

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Texas Tech University

Meeting of
January 17, 2012

MINUTES

Present: Cindy Akers, Sam Bradley, Bobbie Brown, Wes Cochran, Cathy Duran, Gary Elbow, Ralph Ferguson, Ryan Gibbs, Melanie Hart, Bob Henry, Sheila Hoover, Lynn Huffman, Jorge Iber, Sue Jones, Debbie Laverie, Ethan Logan, Felicia Martin, Pat McConnel, Carla Myers, Donna Perry for Peggy Johnson, Valerie Paton, Marjean Purinton, David Roach, Brian Shannon, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart (chair), Kevin Stoker, Janessa Walls, Vicki West.

Guests: Dale Ganus

Stewart presented the December 13, 2011, minutes of the Academic Council. Laverie moved they be accepted as presented, Huffman seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Prior to considering the February summary of course approvals, Roach moved that HIST 4330 be taken off the table and considered with other courses on the summary list. Purinton seconded the motion and the motion passed. Cochran asked on behalf of the Law School that #4 (LAW 6041) be withdrawn. Stewart requested on behalf of the Provost's Office that #10 (IS 3110) be tabled. Stoker moved that #10 be tabled and all other courses with the exception of #4 be approved as presented. Iber seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Elbow led in a December commencement debriefing, noting that some faculty members expressed dissatisfaction about not being able to greet graduating students. Duran complimented the Convocations Committee on its handling of the ceremony. Elbow told the council that the Convocations Committee, chaired by Tom Rohrig, will be evaluating "a total change to the way we do things."

Ganus asked council members to consider the problems caused by the current practice of beginning advanced registration for currently enrolled students at midnight. The problems include (1) no help available at midnight or the hours following when a problem arises; (2) student frustration with not receiving help; and (3) the hours of 7 to 9 a.m. being particularly busy for advisors, SBS, Registrar's Office, Help Desk, and IT because of the backlog of issues experienced since midnight. A lengthy discussion resulted as members discussed the best time to begin advanced registration and what is in the best interest of the student. Stewart asked all associate deans to discuss the issue with their advising staff and students before the next Academic Council meeting and be prepared to present their collective feedback.

Brown discussed the issues involved in choosing a standard closing date for submitting final grades at the end of the semester. After considering numerous options, Huffman moved that final grades be due at 8 a.m. on Monday after commencement and that the deadline begin with grades for the spring 2012 semester. Iber seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Brown pointed out a discrepancy in the university's drop limit rules and the drop limit regulations established by the State of Texas. Both the university and the state allow six (6) drops, but the state rules apply only to students enrolling in fall 2007 and thereafter. The Texas Tech rules apply to any new student enrolled in fall 2004 and thereafter. If a student entered a Texas institution prior to fall 2007 and is

thus exempt from the state rule but enrolls for the first time at Texas Tech in spring of 2012, is that student subject to the Texas Tech drop limit even though he is exempt from the State of Texas drop limit? After extensive discussion among the council members, Stewart asked Paton to get a legal interpretation from the state and have the university catalog changed accordingly.

Brown introduced council members to the online Grading and Registration Issues Sharepoint Notification Site designed to allow the staff members of the Registrar and Information Systems offices to respond to registration and/or grading issues more effectively and efficiently. Any faculty or staff member identified in Banner as having the faculty and/or advisor tab may access the site and submit a problem/issue notification. Brown anticipates the response time after notification will be within the business day.

Duran updated the council on the university's efforts to bring students into compliance with the state regulations requiring RRO and meningitis booster shots.

West distributed a sheet detailing the university's early enrollment counts for the spring semester.

Stewart asked that all associate deans submit plans by January 23 for resolving small classes.

Stewart asked council members to think about a possible resolution to the problem of requiring doctoral candidates to pay for 1 hour of credit in their final semester while they wait to graduate. Perhaps a flat fee would be more appropriate than payment for a credit hour.

Other Business and Announcements:

- Presentation by Dr. Gerry Dizinno from noon to 1:30 on April 19 – “Are Students Learning Enough in College? A Review of Findings and Methodological Issues”
- Elbow said a website will soon be available to allow departments and faculty to reapply for the Core and submit applications online.
- Elbow said all colleges should have a back-up reader available for commencement.
- More than 800 emails were sent today to students who have not paid the university.
- Paton said low producing lists will be released in February and programs in jeopardy should get prepared to defend their programs.
- The search for a dean in the Honors College will not begin until the 2012-13 fiscal year.
- The search for a dean in the Rawls College of Business began in January, and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is now interviewing dean candidates.