

**Texas Tech University  
Academic Council**

**Meeting of June 17, 2025  
1:30 PM, TLPDC, Room 151 and via Teams**

**Attendance**

**Present:** Cindy Akers (Chair), Carolyn Arnold, Nurcan Bac, Janessa Blanchard, Holli Booe, Stefanie Borst, Shelly Bowman, Ashlee Brown, Bobbie Brown, Chad Cain, Todd Chambers, Christiana Christofides, Robert Cox, Debbie Davis, Dottie Durband, Stephen Ekwaro-Osire, Karen Esquibel, Faith Geistweidt, Lindsay Hallowell, Kaelene Hansen, Raegan Higgins, Jennifer Hughes, Amy Koerber, Rodney Lackey, Mitzi Lauderdale, Ryan Litsey, Kat Livingston, Brenda Martinez, Pat McConnel, Jon McNaughtan, Paul Ruiz, Kymberli Saldaña, Pradip Sahu, Sarah Schwintz, Amelia Talley, Clay Taylor, Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo, Dino Villegas, Ivy Walz, and Stephanie West (for Jerrod Nutt).

**Guests:** Jared Brown, Jeong-Hee Kim, and Mellinee Lesley.

**Action Items:**

1. Associate deans are asked to work with their departments to remove references to the Multicultural requirement from their websites and advising documents.
2. Associate deans are asked to work with Cindy Akers to identify their college's voting member as part of the new Academic Council structure.

Akers called the meeting to order by asking for introductions for any new members. Booe announced that Karen Esquibel will be taking over her role in Health and Human Sciences. Akers welcomed Esquibel and thanked Booe for her service to Academic Council. Akers then presented the minutes from the May meeting. Hearing no discussion, Akers called for a motion to approve. Cox moved, Litsey seconded, and the minutes were approved.

For the next item of business, Hallowell presented the summary of course proposals, starting with the voting items numbered 1-19. Akers mentioned that item 3 had been tabled at the May meeting but was now ready for a vote. Borst requested to table items 4-11 pending discussions with the School of Professional Studies. Hallowell added that item 2, CHSS 1101, had originally been proposed as a prefix change from INTS 1101, but by the time it reached Academic Council, the course would have to wait until Spring 2026 to be offered. Because of that, she recommended it be proposed as a new course so it could be built in time for fall. Then the School of Professional Studies will submit a course deletion for INTS 1101. The remaining voting items were items 1-3 and 12-19. Hearing no further discussion, Akers called for a motion. Villegas moved, McNaughtan seconded, and the courses were approved with items 4-11 being tabled.

Hallowell then introduced the informational items, which consisted of a restriction change and course description changes.

Next, Hallowell presented the summary of program proposals, beginning with the voting items numbered 1-4. Schwintz requested that items 1 and 4 be tabled pending discussions with Arts & Sciences. Hallowell asked for clarification on the effective date of item 2, the Interdisciplinary Diversity Studies concentration deletion. Schwintz said that no new students will be admitted effective Spring 2026, and the teach out would have an effective term of Spring 2030. With no

further discussion, Akers called for a motion to approve items 2 and 3 and to table items 1 and 4. Davis moved, Cox seconded, and the motion carried.

For the next item of business, Lauderdale explained the current transfer evaluation review process for core courses, which includes various emails. Lauderdale then said that a subsection of the Texas Administrative Code will allow a more streamlined process. The TAC Rule 4.28 k (3) indicates that an institution may approve for core credit an institutional course that is not on the current core list if the institution can demonstrate that the course has been approved for core credit at five other Texas public institutions (two- or four-year). This rule permits TTU to establish a process for the approval of a transfer course for core credit using tools provided by the state (Texas General Education Core Curriculum WebCenter) to justify core approval when the course is not on the institution's current core list.

The new process will be as follows: If the TTU equivalency is not on the current core list, TEO will use Texas General Education Core Curriculum WebCenter to determine if the TTU equivalent course (or TCCN) has been identified as core at five or more public institutions in Texas. If TEO finds the course to be identified as core at five or more institutions, the course will receive the core component attribute, and TEO will document on the Dashboard the five institutions that accept the course for a core component area.

Next, Ruiz gave an update on the Higher Education bills that have passed in the 89th Texas Legislative Session. Many but not all have been signed by the governor. Ruiz summarized the 18 that have passed that will affect TTU. Each one has an effective date of September 1, 2025, except SB 1409, which took effect immediately. Christofides brought attention to two additional bills, and Litsey identified yet another of interest. McNaughtan asked when we will get guidance from the Office of General Counsel about these bills. Akers said once the bills are signed and there is a final version, we will then start implementing required changes.

For the next item of business, Akers highlighted SB 37 and how the State of Texas is going to change what core curriculum looks like, so we are continuing our moratorium on core courses. However, if there are minor changes needed to existing core courses, those need to be reviewed at the July AC meeting so she can certify our core curriculum to the THECB in August.

Akers then explained that the Multicultural requirement is a TTU graduation requirement, not a core requirement. The institution will discontinue the Multicultural requirement effective immediately. Messaging will go out to advisors this week. In cases where the multicultural course is doubled up with another core requirement, no changes are needed, but if a degree plan designates 3 hours to fulfill the multicultural requirement, those degree plans will now have a 3-hour free elective. We are not adding extra hours to the degree plans.

Communication to students regarding these changes will be sent out prior to the fall semester. Please withhold mass communication to students at this time, as all communication needs to be coordinated with the Office of the Provost and tailored to specific student situations (e.g., already taken MULT or not).

Next, Akers explained that in light of the anticipated changes with SB 37, the Provost's Office has begun reviewing Academic Council and its membership, including voting members. Akers presented a document to share the proposed membership, which will be effective September 1, 2025. OP 30.04 will be updated with the new membership, and all the relevant web pages will be updated to match the OP. Each college will have one vote, but additional members of the colleges are welcome to attend to discuss items. All voting members are asked to participate in person, and

if they have a conflict, they are asked to send a proxy in person to vote for them. Online attendance for voting members will be available in a limited capacity. Akers will send out an email to ask each college to identify their voting member for the year, and they are asked to notify Akers if they ever need to send a proxy.

Akers notified the Council that, effective September 1, 2025, Academic Council will review and vote on programs and courses only twice per year; however, the Council will continue to meet monthly to discuss other matters. The programs and courses will be posted one month in advance for members to review and discuss as necessary prior to the meeting. We will allow mid-year changes for compliance reasons. The proposals will also be presented at the Associate Deans' meeting, which happens two weeks before Academic Council. Any necessary discussions or conflicts need to be resolved to the greatest extent possible before the Academic Council vote.

Chambers mentioned how prerequisite changes can vastly affect other colleges, and Akers said that they need to go back to being voting items. Litsey asked what percentage vote will be required to approve courses and programs, and Akers said a quorum will be required of voting members, but she needs to find out what that number will be.

Akers will reach out to all of the other councils to ask them to update their language as necessary. McNaughtan asked if the Council could review the proposals the meeting before the proposed vote. Akers said that could be a good option. Villegas suggested that colleges could discuss with one another farther in advance of the proposed votes. Akers said that was a great idea.

In other business, Hughes gave an update on the SACSCOC site visit. Hughes reminded the Council that our SACSCOC committee determined that we needed to begin assessing graduate standalone certificates. Her team reached out to faculty to review 100 graduate standalone certificates in a short period of time and had an overall positive response. OPA is preparing a response report that is due to SACSCOC by August 3, 2025. In the report, we will certify that we have an assessment process for these certificates and that faculty are responsive to needed changes as they analyze the assessment results. Hughes encouraged Council members that if we receive a monitoring report, it simply means that SACSCOC will monitor our process to make sure we follow through with it.

Hughes then presented a list of certificates that her team has not received responses for and asked for the representative associate deans to assist in getting those reviewed. Akers added that we must have 100% participation when we write our report, so it is vital that we hear from the faculty for these last few certificates. Hughes then mentioned that there are a handful of graduate certificates that are in the closure process for various reasons.

In another item of other business, Hallowell mentioned that her team is working on a specific approval process in Curriculumlog for those departments who wish for their programs to participate in the TTU Online + 8-week terms so that we can capture all the required information and create the curriculum tables in the catalog. She will work on messaging to go out to the Council members when the approval process is ready to go.

Hearing no items of other business or announcements, Akers called for a motion to adjourn. Cox moved to adjourn, Davis seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

## Voting Items: Courses

### Add New Course

No.	College	Prefix & No.	Title	Description	Hours/Activity Type	Modality	Effective Term
1	EN	CHE 3305	Computation and Simulation in Chemical Engineering	Prerequisites: CHE 2310, CHE 2321, CHE 3315, and GPA of 2.5 or higher. Computations and simulations for chemical engineers with applications to transport phenomena, reaction engineering, and process simulation.	3:3:0:0 Lecture	F2F	Fall 2025
2	UN	CHSS 1101	Introduction to Chess	Students will learn chess fundamentals, strategies, and tactics through hands on play and guided lessons. It aims to inspire curiosity, focus, and a love of learning.	1:1:0:0 Lecture	F2F	Fall 2025
3	AS	ENGL 5396	Risk in Technical Communication	Survey of risk communication research from technical communication and rhetorical perspectives explores how communities perceive and manage risks to their health, safety, and environment.	3:3:0:0 Lecture	100% Online	Summer 2026
4	UN	REL 3300 [tabled 6.17.25]	Global Christianity	Studies the beliefs and practices of Christianity as practiced across the world with attention given to Roman Catholicism, Orthodoxy, and Protestantism.	3:3:0:0 Lecture	100% Online	Spring 2026
5	UN	REL 3303 [tabled 6.17.25]	Sacred Texts and Interpretations	Examines sacred texts of major world religions, exploring their interpretations, impact, and influence on faith and religious practice.	3:3:0:0 Lecture	100% Online	Spring 2026
6	UN	REL 3305 [tabled 6.17.25]	Development of Doctrine	Explores the development of Christian doctrines, examining theological debates, key figures, and the evolution of beliefs from early Christianity to the present.	3:3:0:0 Lecture	100% Online	Spring 2026
7	UN	REL 4300 [tabled 6.17.25]	Religion and Artificial Intelligence	Examines the intersection of religion and AI, exploring religious issues such as AI reception, creation and posthumanism, and new AI religious movements.	3:3:0:0 Lecture	100% Online	Spring 2026
8	UN	REL 4301 [tabled 6.17.25]	Creation Motifs	Explores the concept of origins across religious traditions with attention given to myths, symbols, and narratives related to life and the universe.	3:3:0:0 Lecture	100% Online	Summer 2026
9	UN	REL 4302 [tabled 6.17.25]	Death, Afterlife, and the Eschaton	Explores global religious perspectives on death, the afterlife, and the end of the world.	3:3:0:0 Lecture	100% Online	Summer 2026
10	UN	REL 4303 [tabled 6.17.25]	Abrahamic Traditions	Studies Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, exploring their foundational texts, beliefs, practices, historical development, and shared roots along with distinctive features.	3:3:0:0 Lecture	100% Online	Fall 2026
11	UN	REL 4304 [tabled 6.17.25]	Religious Studies Senior Research Seminar	Students independently research a religious studies topic, analyzing texts, literature, and debates with a focus on original inquiry and argumentation.	3:3:0:0 Lecture	100% Online	Fall 2026

### Change Course Title

No.	College	Prefix & No.	Title	Effective Term
12	AS	MATH 3360	<b>Proposed:</b> Introduction to Modern Algebra I <b>Current:</b> Foundations of Algebra I	Spring 2026
13	AS	MATH 4360	<b>Proposed:</b> Introduction to Modern Algebra II <b>Current:</b> Foundations of Algebra II	Spring 2026

### Change Course Number

No.	College	Prefix & No.	Title	Effective Term
14	AS	<b>Proposed:</b> ECO 3373 <b>Current:</b> ECO 3363	Economic Data Analysis I	Spring 2026
15	AS	<b>Proposed:</b> ECO 3374 <b>Current:</b> ECO 3364	Economic Data Analysis II	Spring 2026

### Delete Course

No.	College	Prefix & No.	Title	Effective Term
16	UN	INTS 3320	Introduction to Computing Applications	Fall 2026
17	UN	INTS 3335	Interdisciplinary Issues in Cultural Diversity	Fall 2026

### Multiple Changes

No.	College	Change Type	Prefix & No.	Title	Description	Credit/Contact Hours / CIP Code / Activity Type / eLearning/ Tandem / Cross-Listing	Effective Term
18	AS	Title, Description	MATH 4350	<b>Proposed:</b> Introduction to Real Analysis I <b>Current:</b> Advanced Calculus I	<b>Proposed:</b> Sets, functions, sequences, delta-epsilon proofs, and theory of integration. <b>Current:</b> Sets, functions, vector fields, partial derivatives, power series, theory of integration, line, surface, and multiple integrals.		Spring 2026
19	AS	Title, Description	MATH 4351	<b>Proposed:</b> Introduction to Real Analysis II <b>Current:</b> Advanced Calculus II	<b>Proposed:</b> Continuation of Math 4350. Sets, functions, sequences, delta-epsilon proofs, and theory of integration. <b>Current:</b> Sets, functions, vector fields, partial derivatives, power series, theory of integration, line, surface, and multiple integrals.		Spring 2026

Voting Items: Programs

Add New Program

No.	College	Department	Program Type	Title	Modality/Campus	Hours	Effective Term
1	UN	Professional Studies [tabled 6.17.25]	Bachelor of Arts	Religious Studies, B.A.	Hybrid, 100% Online	120	Fall 2026 (Early)

Program Deletion

No.	College	Department	Program Type	Title	Effective Term
2	UN	Professional Studies	Undergraduate Concentration	Interdisciplinary Studies, B.A./Leadership Studies, B.S.: Interdisciplinary Diversity Studies Concentration	Spring 2030

Modality Change

No.	College	Department	Program Type	Title	Change Requested	Effective Term
3	UN	Professional Studies	Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences	Applied Leadership, B.A.A.S.	Remove F2F Modality	Spring 2030

Multiple Changes

No.	College	Department	Program Type	Title	Change Requested	Effective Term
4	AS	Philosophy [tabled 6.17.25]	Undergraduate Minor	Proposed: Religious Studies Current: Religion Studies	Change program title Change curricular content	Fall 2026