Texas Tech University
Academic Council

Meeting of October 21, 2025
1:30 PM, TLPDC, Room 151 and via Teams

Attendance

Voting Members: Cindy Akers (Chair), Nurcan Bac, Andrea Bilkey, Stefanie Borst, Ashlee Brown, Bobbie Brown, Chad Cain, Ryan Cassidy, Robert Cox, Debbie Davis, Dottie Durband, Erin Englehardt, Kristi Gaines (online), Faith Geistweidt, Jarod Gonzalez, Matt Gregory, Rodney Lackey, Ryan Litsey, Jon McNaughtan (online), Kuhn Park (online), Pradip Sahu, and Dino Villegas.

Non-Voting Members and Guests: Janessa Blanchard (online), Jared Brown, Dee Dee Brown-Campbell (online), Todd Chambers, Christiana Christofides (online), Mayukh Dass (online), Stephen Ekwaro-Osire, Karen Esquibel, Scott Hall, Lindsay Hallowell (online), Kaelene Hansen (online), Jennifer Hughes, Rachel Jackson, Mitzi Lauderdale, Mellinee Lesley (online), Brenda Martinez, Pat McConnel (online), Paul Ruiz, Kymberli Saldaña (online), Kamerin Schacht, Brian Shannon (online), Amelia Talley (online), and Clay Taylor.

Action Items:
    1. None.

Akers called the meeting to order by asking if there were any new members. She acknowledged that Kamerin Schacht was attending on behalf of the Academic and Career Advising. With no other needed introductions, Akers presented the minutes from the September meeting. Hearing no discussion, Akers called for a motion to approve the minutes. Davis College moved, SGA seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

For the next item of business, Hallowell presented the summary of course proposals. Hallowell explained that item 9, PETR 4334, had been added last minute with the intention of being discussed, so all the course items after item 9 had been shifted down by one. It was determined that item 9 needed to remain tabled. The voting items were numbered 1-25 with item 9 remaining tabled. With no discussion, Akers called for a motion. Engineering moved to approve items 1-25 with item 9 remaining tabled. Media & Communication seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Hallowell then presented the informational items, which were prerequisite and description changes.

Next, Hallowell presented the summary of program proposals. The voting items were numbered 1-11. B. Brown asked for clarification of the CIP Code for item 6, the title change for the General Business, M.B.A. Dass explained that the college intended for it to have a STEM-based CIP Code. When they attempted to change the CIP Code previously, the THECB told them they had to change the name of the program to use that CIP Code. Hearing no other discussion, Akers called for a motion. Law moved, Business seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. A summary of voting items can be found at the end of this document. Hallowell then introduced the informational items, which were curricular changes, two of which were being updated before Fall 2026 for different compliance reasons.

For the next item of business, Hallowell notified the Council members that the History department wanted to retract the course deletion for HIST 3313 which had been approved at the September meeting.

Next, Akers invited Jared Brown to give a demonstration of the new THECB forms and Curriculog Approval Processes (APs) that are aligned with the new course and program review process that will take effect January 2026. The new APs will be launched soon, and the current APs will be deactivated. J. Brown summarized the main changes to the current Curriculog APs, which include the following: removal of the 1.4 AP with those changes being incorporated into the 1.2; and the creation of the 1.2T for tandem and cross-listed courses to remove the need for two separate proposals and ensure both courses go through the proper routing without getting stuck or missed in the system. J. Brown then summarized the changes in the THECB forms, which are now fillable PDFs.

J. Brown then announced that the Office of Official Publications will be sending out an email to all Curriculog proposal originators and approvers about the upcoming changes to Curriculog and asked Council members to also spread the word to their areas.

Bilkey asked if there was a way to simplify the Communication Literacy proposal process, as it currently requires several proposals to update the Communication Literacy plan and all the associated courses. Akers said the office would discuss that and get back to her.

For the next item of business, Geistweidt gave a presentation on fall break statistics from other Texas, Big 12, and AAU universities, which included details on fall breaks in October and the week of Thanksgiving. Geistweidt then gave information from the TTU student body on how a fall break would increase student well-being by reducing rigor and stress before finals. She then introduced potential calendar summaries that included a proposed fall break for the Monday and Tuesday of Thanksgiving week. The Provost approved option 2, which will have the fall semester begin a week earlier than currently planned to increase the semester contact hours to be closer to the THECB recommended minimum. Akers clarified that what was presented was a previous version of the document and that the faculty on-duty date had been moved to the Wednesday before the start of classes.

Litsey asked if Academic Council had previously approved a fall break in October. Akers explained that it was presented but never voted on or approved. Brown mentioned that moving the semester up by a week would conflict with fall intersession. McNaughtan asked if SGA had asked graduate students how coming to campus earlier for training as graduate assistants would affect them financially. Geistweidt said that while some of her data is from prior years, many apartment leases begin at the beginning of the month, so coming earlier did not appear to negatively affect graduate students.

Gonzalez expressed concern over the Law School calendar being different from the main university's and how a fall break could affect their requirements. Historically, the Law School has decided to opt out of the fall break and expressed the desire for that option again should a fall break be approved. Litsey asked if procedurally Academic Council can vote to approve the idea of a fall break without approving a specific date. Akers explained that Academic Council does not vote yes or no but is rather making a recommendation to support a fall break, which would start bigger conversations in the Provost's and Presidents' Offices.

Shannon pointed out the potential conflict of an October fall break without knowing the TTU Athletics and the NCAA schedule in advance. Gregory mentioned that fall break discussions have

been brought forward many times, and the overwhelming reason concerns student mental health. Gregory said that this semester has shown a significant volume of Students of Concern reports. There tends to be a peak around midterms and a peak around finals, so there is an argument for both an October and a Thanksgiving break. Davis mentioned that faculty are on 9-month contracts, which start on September 1, so continuing to move the start date earlier could be concerning.

Akers asked how the Council felt about voting to support a fall break first and then a committee could be formed to look at the various options. Hearing agreement on this, Akers called for the motion to support a fall break without tying it to any particular date. Libraries so moved, Staff Senate seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Akers called for items of other business. Lauderdale mentioned that if the football team does well, the Big 12 championship would be the Saturday of finals week. A committee is being formed to discuss the possibilities and implications if a change is going to be recommended. If every faculty member scheduled for Saturday was giving an exam, over 15,000 students would be impacted. Shannon mentioned that the game is scheduled for an 11:00 a.m. kickoff, so people might begin driving on Friday. Lauderdale said only 36 students were scheduled to have an exam Friday night, but that data will also be included in the discussions.

Lauderdale also announced that there would be a demo for Smart Plan and Award from Ellucian on Friday, October 24.

B. Brown announced that midterm grades are due Monday, October 27 at 5 p.m.

Hallowell asked about how she should set up the planning calendars moving forward with fall break being a discussion topic. She asked if she should plan out the calendars 5 years in advance like she always has with the understanding that they might need to be adapted every year. Akers said that we will know more when the Provost convenes a committee to discuss the options. Hallowell said she would like to present the 2030-2031 calendar for Academic Council to review in November. She has the baseline calendar and the Thanksgiving fall break options ready to go. Akers said we need to wait for the Provost's determination but to plan on presenting both versions.

B. Brown mentioned that it is easier to adapt the rest of the calendar as long as graduation dates don't change. Hallowell added that the THECB has discontinued their common calendar and has rescinded the rules surrounding it, so that will also help in our planning. Akers asked for Council members to let her know if they would like to participate in the calendar committee and she would pass their names along to the Provost.

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

Voting Items: Courses

Add New Course

No.	College	Prefix & No.	Title	Description	Hours/Activity Type	Modality	Effective Term
1	VS	DVM 7116	Using AI Tools for EBVM, SOAPs & Practice Management	This course explores the transformative impact of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in evidence-based veterinary medicine research, SOAP (Subjective, Objective, Assessment, Plan) documentation, and practice management. Students will learn to harness AI for improving diagnostic accuracy, research productivity, clinical workflows, and operational efficiency in veterinary settings by using free, trial-based, and licensed AI tools.	1:1:0:0 Lecture	F2F	Spring 2026
2	VS	DVM 7131	Special Topics in Veterinary Medicine: Lab based	This course explores emerging and specialized topics in veterinary medicine beyond the core curriculum. Possible areas include advanced diagnostics, public health, emerging infectious diseases, One Health, shelter medicine, regulatory medicine, zoonoses, animal welfare, global veterinary issues, and practice management. Topics vary by term based on faculty expertise and current developments. Through labs, students hone knowledge and skills expected in modern veterinary practice.	1:0:2:0 Lab	F2F	Spring 2026
3	EN	ECE 4326	Advanced Transistors: Scaling, Frequency, and Power	Prerequisites: 2.5 TTU GPA; C or better in ECE 4314. For majors only or departmental consent. Explore MOSFET evolution to modern high-speed, high-power devices. Learn short-channel effects, HEMT/HBT operation, and GaN/SiC transistor performance with emphasis on scaling, efficiency, and reliability. [ECE 5326]	3:3:0:0 Lecture	F2F	Spring 2026
4	EN	ENGR 3340	Automation and Industrial Robotics	Prerequisite: ENGR 2340 or instructor approval. Introduction to production system and automation, hardware components for automation and process control, computer numerical control, discrete control and programmable logic controllers, sensors and quality control, modern control theory, and industrial robotics.	3:3:0:0 Lecture	F2F	Spring 2026
5	BA	FIN 5337	Investment Decision Making	Prerequisite: FIN 5320. Offers a comprehensive introduction to the theory and practice of investment analysis, with applications in both corporate and personal investment decision-making.	3:3:0:0 Lecture	F2F, Hybrid, 100% Online	Spring 2026
6	BA	FIN 5338	Markets, Institutions, and Fintech	Prerequisite: FIN 5320. Explores financial markets, institutions, and emerging fintech innovations while gaining a foundational understanding of interest rates, regulation, central banking, and global financial systems.	3:3:0:0 Lecture	F2F, Hybrid, 100% Online	Spring 2026
7	BA	ISQS 5355	Generative AI and Data Science	Explores generative AI for business applications, emphasizing data analysis, visualization, and decision-making using real-world datasets, industry tools, and hands-on analytics projects.	3:3:0:0 Lecture	F2F, Hybrid, 100% Online	Spring 2026
8	AS	KIN 4309	Advanced Musculoskeletal (Cadaveric) Anatomy	Prerequisites: KIN majors only; C or better in KIN 3346. In-depth study into human anatomy and pathology (muscular, skeletal, and neural systems only) via prosection of cadavers. This is a collaboration between TTU and TTUHSC and the cadaver lab in the Institute of Anatomical Sciences.	3:3:0:3 Lab, Discussion	F2F	Fall 2026
9	EN	PETR 4334 [tabled 9.16.25]	Structural Analysis of Petroleum Systems	Prerequisites: PETR majors only. C or better in PETR 2324, PETR 2302, PETR 2303, PETR 2326, and PETR 3304. Corequisite: PETR 3105. Expands upon the students' existing knowledge of the petroleum system, folds, faults, and their importance in hydrocarbon exploration and production. Understanding the whys and hows of sedimentary basin evolution and trapping mechanisms is a key to success in the petroleum industry.	3:3:0:0 Lecture	F2F	Spring 2026
10	AS	POLS 3354	Criminal Procedure	An introduction to criminal law and procedure. Focuses primarily on the areas of punishment, legislative problems, and adjudicating within the legislative framework.	3:3:0:0 Lecture	F2F	Spring 2026

Change Course Title

No.	College	Prefix & No.	Title	Effective Term
11	BA	IB 4382	**Proposed:** International Internship in Business Administration **Current:** Internship in International Business	**Spring 2026**

Delete Course

No.	College	Prefix & No.	Title	Effective Term
12	AS	HIST 3335	Sport and the Black Experience	**Spring 2026**
13	AS	HIST 3337	Science in American Society	**Spring 2026**
14	AS	HIST 3343	Malcolm, Martin, and Mandela	**Spring 2026**
15	AS	HIST 3377	In Search of Historical Jesus	**Spring 2026**
16	AS	HIST 3397	Study Abroad in Africa and the Atlantic	**Spring 2026**
17	AS	HIST 4311	The Nuclear Age	**Spring 2026**
18	AS	HIST 4319	Empire and Imperialism in the United States	**Spring 2026**
19	AS	HIST 4330	Jim Crow America: From Ferguson to Ferguson	**Spring 2026**
20	AS	HIST 4334	Race and Medicine in American History	**Spring 2026**
21	AS	HIST 4372	History of Comparative Genocide	**Spring 2026**
22	BA	MGT 4372	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Organizations	**Spring 2026**

Change Course CIP Code

No.	College	Prefix & No.	Title	Change Requested	Effective Term
23	BA	ISQS 5331	Business Information Technology	Change CIP Code to 52.1301.00	**Spring 2026**

Multiple Changes							
No.	College	Change Type	Prefix & No.	Title	Description	Credit/Contact Hours / CIP Code / Activity Type / eLearning/ Tandem / Cross-Listing	Effective Term
24	VS	Number, Credit/Contact Hours	**Proposed:** DVM 5231 [changed course number after AC to not reuse number before 5 years] **Current:** DVM 5121	Integrated Clinical Reasoning 2		Change credit/contact hours to 2:0:2:0	Fall 2026
25	BA	Title, Description	ISQS 6349	**Proposed:** Regression and Time Series Modeling **Current:** Time Series Analysis	**Proposed:** Covers modeling techniques built on applied economics, statistics, and econometrics, focusing on prediction, data analysis, regression, and time series models for decision-making. **Current:** Time series estimation and forecasting methods for business and econometrics.		**Spring 2026**
29	VM	Number, Description, Credit/Contact Hours	**Proposed:** DVM 7481 **Current:** DVM 7381	Small Animal Medicine and Surgery 3	**Proposed:** Building on the previous semester, this course prepares the student for small animal practice by providing the foundational knowledge needed for diagnosing and treating the most common diseases and surgical conditions encountered in cats and dogs. Principles of emergency medicine and outbreak investigation will be discussed. **Current:** Building on the previous semester, this course prepares the student for small animal practice by providing the foundational knowledge needed for diagnosing and treating the most common diseases and surgical conditions encountered in cats, dogs, and common exotic animals. Principles of emergency medicine will be discussed.	Change credit/contact hours to 4:1:0:0	Spring 2026
30	BA	Title, Description	ENCO 3386	**Proposed:** Energy Agreements **Current:** Oil and Gas Agreements	**Proposed:** Covers contracts and regulations utilized in petroleum exploration, production, and midstream/downstream operations. **Current:** Covers contracts utilized in petroleum exploration and production, specifically farmouts, joint operating agreements, gas balancing, secondary recovery, and federal exploratory units.		**Spring 2026**

Voting Items: Programs

Add New Program

No.	College	Department	Program Type	Title	Modality/Campus	Hours	Effective Term
1	BA	Department of MBA Programs	Graduate Concentration	Business Administration, M.B.A.: Finance Concentration	F2F, Hybrid, 100% Online	6	Spring 2026

Modality Change

No.	College	Department	Program Type	Title	Change Requested	Effective Term
2	AS	History	Bachelor of Arts	History, B.A.	Add 100% online modality	Fall 2026
3	GR	Interdisciplinary Graduate Opportunities	Master of Arts	Interdisciplinary Studies, M.A.	Add hybrid modality	**Spring 2026**
4	BA	Information Systems and Quantitative Sciences	Master of Science	Data Science, M.S.	Add 100% online modality	**Spring 2026**
5	GR	Interdisciplinary Graduate Opportunities	Master of Science	Interdisciplinary Science, M.S.	Add hybrid and 100% online modalities	**Spring 2026**

Title Change

No.	College	Department	Program Type	Title	Change Requested	Effective Term
6	BA	Department of MBA Programs	Master of Business Administration	General Business, M.B.A.	Change title to Management, M.B.A.	**Fall 2026**

Program Deletion

No.	College	Department	Program Type	Title	Change Requested	Effective Term
7	AS	Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures	Undergraduate Concentration	Spanish, B.A.: Literatures and Cultures of the Spanish-Speaking World Concentration	Phase out concentration	Spring 2026

| 8 | AS | Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures | Undergraduate Concentration | Spanish, B.A.: Spanish in a Global Context Concentration | Phase out concentration | Spring 2026 |
| 9 | AS | Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures | Undergraduate Concentration | Spanish, B.A.: Spanish in the United States Concentration | Phase out concentration | Spring 2026 |

Multiple Changes

No.	College	Department	Program Type	Title	Change Requested	Effective Term
10	AR	Architecture	Graduate Concentration	Architecture, M.S.: Design, Computation, and Fabrication Concentration	Reduce SCH from 35 to 34 Reduce research hours by 1	**Fall 2026**
11	AR	Architecture	Graduate Concentration	Architecture, M.S.: Urban and Community Design Concentration	Reduce SCH from 35 to 34 Reduce research hours by 1	**Fall 2026**