of the Provost website ([www.depts.ttu.edu/provost](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/provost)). She noted that the available resources could help faculty and department chairs navigate the process of proposing courses, programs, core/multicultural courses, etc. She also said information on the Communication Literacy requirement was available. Durham DeCesaro also reminded those in attendance that the deadline to change existing courses for the Spring 2019 semester would be the October Academic Council meeting.

Stewart announced a pair of faculty development opportunities being offered by the Office of the Vice President of Research. He said one was a faculty travel grant that could help faculty pay for travel associated with research and/or conferences. A second opportunity was a residential fellowship that could help allay expenses for faculty who had received external fellowships at other institutions.

Stewart also shared faculty counts, noting that the university had employed 94 new faculty as of Aug. 22, with 69 being replacements for faculty who had left the university and 25 representing newly created positions. He said the increasing student population on campus was increasing the need for new faculty.

James reported on a pending interview with SACSCOC at the TTU-Costa Rica campus. He said a mock site visit had been conducted the week prior, and that the full site visit would occur within two weeks. He noted that the Costa Rica campus had to meet 12 standards, and that per SACSCOC requirements Texas Tech University must control all academic aspects of the campus. James said the Costa Rica campus currently offered five programs: three engineering programs, a RHIM program, and a mathematics program. He added that 39 students had enrolled for the fall semester, and that the campus hoped to have 80 new students for the spring semester. Hughes added that faculty and staff at the campus had been undergoing significant training in preparation for operating the campus, which had opened with a staff of about 10 and five faculty members.

Hart distributed information regarding the Lubbock Heart Walk, scheduled to take place Oct. 13 at the Frazier Alumni Pavilion, and asked for volunteers and donations to support the event.

Durham DeCesaro announced that SACSCOC had approved the proposed Ph.D. in Music Education, the second doctoral program at Texas Tech to be approved by the accrediting agency during 2018.

In other business:

- James provided an update on a plan to develop the Transformative Undergraduate Experiences (TrUE) office out of the Center for Active Learning and Undergraduate Engagement (CALUE). He said the president and provost had set a goal of ensuring that all undergraduate students at the university enjoy a “transformational learning experience” by 2025, and as part of that effort the CALUE office was being transformed. Justyna, the CALUE director, said the plan was exciting, and the new name fit the activity the office would support. She requested that college administrators provide an inventory of the transformative learning experiences available to undergraduate students in their college, and that her office was prepared to determine areas for growth and develop new possibilities. She noted that her staff was preparing to meet with associate deans from across the campus during the fall semester. In response to a question, Justyna said a guideline for what constituted “transformative” was being developed, but that ideally it would include a research or creative activity, service learning, experiential learning, and possibly study abroad experiences.
- Stewart said a memo would be forthcoming regarding required course materials for the spring semester. He noted that the target date for having all materials ordered was the beginning of registration for the spring semester, and reminded those in attendance that it would be ideal if students could know what materials a course required at the time they registered.
- James reminded Council members that academic assessments were due Oct. 1, and encouraged departments to follow up on improvement suggestions from previous years. Hart added that programs with multiple modalities (i.e., face-to-face and online) would need to be separated.
- McKinnon noted that the ad hoc calendar committee would be meeting to resolve an issue with summer terms during the 2022 and 2023 years, and invited anyone who would like to join the committee to contact him for additional information.

With no additional business raised, Stewart adjourned the meeting.