

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Texas Tech University

Meeting of
March 20, 2012

MINUTES

Present: Cindy Akers, Adrien Bennings, Sam Bradley, Bobbie Brown, Wes Cochran, Cathy Duran, Gary Elbow, Clifton Ellis, Ralph Ferguson, Ryan Gibbs, Melanie Hart, Bob Henry, Sheila Hoover, Lynn Huffman, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Peggy Johnson, Sue Jones, Debbie Laverie, Ethan Logan, Felicia Martin, Pat McConnel, Michele Moskos, Amy Murphy, Walt Oler, Valerie Paton, Tyler Patton, Marjean Purinton, David Roach, Brian Shannon, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart (chair), Kevin Stoker, Vicki West.

Guests: Joshua Barron, Heidi Brady, Charles Crews, Greg Duck, Dale Ganus, Heather Hernandez

Patton and Duck represented the Student Government Association in presenting a recommendation to the council members regarding timely reporting of assignment grades by faculty members. The recommendation included changes to the wording of OP 32.06 specifying that graded material must be returned to students no later than 14 class days after the assignment is completed. After considerable discussion, no vote was taken and Patton and Duck said they would return to the council at a later date with a revised recommendation.

Stewart presented the February 21, 2012, minutes of the Academic Council. Bradley moved they be accepted as presented. Purinton seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Jones presented the March course approval summary. Akers asked that #8 on the summary (BIOL 3306) be tabled to allow time for the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources to discuss any overlap in curriculum regarding this course. Cochran moved that BIOL 3306 be tabled but the remainder of the courses be approved as presented. Oler seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Oler reminded council members that the council expressed approval last spring of increasing the number of hours allowed for undergraduate engineering degrees when 4-hour calculus courses became effective in fall 2012. As a result, 16 engineering degrees have increased by 3 hours and 1 program by 2 hours beginning this fall. He also noted that the Whitacre College of Engineering is discontinuing its dual Bachelor of Science degrees in computer science and electrical engineering.

Because the Whitacre College no longer has a degree in manufacturing systems and engineering, Oler asked that the council approve discontinuing use of the MSE course prefix and delete MSE 6000. Stoker moved that the course and prefix be removed, Duran seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Elbow presented the recommendation of the Core Curriculum Committee that MCOM 3310 be allowed to fulfill the Oral Communication component of the core beginning in fall 2012. He explained that this would be the last addition to the current core until a new core takes effect in fall 2014. Henry seconded the recommendation, and the recommendation was accepted.

Elbow presented a proposal from the Department of Agricultural Education and Communications for a 12-hour Graduate Certificate in Agricultural Leadership. Roach moved the proposal be accepted, Bradley seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Elbow presented a second graduate certificate jointly proposed by the Department of Animal and Food Sciences and the Counseling Program of the Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership. Henry moved the 15-hour Graduate Certificate in Equine-Assisted Mental Health be accepted, Huffman seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Jones presented the 2012-13 Detailed Academic Calendar. Members were given the opportunity to view the calendar online prior to the meeting and submit any changes or recommendations.

Brown discussed the “Rule of Four” for making changes to student matriculation in Banner and explained the need for a new “Rule of Six.” Her recommendation was accepted by consensus.

Brown revisited the issue of when advance registration should begin and reminded the council that the beginning time had been moved from midnight to 3 p.m. on the first day of advance registration. Because that date this spring would be Friday prior to a holiday weekend and no classes on Monday, Brown has changed advance registration to begin every year at 3 p.m. on Thursday, effective immediately.

Stewart thanked everyone for submitting their summer/fall course fee approvals, which were due on March 20.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Henry said the Master of Music degree in the College of Visual and Performing Arts has upgraded conducting from a concentration to a specialization, pending NASM plan approval.
- Huffman asked to change the name of the M.S. in Environmental Design to an M.S. in Interior and Environmental Design and to change the CIP from 19.0601.00 (Housing and Human Environments, General) to CIP 04.0401.00 (Environmental Design/Architecture). This was approved by consensus.
- Hughes asked that the UCIS (University College Integrated Studies) course prefix be changed to INTS (Integrated Studies). Bradley moved the change be approved, Iber seconded the motion, and the motion passed.