

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Texas Tech University

Meeting of
May 21, 2013

MINUTES

Present: Cindy Akers, Bobbie Brown, Michael Carter for Pat McConnel, Luke Cotton, Gary Elbow (chair), Cliff Fedler, Ryan Gibbs, Melanie Hart, Sheila Hoover, Lynn Huffman, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Sue Jones, Michelle Kiser, Debbie Laverie, Ethan Logan, Justin Louder, Andrew Martin, Felicia Martin, Audra Morse, Amy Murphy, Catherine Parsonneault, Donna Perry for Peggy Johnson, Marjean Purinton, David Roach, Christine Self, Brian Shannon (also representing Jarod Gonzales), Brian Steele, Kevin Stoker, Janessa Walls, Vicky West, Aliza Wong

Guests: Nicci Price, Christina Sapien-Iezzi

Elbow presented the minutes of the April 23, 2013, meeting. With no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

Price reported on the progress of DegreeWorks and provided an overview of the rollout schedule for each college during the next four semesters beginning in fall 2013.

Sapien-Iezzi updated the council regarding AlcoholEdu, a research-based alcohol responsibility program implemented in 2005 and required of all first-year freshmen at Texas Tech. In 2012, the university had a student completion rate of 96.5 percent. Eighty-one percent said the program helped them establish a plan for responsible decisions regarding alcohol. Research resulting from the program shows that Texas Tech is experiencing more negative consequences than the national average. One key concern is that 60 percent of Texas Tech students report consuming alcohol off-campus versus a national average of 39 percent. This statistic increases the likelihood of driving while drinking. In a related concern, SGA representative Luke Cotton said that the SAFE-Ride program has not been able to provide enough taxi services to meet the demand. The SGA program offers taxi rides for students who have been drinking off-campus at night.

Elbow presented the finalized core curriculum courses developed by the Core Curriculum Committee over a period of 18 months. The new core will be implemented in fall 2014 and reduces the number of courses from the current 360 to 154. Purinton moved that the council accept the new core courses, Morse seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The new core will be reported to THECB in August.

Elbow led the council in a May commencement debriefing.

Parsonneault introduced council members to THECB's new CompareCollegeTX website. This site provides summary information about Texas colleges and universities for prospective students and their parents, policymakers, and legislators. All data used for this project reflects the data each institution has reported to THECB. She emphasized the need "to make sure we are counting correctly and reporting correctly."

Jones presented the May course approval summary. With the exception of three minor corrections, the courses were approved.

Jones announced that the new 2013-14 catalogs would be distributed throughout campus May 20-22 in time for the first Red Raider Orientation.

Elbow asked the council to consider the following topic for discussion at the next meeting: Is it necessary to limit students to one diploma?