

**Texas Tech University  
Academic Council**

**Meeting of December 17, 2019  
1:30 PM, Provost Conference Room**

**Attendance**

**Present:** Cindy Akers, Andrea Bilkey, David Doerfert, Cathy Duran, Kristi Gaines, Greg Glaus, Sheila Gray (for Jamie Hansard), Lindsay Hallowell, Sarah Hatley (for MaryAlice Torres-MacDonald), Sheila Hoover, Jorge Iber, Darryl James, Michelle Kiser, Amy Koerber, Mitzi Lauderdale, Mellinee Lesley, Brenda Martinez (for Bobbie Brown), Pat McConnel, Nguyen, Dee, David Roach, Brian Shannon, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart, Carol Sumner, Patricia Vitela, Dana Weiser, Aliza Wong.

**Guests:** Tim Nokken

**Action Items:**

1. Please share new process for prerequisite, corequisite, and restriction changes with academic areas. The change will go into effect in January. The new process is detailed on a page following these minutes.
2. Please share the call, sent via email on 12/13 to Deans, Associate Deans, and Chairs/Directors, for President's Book Award submission reviewers. Interested individuals should contact Dr. Stewart.

Stewart called the meeting to order by introducing the minutes from the November Council meeting. With no additional discussion, Doerfert moved to approve the minutes, Akers seconded, and the minutes were approved as presented.

Stewart then brought to the Council's attention the need to submit any missing final grades by tomorrow at the latest. He and Martinez encouraged the associate deans to nudge their faculty members as needed to submit those final grades.

The Council then heard a report regarding updates from The Higher Education Coordinating Board. Durham DeCesaro notified the Council that the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree has been approved, and we are now awaiting SACSCOC review. In addition, THECB has approved a number of degrees to be offered at Rockwall, including the B.S. in Human Sciences, the Bachelor of General Studies, the B.S. and B.A. in University Studies, and the B.A. in Political Science. Durham DeCesaro explained that THECB now only sends an email approving modality changes, which she forwards to the notification committee group email. We have also received approval for a CIP code change for the B.S. in Kinesiology and approval for the SCH reduction for the PhD in Human Development and Family Studies.

Durham DeCesaro notified the Council that THECB has degree programs on file for TTU that have not been offered since roughly 2011-2012. The suspicion is that before Curriculog assisted

in managing and archiving this process, the departments and colleges agreed to stop offering these programs but we did not report those decisions to the state. To remedy this, the Office of the Registrar will be running a report to identify other degrees that are listed in our state inventory that we no longer award. If other degree programs are identified, we will send a letter of phase out to THECB and notify them that there are no students enrolled in the programs, and THECB will remove those programs from our inventory.

Stewart then introduced the summary of course proposals. Koerber requested that AERS 3305 and 3306 be tabled so CoMC could have a chance to discuss those courses with the Department of Aerospace Studies. Koerber also asked to table PHIL 2360 to allow for continued discussion. Roach mentioned that the Department of Philosophy had the impression that this course was ready for a vote and so asked Koerber to keep him updated on further discussions. Durham DeCesaro added that KIN 3307 was added to the agenda inadvertently and must also remain as tabled. Shannon pointed out a discrepancy in the proposed title changes of AERS 4303 and 4304, and Hallowell said she would confirm the correct title. Koerber presented the motion to table AERS 3305 and 3306, PHIL 2360, and KIN 3307, Doerfert seconded, and the motion was passed. These four courses will be held pending further discussions.

Durham DeCesaro then introduced the list of program proposals, of which one required a vote. The item requiring a vote was a new degree proposal: Bachelor of Applied Arts in Commercial Music, which TCVPA will coordinate with South Plains College's well-established commercial music program. The School of Music is working with the National Association of Schools of Music to ensure that this new degree proposal aligns with current accreditation standards. This new degree has the potential to open a new stream of transfer students from South Plains' program who would like to complete a four-year degree after the applied degree in Commercial Music at South Plains College. Stewart asked for clarification of the "commercial" aspect of the degree. Durham DeCesaro explained that the program at South Plains prepares students to enter the recording industry for various opportunities, such as jingle writers, studio session musicians, recording musicians, and sound designers, among others. Lauderdale motioned to approve the program, Akers seconded, and the program was approved. Durham DeCesaro explained that this degree will also need THECB and SACSCOC approval.

Durham DeCesaro then introduced the other informational items, including curricular changes to the B.S. in Kinesiology, the Sports Medicine undergraduate minor, the Master of Public Administration, the Commercial Banking undergraduate certificate, the BS in Petroleum Engineering, and the Sports Media undergraduate certificate. Nokken explained that the curricular change to the M.P.A. is to eliminate the concentrations currently offered that require courses that the department is lacking the faculty to teach and thus makes it difficult for students to complete requisite courses in a timely manner. The other informational item was a proposal to offer the existing Legal Studies undergraduate minor at the TTU Waco campus. With no further discussion, the Council moved to the next agenda item.

Stewart then introduced the proposal for the new process for approving changes to pre- and corequisites in Curriculog. The new process would create a second step to approval, which will place the proposals on the Academic Council agenda as informational items before these changes will be implemented. James expressed a concern that this proposal could remove the faculty

control of curriculum as required by SACSCOC. Stewart explained that this second step will serve as a notification of and a chance to discuss the changes rather than as an approval step. Doerfert mentioned that since faculty sit on various committees and subcommittees that approve various proposals in Curriculog, faculty are still involved in the process of curricular decision-making. Durham DeCesaro clarified that this proposal expands the steps required to process pre- and corequisite changes to allow Academic Council to discuss those changes and does not change the process of departments submitting such changes in Curriculog. With no further discussion, Doerfert moved to approve the proposal, Dass seconded, and the proposal was approved.

The Council then heard a Commencement debriefing from Durham DeCesaro. There were medium-sized graduating classes at the ceremonies. Durham DeCesaro explained that the times and composition of colleges in the different ceremonies were changed recently, and a possible response to that has been a decrease in student participation in the December ceremonies. As a result, the commencement team is expecting very large participation this May. Durham DeCesaro also thanked the college readers, including those present at the meeting.

In other business, Stewart gave an update on Faculty Development Leaves, and of 52 applications submitted, 40 were selected. Letters are anticipated to be sent out by the end of the week. In addition, a recommendation is forthcoming for the first-ever Provost Faculty Fellow. The intention is for the position to start at the beginning of the spring semester and to continue through the summer. Stewart also mentioned the seven books submitted for the President's Book Award. Stewart encouraged the Council members to look into those books and offered to send the list to the Council members.

With no other business or announcements, Stewart adjourned the meeting.

## **Proposed New Process for Changing Course-Level Prerequisites, Corequisites, and other Restrictions**

### **Current process to change Prerequisites, Corequisites, and other Restrictions\***

Originator  
Department Chair  
Course Inventory Review  
Institutional Research  
Official Publications

### **New process to change Prerequisites, Corequisites, and other Restrictions\***

Originator  
Department Chair  
Administrative Review  
College Curriculum Committee  
Graduate Council Subcommittee (if applicable)  
Graduate Council (if applicable)  
Academic Council  
Course Inventory Review  
Institutional Research  
Official Publications

*\*Note that more restrictive changes to pre- and co- requisites cannot be implemented after the first date of advance registration for the term in which the course is offered. Changes that make admission to the course less restrictive can be implemented at any time.*