

**Texas Tech University  
Academic Council**

**Meeting of April 16, 2019  
1:30 PM, Library Room 309**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Jon Mark Bernal, Todd Chambers, Mayukh Dass, Lora Deahl, David Doerfert, Dottie Durband, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Kristi Gaines, Sheila Gray for Jamie Hansard, Saif Haq, Sheila Hoover, Jorge Iber, Michelle Kiser, Amy Koerber, Rodney Lackey, Mitzi Lauderdale, Mellinee Lesley, Brenda Martinez for Bobbie Brown, Pat McConnel, Garrett McKinnon, Alison Myhra, Reagan Ribordy, David Roach, Cynthia Sanchez, Emily Skidmore, Brian Steele, Robert Stewart, Brittany Todd (for Cathy Duran), Patricia Vitela, Janessa Walls

**Action Items:**

1. Associate Deans are asked to distribute to department chairs and school directors the information on updated submission timeline for Core and Multicultural Curriculum proposals. That timeline was attached to the April AC agenda email.
2. Associate Deans are asked to encourage academic units to reach out to current students (in good standing) who've not yet reenrolled for fall.
3. Associate Deans are asked to pass on the request for additional volunteers to serve as Faculty Marshals during the three undergraduate commencement ceremonies. Interested volunteers can contact Vice Provost Genevieve Durham DeCesaro or Commencement Coordinator Amiee Dixon.

Stewart called the meeting to order and introduced the minutes from the March 2019 meeting. Koerber moved to approve the minutes as presented, Doerfert seconded, and the motion was approved.

Kiser briefly discussed the Current Enrollment Calling Campaign and urged academic units to reach out to current students who failed to reenroll in the university to encourage them to do so.

McKinnon introduced the summary of course proposals. Roach requested that item 4 (ASL 3304) be tabled pending discussions with the College of Media & Communication and Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts regarding the course title and description. Chambers moved to approve the remaining courses and to table item 4, Doerfert seconded, and the motion was approved.

Durham DeCesaro discussed proposed programs not requiring a vote:

- The College of Architecture proposed a new B.S. Architecture + M.Arch accelerated degree program. Haq noted that the revised degree reflected an hours increase for the M.Arch. degree, and that students would earn the combined degree by taking 9 graduate hours during their senior undergraduate year.
- Four new concentrations were proposed for existing degrees: a concentration in American Sign Language/English Interpretation for the B.A. in Languages and Cultures; and concentrations in

Nutrition and Healthy Weight, Nutrition and Sports, and Nutrition in the Lifecycle for the M.S. in Nutrition and Dietetics. Doerfert noted that the master's concentrations were available only to identified majors and were introduced as part of the M.S. in Nutrition and Dietetics' online program.

- The Council heard information-only items regarding curricular changes to the International Studies undergraduate minor, the Astrophysics concentration in the B.S. in Physics, and changes to the B.S. in Restaurant, Hotel and Institutional Management as well as the B.S. in Retail Management.
- Rawls College of Business Administration proposed a graduate minor in Business. Dass said the hope was to give an opportunity to graduate students across the campus to learn business skills. The online-only minor would consist of three courses.

Durham DeCesaro also discussed proposals requiring a vote:

- The Council heard a proposal to add online modality to the M.A. in Communication Studies and the M.A. in Mass Communications.
- Deahl briefly discussed a proposal to add a graduate certificate in Opera.
- Doerfert discussed a proposal to phase out the graduate certificate in Publishing and Editing. He noted that two students remained in the program, but the faculty members who taught many of the courses involved with the program were no longer at Texas Tech University. He said the program would remain open until the students seeking certification had earned it, but would stop admitting new students.

After a brief discussion, Doerfert moved to approve the proposals as presented, Chambers seconded, and the motion was approved.

Durham DeCesaro reintroduced a proposal clarifying new catalog language for declaring majors and minors. She noted the proposal had been reworked after a previous Academic Council meeting and had been discussed at a recent Associate Deans meeting. The revised language would advise students that they were potentially liable for changes made in minor requirements and urged declaration of majors and minors at the same time. After a discussion centered on the possibility of implementing the policy immediately, for the Fall 2019 semester, or for the Spring 2020 semester, Haq moved to approve the policy effective with the 2019-2020 catalog (i.e., Fall 2019 semester), Iber seconded, and the motion was approved.

Durham DeCesaro also discussed a proposed Operating Policy clarifying the university's administrative drop policy. She noted that the policy had been reviewed at Associate Deans meeting and previously by Faculty Senate, which had suggested adding language clarifying the relevance of the policy to grades of I assigned for prerequisite courses. Durham DeCesaro said if the policy was approved, it would be reviewed by Faculty Senate one last time before being published. Lauderdale moved to approve the policy as presented, Deahl seconded, and the motion was approved.

The Council heard updates from THECB, including approval of the graduate certificate in Arts Entrepreneurship and approval of the move of the B.A. in Media Strategies to the Department of Professional Communication within the College of Media & Communication. Durham DeCesaro also discussed the UEAC/Field of Study issue and noted that the university was working with THECB to clarify the conditions of and limits to Fields of Study courses offered at two-year institutions that would be accepted by mandate at four-year institutions. Roach later noted that Field of Study arose from an attempt by the Texas Legislature to resolve course transfer issues

and specified that lower-division courses specific to a major must be transferrable and degree-applicable from community colleges to four-year colleges. Durham DeCesaro noted, however, that some lower-division courses offered at two-year colleges might not have corresponding courses at four-year universities, so reviewing mechanisms by UEAC were being developed to clarify the process. She also noted that the development of Fields of Study was slowing, because the top 25 areas had been identified by THECB in accordance with the legislative mandate.

Durham DeCesaro presented a summary of academic and curricular updates/policy changes for the 2019-2020 academic year and noted that the summary was distributed to advising staff and faculty.

The Council received a submission timeline for Core and Multicultural curriculum. Durham DeCesaro said the timeline should be distributed to academic units so faculty could have sufficient time to start the process during the spring semester or over the summer, but she noted that the timeline would make creating a new course and having the course approved for inclusion in the Core curriculum difficult during the fall semester. She added that if a course were created, but not approved for Core inclusion for the next academic year, the application for Core inclusion would pass to the subsequent year.

Durham DeCesaro gave an update on commencement, noting that Grammy Award-winning opera singer and Texas Tech alum Susan Graham would be one of the speakers and that award-winning author Barry Lopez would be the other. She also called for volunteers from faculty members to attend one of the undergraduate ceremonies, noting that the 1:30 Saturday ceremony specifically needed more faculty members to volunteer as Marshals. She reminded those in attendance that volunteering to assist with commencement qualifies as university-wide service on faculty C.V., making it a great opportunity for younger faculty.

Roach provided an update on the Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) conference put on by the Association of American Colleges & Universities. He said much of the recent conference emphasized high-impact teaching and instruction.

In other business:

- Todd made an announcement about Denim Day, an event to raise awareness regarding sexual assault. She shared flyers promoting the event, and encouraged faculty and staff to wear denim on the day in question and allow their subordinates to do so, as well.
- Durham DeCesaro announced an event hosted by the Institute for Peace & Conflict titled "1969: Vietnamization and the Year of Transition in the Vietnam War" to be held April 25-27.

With no other business raised, Stewart adjourned the meeting.