

# ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Texas Tech University

Meeting of  
**January 19, 2010**

## MINUTES

**Present:** Wendell Aycock, Don Clancy, Wesley Cochran, Cathy Duran, Gary Elbow, Greg Elkins, Dale Ganus, Bob Henry, Sheila Hoover, Ramona Johnson for Norm Hopper, Lynn Huffman, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Peggy Johnson, Sue Jones, Michelle Kiser, Bobbie Latham, Hossein Mansouri, Pat McConnel, Susan Mengel, Walt Oler, Valerie Paton, Marjean Purinton, David Roach, Laura Stout for Erica Griffin, Gary Smith for Brian Rex, Rosslyn Smith, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart (chair), Kevin Stoker, Janessa Leisy Walls, Vicki West

**Guests Present:** Jim Burkhalter, Debra Crosby, Cliff Fedler, Melanie Hart, Fred Hartmeister, Ethan Logan, Elizabeth Teagan

Stewart introduced Senior Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management Jim Burkhalter, who opened the meeting with a discussion about improving relations with community colleges through (1) signing Memorandums of Understanding with 45 Texas community colleges, (2) providing a single point of contact for students transferring into Texas Tech, and (3) providing pre-transfer degree plans for students transferring from community colleges. Burkhalter asked for input from council members regarding what the duties would be of an office providing a single point of contact for transfer students and how that office might assist the colleges. Paton said her office is working with advisors to prepare pre-transfer degree plans that specify what lower-division courses should be completed to meet departmental expectations prior to students transferring into Texas Tech. Those plans will be ready in July and provided to Enrollment Management for use with community colleges. Burkhalter said he is in the process of revising OP 34.01 regarding undergraduate student admissions.

Interim Chair Melanie Hart of the Department of Health, Exercise and Sport Sciences explained her department's decision to discontinue the Bachelor of Science in Health. Hart said the health major has been in effect for 10 years and has only 38 majors compared to 1,220 majors in Exercise and Sport Sciences. The program has had three failed searches in the last seven years for an open faculty position because the program "is not the program it should be." The department plans to keep health as a minor but discontinue it as a major after the last students move through the program in December 2012. When asked how discontinuing the program would affect the name of the department, Hart said there has been discussion about changing the department title but no decision has been made. Council members will vote on the program deletion at the February 16 meeting.

Assistant Registrar Debra Crosby discussed H.B. No. 269, which awards up to 12 hours of undergraduate course credit for military service. Because the credit must be applied to elective course requirements and not degree programs, Crosby said the Transfer Evaluation Office has been challenged with finding ways to apply the credit and help military veterans. She asked council members who have questions or concerns related to the military service course credit to send those concerns to Stewart so that the council can address them at the next meeting. A grade description of "MC" on transcripts will mean "Military Credit."

Director of Admissions Ethan Logan informed council members that "visiting student" will be a new admissions designation for students visiting from another institution but not seeking entrance into a Texas

Tech degree program or for a student who wants to take courses at Tech “just for the experience of it.” Such a designation also will make it easier for students to register at TTU in Seville and at other international centers. These students will, however, be subject to the same in-state and out-of-state tuition as other students. Rosslyn Smith has a six-page list of courses that will not be open to visiting students. She will email the list to council members for changes or updates.

Associate Dean of the Graduate School Cliff Fedler introduced a three-page worksheet to accompany all course approval forms requesting a new graduate course. As a result of a proliferation of more than 470 new graduate courses in the last seven years, Fedler said the worksheet would give the Graduate School more information for deciding which courses are really necessary and desirable. Numerous council members objected to the proposed worksheet saying that much of the information is either already in the course approval form or has already been part of the review process within the colleges. Council members took no action on the proposed worksheet.

Jones presented the course approval summary for January. Stoker questioned whether the curriculum of three new proposed agricultural communications courses might overlap with courses offered in the College of Mass Communications. \_\_\_\_\_ moved that the council table ACOM 3305, 4305, and 4311 but accept the other course approvals as presented. Purinton seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Teagan informed council members that representatives of the Noel-Levitz Advising Consultancy would be on campus Feb. 2-4 and luncheon meetings with the consultants would include many members of the council.

The meeting concluded at 3 p.m. without addressing the following agenda items:

1. Guidelines for new degree and certificate proposals
2. Course credit for A-level tests
3. Course repeats
4. New THECB rules on review of low-producing programs
5. Timeliness of degree posting for institutional reporting
6. Revised meeting date for March meeting of the Academic Council