

**Texas Tech University
Academic Council**

**Meeting of July 15, 2025
1:30 PM, TLPDC, Room 151 and via Teams**

Attendance

Present: Melanie Aguilar (for Faith Geistweidt), Cindy Akers (Chair), Carolyn Arnold, Nurcan Bac, Janessa Blanchard, Stefanie Borst, Ashlee Brown, Bobbie Brown, Deedee Brown-Campbell, Chad Cain, Todd Chambers, Christiana Christofides, Debbie Davis, Dottie Durband, Stephen Ekwaro-Osire, Erin Engelhardt, Karen Esquibel, Kristi Gaines, Heather Greenhalgh-Spencer, Matt Gregory, Scott Hall, Lindsay Hallowell, Kaelene Hansen, Jennifer Hughes, Rodney Lackey, Mitzi Lauderdale, Changzi Li, Ryan Litsey, Jon McNaughtan, Pat McConnel, Paul Ruiz, Kymberli Saldaña, Brian Shannon, Amelia Talley, Dino Villegas, and Ivy Walz.

Guests: Rachel Jackson and Mellinee Lesley

Action Items:

1. Associate deans are asked to reach out to Cindy Akers for corrections to the Academic Council membership.

Akers called the meeting to order by asking for introductions for any new members. Aguilar announced that she was the SGA proxy for the meeting. Akers then presented the minutes from the June meeting. Hearing no discussion, Akers called for a motion to approve. McNaughtan moved, Greenhalgh-Spencer 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 1-7. With no discussion, Akers called for a motion. Greenhalgh-Spencer moved, Villegas seconded, and the courses were approved. Hallowell then introduced the informational item, which was a course description change.

Next, Hallowell presented the summary of program proposals. Akers explained that items 2 and 3 had been tabled at the June meeting and would need a vote to be removed from the table. Litsey so moved, A. Brown seconded, and the motion carried. Hallowell then mentioned that item 2, Religious Studies, B.A., had previously been proposed under TTU Online but would be moving to Arts & Sciences. After the Council heard a summary for each voting item, Akers called for a motion to approve items 1-3. Gaines moved, Talley seconded, and the motion carried. A list of all voting items can be found at the end of the minutes.

For the next item of business, Akers reminded the Council of the upcoming changes to the structure and voting of Academic Council that will take effect September 1, 2025. Akers shared a document with the updated membership and voting members and asked Council members to contact her with any corrections.

For the next item of business, Jackson updated the Council members on the upcoming new process for course and program approvals. She shared several documents detailing the new process, proposal workflows, deadlines, and which types of proposals will require the various levels of approval. Those documents are available in the Academic Council Teams folder. To summarize the changes, while proposals may be submitted in Curriculum year round, there will be two deadlines for proposal processing: standard and late. The late deadline has a more compact

schedule due to the catalog publish date and advance registration, so faculty are urged to submit their proposals early to avoid delays. Academic Council will vote on courses twice per year and programs twice per year. The courses and programs will be published 30 days in advance of the voting meeting to serve as a comment period to promote early discussions. All proposals will have a fall effective date. Questions may be directed to Cindy Akers, Karen Alexander, Rachel Jackson, and Lindsay Hallowell.

Akers called for items of other business or announcements. Sahu asked for clarification on the effective date for the new education courses. Akers explained that we are pushing those through for Fall 2025 to meet the workforce need for the program and courses. Hearing no other items of other business or announcements, Akers called for a motion to adjourn. Villegas moved to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned.

Voting Items: Courses

Add New Course

No.	College	Prefix & No.	Title	Description	Hours/Activity Type	Modality	Effective Term
1	AS	BIOL 4305	RNA Silencing and Regulatory Small RNAs	Prerequisites: BIOL 3416 and BIOL 3320. A literature-based exploration of small RNA biogenesis and function, a rapidly advancing area in Cell and Molecular Biology, featuring Nobel Prize-winning discoveries (2006, 2024). [BIOL 6305]	3:3:0:0 Lecture	F2F, Online	Fall 2025
2	ED	EDUC 5310	Teaching Basics and Behavior Management	Provides an overview of the structures and processes of the TechTeach program and begins developing skills including classroom design, behavior management, social-emotional learning practices, and research-based strategies for creating enriching learning environments.	3:3:0:0 Lecture	Online	Fall 2025 (Early)
3	ED	EDUC 5311	Methods and Content Literacy	A blend of theory, research, and practice in content area literacy. Teacher candidates study, discuss, and implement content area literacy strategies to enhance student learning.	3:3:0:0 Lecture	Online	Fall 2025 (Early)
4	ED	EDUC 5312	Assessment and Technology in the Classroom	Introduces teacher candidates to technology as an instructional tool. Teacher candidates will explore various technology applications that enhance the teaching/learning process in schools.	3:3:0:0 Lecture	Online	Fall 2025 (Early)
5	ED	EDUC 5313	Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities	Provides an overview of legal, ethical, and professional educator responsibilities for teaching special populations that include students receiving special education services, English language learners, and students with exceptionalities.	3:3:0:0 Lecture	Online	Fall 2025 (Early)
6	ED	EDUC 5314	Teaching Internship	Provides a setting in which interns can receive support to improve instructional practice, classroom management, and student engagement.	3:3:0:0 Lecture	Online	Fall 2025 (Early)

Multiple Changes

No.	College	Change Type	Prefix & No.	Title	Description	Credit/Contact Hours / CIP Code / Activity Type / eLearning/ Tandem / Cross-Listing	Effective Term
7	AS	Prefix, Number	Proposed: BIOL 4423 Current: ZOOL 4421	Field Herpetology			Spring 2026

Voting Items: Programs

New Programs

No.	College	Department	Program Type	Title	Modality	Hours	Effective Term
1	ED	Teacher Education	Graduate Certificate	Raider Teach, Graduate Certificate	100% Online	15	Fall 2025
2	AS	Professional Studies Now A&S Interdisciplinary Programs [tabled 6.17.25]	Bachelor of Arts	Religious Studies, B.A.	Hybrid, 100% Online	120	Fall 2026 (Early)

Multiple Changes

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