

# **ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

Texas Tech University

Meeting of  
**July 16, 2013**

## **MINUTES**

**Present:** Mary Agnello, Cindy Akers, Stefanie Borst, Bobbie Brown, Luke Cotton, Cathy Duran, Gary Elbow, Cliff Fedler, Ralph Ferguson, Jarod Gonzalez, Melanie Hart, Sheila Hoover, Lynn Huffman, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Peggy Johnson, Sue Jones, Michelle Kiser, Justin Louder, Andrew Martin, Pat McConnel, Audra Morse, Juan Munoz, Catherine Parsonneault, Marjean Purinton, David Roach, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart (chair), Kevin Stoker, Janessa Walls, Vicky West

**Guests:** Kathy Austin and Anna Young

Stewart presented the minutes of the June 18, 2013, meeting. Purinton moved that the minutes be accepted as approved. Morse seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Austin discussed the recent BlackBoard outage, saying the university will migrate off the system by fall and she has strong confidence in the new system. Austin said the university has successfully restored the data loss caused by the outage. Stewart and others discussed accommodating course compressions and deadlines due to the BlackBoard event.

Jones presented the July course approval summary. After discussion over the School of Art's request to have the same course title for both ART 4104 and 4304, Huffman moved that the two courses be tabled but all other course requests be approved. Morse seconded the motion and the motion passed. (NOTE: After the School of Art subsequently redrew its request for a name change to ART 4104, the Provost's Office approved and signed the name change request for ART 4304.)

Elbow presented a list of courses requiring a mass number change prior to becoming part of the new Core Curriculum in fall 2014. All the course number changes will become effective in fall 2014 except for PSY 3400 (to become PSY 2400), which will become effective in spring 2014. Roach moved that the changes be made as presented. Akers seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Akers and Parsonneault presented a proposal to consolidate the B.S. in Environmental Crop and Soil Sciences and the B.S. in Horticultural and Turfgrass Sciences into a new B.S. in Plant and Soil Science. The closure date for the two existing programs will be January 1, 2016. Huffman moved to approve the consolidation of existing programs into a new program as presented. Fedler seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Parsonneault updated the council on the latest developments at THECB and the likelihood of approval for the university's requests concerning low-producing programs.

West announced that Summer II enrollment is down 5.4% but it is too early to predict fall 2013 enrollment. She said enrollment and retention is a top priority for President Nellis.

Elbow addressed additional changes to the new process for graduate course approvals. He provided a handout to the council highlighting changes that ensure Graduate School review of each course and a

timely one-month disposition of course approval forms. Jones moved that the changes to the process be approved as presented. Huffman seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Walls reported on the campus-wide classroom audit, saying only a small number of overbooking problems still exist and additional desks are being ordered for some classrooms.