

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Texas Tech University

Meeting of
June 17, 2014
MINUTES

Present: Stefanie Borst, Bobbie Brown, Cathy Duran, Steve Frazee for Cindy Akers, Gary Elbow, Ralph Ferguson, Ryan Gibbs, Jarod Gonzalez, Bob Henry, Sheila Hoover, Lynn Huffman, Jorge Iber, Peggy Johnson, Michelle Kiser, Mitzi Lauderdale, Robin Lock, Ethan Logan, Andrew Martin, Felicia Martin, Pat McConnel, Garrett McKinnon, Richard Meek, Catherine Parsonneault, William Pasewark, Patti Perkins for Clifton Ellis, David Roach, Rob Stewart (chair), Kevin Stoker, Susan Tomlinson, Janessa Walls, Vicki West, Anna Young

Guests: Michael Farmer, Leslie Thompson

Stewart presented the minutes from the May meeting. A typographical amendment was suggested. Thereafter, Meeks moved that the minutes be accepted as revised, Tomlinson seconded, and the motion was approved.

Stewart introduced the topic of using Pass/Fail as a grading option in the core curriculum. Elbow lead a discussion of the pros and cons of such an approach. The proposal would have allowed for up to 12 hours of core curriculum to be taken Pass/Fail. Roach noted that because core courses are the foundation of all knowledge acquired from Texas Tech University, the standards for these courses should be higher. Others noted that taking classes Pass/Fail might encourage students to give less than their full effort in these particular courses, while other discussion centered on the fact that classes taken Pass/Fail cannot be transferred to other institutions. In the end, the general consensus was that the proposal not be pursued further.

Huffman notified the Council of a change in the number of program hours for Apparel Design and Manufacturing, from 123 credit hours to 121.

Thompson discussed a proposed Undergraduate Certificate in Horsemanship. The new certificate, separate from the current Equine Science Certificate, is aimed at horse owners or those with an interest in the equine industry. The certificate would utilize existing facilities at Tech's Equestrian Center, and would allow members of competitive teams involving horses to earn credit while competing. The 12-hour certificate will include one equine science course plus nine additional hours from among several general courses. Thompson noted that students who do not own a horse would be allowed to use one from among Tech's herd of university-owned stock. Elbow moved that the certificate be approved as presented, Tomlinson seconded, and the motion was approved.

McKinnon presented the course approvals. Graduate Council had noted some concern with a proposed PSY 5320 course, specifically stating that it seemed similar to other "Research Methods" already available with the Psychology department. Roach answered that the addition of the course allows for different methodological approaches to be utilized, and that the course

would allow new faculty to teach within their particular area or focus. The point being resolved, Roach moved that the course approvals be accepted as presented, Lock seconded, and the motion was approved.

Stewart opened discussion of Summer II enrollment initiatives, noting that initiatives aimed at boosting Summer I enrollment resulted in a record number of students taking Summer I classes. The Summer II initiatives would use scholarships and tuition reduction to increase enrollment in similar vein to the tactics used to increase Summer I enrollment, though the notification and rollout procedures would differ.

Parsonault updated the Council on SACSCOC reaffirmation and gave an update on the QEP initiative. She noted that the QEP committee continues to meet to draft a narrative response for core requirements, and is working with a consulting group to review and write responses for SACSCOC.

In other business:

- Elbow presented a new course instructor evaluation form, which has been simplified compared with older versions. He noted the faculty senate had edited the form to include three specific questions and one comment box in order to be more effective. After some discussion regarding verbiage, Huffman moved that the evaluation form be approved as presented, Tomlinson seconded, and the motion was approved.
- McKinnon sought feedback from the Council regarding an initiative to remove hometown information from Commencement Programs. After discussion in which the Council by and large supported the proposal, Stewart indicated he would seek approval from the President's office.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.