

**Texas Tech University
Academic Council**

**Meeting of June 15, 2021
1:30 PM, Skype**

Attendance

Present: Faisal Al-Hmoud, Dennis Arnett, Kathy Austin, Andrea Bilkey, Chance Brooks, Bobbie Brown, Stacy Caliva, Mayukh Dass, David Doerfert, Cathy Duran, Dottie Durband, Kristi Gaines, Jason Hale, Lindsay Hollowell, Kaelene Hansen, Melanie Hart, Stephanie Hart, Bret Hendricks, Sheila Hoover, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Catherine Jai, Michelle Kiser, Amy Koerber, Rodney Lackey, Katie Langford, Mitzi Lauderdale, Brenda Martinez, Shirley Matteson, Pat McConnel, Sukant Misra, Kuhn Park, Rob Stewart (Chair), Carol Sumner, Suzanne Tapp, Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo, Nicolas Valcik, and Janessa Walls.

Action Items:

1. Associate deans are asked to ensure their departments review the forthcoming transfer guides from SPC for accuracy and to return them as soon as possible.
2. Associate deans are asked to encourage departments to provide alternate contacts for transfer evaluation staff who are on extended summer leaves.

Stewart called the meeting to order by presenting the minutes from the May Council meeting. With no comments or revisions, Brown moved to approve, Bilkey seconded, and the minutes were approved.

For the next item of business, Stewart invited Hollowell to introduce the course proposals. Hollowell began by pointing out that item 3, a new course proposal for HUSC 5300, needed to be tabled because it did not route correctly in Curriculumlog. Hollowell then summarized the remaining proposals and brought attention to the items in the Multiple Changes section that included both voting and informational items. With no further discussion, Doerfert moved to approve all course proposals and to table item 3. Koerber seconded, and the course proposals were approved.

Next, Hollowell introduced the sole program proposal, which was a curricular change to the undergraduate minor in Addictive Disorders and Recovery Studies. As this was an informational item, it did not require a vote. With no discussion, the Council moved to the next item of business.

For the next item of business, Lauderdale gave a presentation on forthcoming transfer guides between South Plains College (SPC) and TTU. Attached to the agenda was a master list of programs for which transfer guides will be developed, and Lauderdale informed the Council members that Keeley Grant with eLearning will be reaching out to affected areas for their collaboration on and review of these transfer guides with SPC.

Lauderdale explained that the transfer guides are more student and advising facing and can be looked at as operationalizations of articulation agreements between SPC and TTU. Lauderdale mentioned that the goal is for the TTU departments to review the transfer guides for accuracy before SPC begins using them to advise transfer students. The purpose of the transfer guides is to increase collaboration between the two institutions to minimize accidental misadvising for transfer students.

Lauderdale asked for Council members to encourage their departments to watch out for the guides and to return them to Keeley as soon as possible. Lauderdale added that we will be reviewing the guides annually. In addition, Lauderdale mentioned that any department not included in the master list that would like to have a transfer guide established should contact Keeley. Dean Worley at SPC welcomes any type of program articulation or guidebook to encourage SPC students to transfer into TTU programs.

Stewart asked what kind of authority an established guidebook would have. Lauderdale clarified that the guidebooks themselves do not have authority, but we want to ensure the information is accurate, so students are not misadvised. Lauderdale added that the guides point directly to the TTU catalog but that most of the information is SPC driven. The main concern is the transfer equivalency to TTU in the students' first two years. Lauderdale would like for TTU to honor the policies in the transfer guides as much as possible. However, Lauderdale clarified that we are not bound by these guides.

Lauderdale continued to the next item of business by pointing out that summer is a high season for transfer equivalency requests. Lauderdale explained that in the last few years, we have sped up the turnaround time for transfer evaluations, but recently the turnaround time has slowed for various reasons. One of the main reasons for the slower turnaround time is due to extended leaves during the summer taken by those involved in the transfer equivalency process. In the event that there is an evaluator for transfer evaluation who is taking extended leave during the summer, Lauderdale asked that departments provide Shelly Bowman an alternative contact person for transfer evaluation requests.

Stewart then asked for items of other business. Hearing none, Stewart asked for updates on the RaiderLand Experience. Al-Hmoud said that the events are going well from the SGA perspective, and pointed out how good the sessions are compared to the virtual sessions last year. In addition, Al-Hmoud noted that SGA and the students appreciate the effort that the colleges have put into making these events.

Duran added that Student Affairs is collecting feedback every day, and the results have been very positive so far. Feedback has let us know that people are specifically enjoying the activities that the colleges have set up. Hale explained that Undergraduate Admissions will be bringing the first group of First-Gen, Pell-Eligible students to campus this coming weekend. The group will consist of 79 students, with 158 total visitors. Hale thanked the Council members for their help in facilitating these events. This will be the first of five groups that Undergraduate Admissions will bring to campus this summer. Stewart asked where the visitors were from, and Hale explained that they are from all over Texas.

Sumner mentioned that Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) is excited to host some activities, specifically with the First-Gen team. Sumner added that there are pins and buttons available for any faculty or staff who are also First-Gen who would like to showcase that during these events. Those interested can contact Jade or Brandon in DE&I. Wearing the pins or buttons will help the First-Gen students identify and make connections with those who are also First-Gen or supporters of First-Gen students.

Stewart asked if anyone had experienced any issues with the RaiderLand Experience so far. Al-Hmoud mentioned that the only issue SGA has encountered is congestion when groups linger in the lounge area outside the Ballroom.

Stewart then called for other items of other business. With no additional items or announcements,

Stewart announced that the July Council meeting may be canceled pending further discussions. Confirmation of that will be forthcoming.

Stewart then thanked the Council members and adjourned the meeting.