

**Texas Tech University
Academic Council**

**Meeting of January 19, 2021
1:30 PM, Skype**

Attendance

Present: Cindy Akers, Dennis Arnett, Andrea Bilkey, Stefanie Borst, Bobbie Brown, Jaclyn Cañas-Carrell, Todd Chambers, John Dascanio, Mayukh Dass, Cathy Duran, Dottie Durband, Kristi Gaines, Greg Glaus, Jason Hale, Lindsay Hallowell, Jamie Hansard, Kaelene Hansen, Melanie Hart, Stephanie Hart, Hunter Heck, Sheila Hoover, Patrick Hughes, Wendy-Adele Humphrey, Jorge Iber, Darryl James, Michelle Kiser, Amy Koerber, Mitzi Lauderdale, Justin Louder, Brenda Martinez, Pat McConnel, Sukant Misra, Reagan Ribordy, David Roach, Brian Shannon, Stacy Stockard, Carol Sumner, Annette Uddameri, Nicolas Valcik, Patricia Vitela, Janessa Walls, and Lesley Nall Washington.

Action Items:

1. Associate deans are asked to complete small course reporting by the end of the week.
2. Associate deans are asked to identify students eligible to receive the Reskilling Grant Scholarships and send that information to eLearning.

Hart called the meeting to order by presenting the minutes from the December Council meeting. With no comments or revisions, Akers motioned to approve, Chambers seconded, and the minutes were approved.

For the next item of business, Cañas-Carrell introduced the summary of course proposals. Hallowell explained that there was only one voting item, which was the last item in the list: ID 3382. The course has a proposed number change and CIP Code change. With no further discussion, Hart called for a motion. Dascanio moved to approve the item, Chambers seconded, and the course was approved.

Cañas-Carrell then introduced the program proposals. The only voting item was a semester credit hour reduction for the Bachelor of Interior Design. Durband explained that the proposal is a result of a required course having changed from 3 hours to 2, which leaves the B.I.D. students lacking an hour. Hart called for a motion. Arnett moved, Akers seconded, and the motion carried.

The remaining program proposal was a curricular change for the Language and Literacy graduate concentration of the Curriculum and Instruction master's program. Hallowell mentioned that this change was originally submitted over the summer and approved at Academic Council, but the department had additional changes needed, so it has been resubmitted.

For the next item of business Cañas-Carrell introduced the 2019-2020 Annual Core Curriculum Report, which will be distributed across campus within the next few weeks. Cañas-Carrell asked for Council members to reach out with questions so they can be

forwarded to OPA and the Steering Committee.

Roach asked if Cañas-Carrell had heard anything about core deliberations from the Coordinating Board, and Cañas-Carrell said the THECB is still soliciting feedback and that there has been no word yet. Their session recently started, so we are still waiting for an update. The Steering Committee voted to keep our moratorium for core and multicultural courses until later in the semester when we hear more.

The next item of business concerned small course reporting. Hart mentioned that Rob Stewart asked for Council members to complete the small course reporting by the end of this week. Hart then explained that while the TPE and TDE combined courses should not appear in the small course reporting portal, any such courses that do show up should include a comment about them needing to be combined.

With no further discussion, Hart moved to the next item of business, explaining that the deadlines for the following awards have been extended from January 29th to February 5th to allow additional time for applications to be submitted: the Departmental Excellence in Teaching Award, the President's Academic Achievement Award, the President's Excellence in Teaching Award, and the Texas Tech Alumni Associate New Faculty Award.

For the next item of business, Hart opened the floor for any questions regarding spring plans related to COVID. James revisited the previous item and requested for Council members to nominate departments for the IE Excellence Award. Hart asked James to confirm the deadline. James mentioned that the submission deadline is the 19th but that they would extend the deadline to Friday, January 22nd. James will confirm the deadline and send the exact deadline to the colleges.

Hart voiced a question in the chat from Roach about vaccinations on campus for faculty under age 65. Hart explained that, currently, there are no set plans for people under 65 years old to receive vaccinations on campus, but that announcements from the Vaccine Committee are forthcoming. We should receive the freezers on campus by the first of February, and then we will be waiting on the governor to release the vaccines for people under age 65.

Hart then turned the floor over to Louder to discuss recent communications. Louder explained that eLearning sent out a memo last Wednesday that included reminders and tips for online and hybrid instruction. The memo included information about regular and substantive interaction, accessibility, and remote proctoring and assessments. The memo also provided information on faculty expectations for synchronous classes, including the use of cameras. Another section of the memo discussed online classroom civility, which had been presented previously at Academic Council. Hart asked if there were any questions about the memo. Hearing none, Hart mentioned that eLearning is standing by for any questions or concerns.

Hart then asked Louder to discuss the Reskilling Grant. TTU received a \$750,000 grant to assist students close to finishing their degree or credentialing program who were negatively affected by COVID. We must start giving out the money this semester. The criteria are stringent, but Louder expressed the hope of being able to help many students. The requirements are as follows: 1) students must have been impacted by COVID, 2) students must be able to complete their bachelor's degree within 12 months, 3) students must have an active FAFSA and an unmet financial need after all institutional and federal scholarships and grants but before student loans, and 4) students must have sat out of at least the previous long semester or six months when considering the summer. Students can be pursuing any

bachelor's degree. eLearning is working with several divisions across campus to identify a list of students eligible for the grant who may have stopped out during the spring or fall 2020 semesters. eLearning will send those students a mailer this summer encouraging them to return to finish their degree, with the scholarship as an incentive.

The scholarship is a maximum of \$2,500 per student per semester. It can be renewed twice, so students can get the money up to three times as long as funds are available. So far, 60-70 students have been identified as eligible for the scholarship this spring, and the hope is to increase that number this summer and fall. The money must be spent by spring 2022. If we exhaust the funds before that, we may be eligible for additional funds.

Louder asked for associate deans to help identify students who stopped out in summer or fall and are about a year from graduating, and to send that info to Louder or to Dr. Clay Taylor.

With no further discussion, Hart asked for any announcements. Sumner mentioned that with Monday being the MLK Jr. holiday, there are activities happening all week on campus. Sumner shared a link in the chat to a page that details the events. Sumner encouraged Council members to check out the various activities.

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