

**Texas Tech University
Academic Council**

**Meeting of May 21, 2019
1:30 PM, Library Room 309**

Attendance

Present: Cindy Akers, Dennis Arnett, Todd Chambers, Jessica Cravens (for Jamie Hansard), Cathy Duran, Dottie Durband, Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Greg Glaus, Saif Haq, Sheila Hoover, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Darryl James, Michelle Kiser, Amy Koerber, Mellinee Lesley, Brenda Martinez (for Bobbie Brown), Pat McConnel, Garrett McKinnon, Catherine Nutter, Reagan Ribordy (for Sukant Misra), Brian Shannon, Brian Steele, Carol Sumner, Clay Taylor (for Justin Louder and Melanie Hart), Annette Uddameri, Janessa Walls and Aliza Wong

Action Items:

1. Associate Deans are asked to review the updated list of Explore designations discussed by Drs. Hughes and Nutter (see minutes for details). Associate Deans are asked to share the list with area colleagues and contact Dr. Nutter with any questions or with information about how their areas might be using the list.

In Robert Stewart's absence, Durham DeCesaro called the meeting to order and introduced Te'Ree Wozniak, a new staff member in the Provost's Office who would be assisting with Academic Council and Associate Dean's meetings.

Durham DeCesaro introduced the minutes from the April meeting. Hearing no calls for corrections or revisions, Chambers moved to approve the minutes as presented, Akers seconded, and the motion was approved.

McKinnon introduced the summary of course proposals. Chambers inquired about changes proposed for item 53 (VPA 1302). He indicated that because the College of Media & Communication had agreed to help instruct sections of the course, he had questions about the revisions, which Steele noted were proposed to address THECB's rejection of the course as part of the University's core curriculum. Chambers requested that the course be tabled until additional discussion regarding the course could take place. Additionally, McKinnon requested that item 46 (SOC 5336) be tabled until such time as clarification regarding proposed changes to the course description could be addressed. Durham DeCesaro noted the existence of a course tabled in April 2018 (ECE 4369), which was the undergraduate component of a tandem course to be taught with ECE 5369, approved in February 2019. Uddameri moved to take ECE 4369 off the table, Akers seconded, and the motion was approved. Haq moved to approve all courses that had not been tabled (namely VPA 1302 and SOC 5336), including ECE 4369. Durband seconded, and the motion was approved.

Durham DeCesaro presented a pair of program proposals requiring a vote. The first was a proposal for a new graduate certificate in Mixed Methods Research. Additionally, Human

Sciences had proposed a modality change that would formally allow the B.A.A.S. in Human Sciences to be taught at regional sites; Durband noted the degree had never been formally approved to be taught at regional sites by Academic Council. Chambers moved to approve the proposals as presented, Iber seconded, and the motion was approved.

The Council next heard informational items regarding curricular changes to the M.A. in Anthropology and the proposed deletion of the Sales concentration for the B.B.A. in Marketing. Arnett noted the Sales concentration had been replaced by an undergraduate certificate in Sales and Customer Relationship Marketing.

Hughes and Nutter discussed the updated Explore designations (sent as an attachment to the Council agenda), a document designed to help undecided students categorize their potential career interests. He requested feedback on how the document could be used to advise students of their options and how academic units were marketing their degree programs to undecided students.

Durham DeCesaro gave a report on dual credit instruction, noting that a pair of research groups had reviewed dual credit instruction in the state and released reports of their findings in 2018. She said the reports revealed disparate findings with regard to demographics, but both confirm gaps in dual credit enrollment, with more white students participating in dual credit classes than other ethnicities. Geography also played a key role, she noted, as many rural areas and certain urban areas lacked access to dual credit courses. She said the full reports, which contained insightful information regarding academic rigor of dual credit courses, positive and negative impacts on student groups, and more, were available upon request.

Durham DeCesaro also provided an update on procedures for academic units to offer degree programs at Texas Tech University-Costa Rica (TTUCR). She said academic units that currently offered degree programs at the campus could submit additional programs directly to the TTUCR steering committee for approval with a subsequent notification to Academic Council, but departments without existing programs at the campus would first need to submit their proposal to Academic Council for consideration and approval.

The Council heard a debrief on commencement, with Durham DeCesaro noting that more than 3,800 names were announced. Overall, the four ceremonies averaged one student name called every 4.5 seconds, significantly reducing the overall time of the ceremonies. She thanked all academic units for providing phenomenal readers.

Finally, Durham DeCesaro noted that THECB had recently approved modality changes for the B.S. in Multidisciplinary Studies, as well as the B.A. in Sociology.

In other business:

- Durham DeCesaro said the Provost's Office was compiling a list of items passed by the Texas Legislature that could impact academic areas and would distribute the list as soon as the current legislative session ended. She noted that areas such as advising and fields of study would likely be impacted.

- She also noted that courses for which students had already enrolled could not have additional restrictions placed upon them. Departments seeking to add enrollment restrictions to courses should make sure that the restrictions are proposed and approved prior to advanced registration for the term the restrictions will be implemented.

With no additional business raised, Iber moved to adjourn the meeting, Haq seconded, and the motion was approved.