

# ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Texas Tech University

Meeting of  
**August 27, 2010**

## MINUTES

**Present:** Wendell Aycock, Bruce Bills, Wesley Cochran, Cathy Duran, Gary Elbow, Drew Graham, Sheila Hoover, Norm Hopper, Lynn Huffman, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Peggy Johnson, Sue Jones, Bob Schaller for Bobbie Latham, Deborah Lavrie, Ethan Logan, Pat McConnel, Joshua Barron for Juan Munoz, Walt Oler, Valerie Paton, DaNay Phelps, Beverly Pinson, Marjean Purinton, David Roach, Brian Shannon, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart (chair), Kevin Stoker, Janessa Walls, Vicki West

**Guests:** Julie McCauley, Jan Childress, Evelyn McPherson, Elizabeth Massengale, Jenna Pool, Ken Rainwater, Michael Shonrock, Carrye Syma

Pool from Student Health Services gave a presentation on a new program called AlcoholEdu, which is an online, research-based alcohol responsibility program for first-year freshmen during their fall semester. This program provides a tailored educational experience focusing on the impact of alcohol on the mind and body. Student Health Services is targeting a 95 percent completion rate. To improve the student completion rate of the program, Pool proposed that the university block the ability of students to view their final grades if they have not completed the AlcoholEdu course. Implementation would begin fall 2010. Duran moved the proposal be accepted, Huffman seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Because the council felt that transfer students may be experiencing alcohol issues similar to freshmen, Ellis moved that the AlcoholEdu program also be offered to transfer students beginning in fall 2011. Hopper seconded the motion and the motion passed. After additional discussion, Huffman moved that the program also be offered in the spring beginning in 2011, Stoker seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

The Academic Council reviewed the minutes from July 17, 2010. Roach moved to accept the minutes as presented, Aycock seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Rainwater gave a brief overview of the new proposed Master of Science in Arid Land Studies. This proposed degree, which will be administered by the Graduate School, is already a track within the master's in Interdisciplinary Studies. This will be a formal academic program to support the university's International Center for Arid and Semiarid Land Studies. Purinton moved the proposal be accepted, Cochran seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Paton reminded the council that the program cannot be implemented until after the Board of Regents approves the program and the university receives acknowledgement letters from THECB and SACSCOC.

Paton requested that if anyone should receive a request or document from THECB, please forward the correspondence to her office and she will ensure it is answered.

Syma asked council members for feedback concerning their impressions of the August commencement exercises. After a discussion of what improvements were effective and what issues should be addressed in the future, Elbow asked council members to email him with any additional suggestions or concerns.

Duran initiated a discussion of using “PR” as a semester grade for undergraduate carry-over courses. After extensive discussion, Schaller assured the council that the grade is already available in Banner for undergraduates.

Huffman expressed concern that current policies make it more economical for departments to use adjunct professors than graduate students to teach classes. She questioned the impact this will have on our graduate program.

Stewart noted that 2010-11 Consulting and Outside Employment forms are due on October 25. The forms will be more specific this year as a result of the university’s concern over faculty members teaching courses at competing for-profit institutions. Provost Smith recently had an OpEd piece published in the *Houston Chronicle* regarding this issue. His article expressed concern that this practice is a conflict of interest, particularly if the course is in the course inventory of the state institution and if the faculty member is teaching for the for-profit institution during an academic year appointment with the state.

Other business brought before the council included the following:

- The due date for Faculty Development Leave submissions has been changed to October 11.
- Stewart will meet with Kyle Clark on August 19 regarding summer incentive funding.
- Law School flipbook has been uploaded to Official Publications website.