

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Texas Tech University

Meeting of
September 17, 2013

MINUTES

Present: Mary Frances Agnello, Stefanie Borst, Bobbie Brown, Cathy Duran, Gary Elbow, Ramona Johnson for Cindy Akers, Cliff Fedler, Ralph Ferguson, Dale Ganus, Ryan Gibbs, Jarod Gonzalez, Melanie Hart, Bob Henry, Sheila Hoover, Lynn Huffman, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Peggy Johnson, Sue Jones, Michelle Kiser, Mitzi Lauderdale, Jamie Hansard for Ethan Logan, Andrew Martin, Felicia Martin, Pat McConnel, Audra Morse, Catherine Parsonault, Marjean Purinton, David Roach, Brian Shannon, Paul Goebel for Debbie Laverie, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart (chair), Kevin Stoker, Janessa Walls, Vicky West, Anna Young

Guests: Adrienne Carnes, Jennifer Hughes, Robin Locke

Stewart presented the minutes of the August 20, 2013, meeting. Purinton moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected (instructor-on-record should be instructor-of-record). Morse seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Jones presented the September course approval summary. She pointed out that item #4 on the summary should be PADR 0070, not 0700. Fedler questioned the cross-listing of item #6 (ACCT 5307). Council members asked that the course be tabled to allow an opportunity for further discussion with the college. Huffman moved that item #6 be tabled and the remainder of the summary courses be accepted as corrected. Henry seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Elbow shared a draft of general guidelines for reviewing and evaluating the learning outcomes of courses offered to fulfill the multicultural requirement. Morse moved that the guidelines be accepted as presented. Johnson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Parsonault updated the council on recent THECB decisions regarding low-producing programs. She said that programs terminated in the past by THECB may be reinstated if the university chooses, but she recommended that the university take “a slow pace” in making such a decision. Parsonault also said that her office has identified problems in how degrees have been reported to THECB in the past.

Parsonault updated the council on SACSCOC reaffirmation efforts, including a meeting with a knowledgeable consultant who provided new insights and directions.

Jones presented a draft of the proposed academic calendar for 2018. Agnello questioned the advisability of separating graduate and undergraduate ceremonies. Elbow responded that (1) the Spirit Arena does not have the capacity to combine the ceremonies and (2) the

ceremonies would be too lengthy. Purinton moved that the 2018 calendar be accepted as presented. Stokes seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Stewart noted that we now have three intercessions: Fall Intercession prior to the fall semester, Winter Intersession between the fall and spring semesters, and Intersession at Junction after the spring semester. After some discussion but no resolution of the intersession problems associated with drops, Huffman moved that the three intercessions be formally included on all academic calendars. Morse seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Stewart and Jones discussed recent criticism regarding the Texas Tech spring break not coinciding with spring break at other state universities. Jones pointed out that the calendar policy of Texas Tech for more than 30 years has been to schedule spring break for the third week in March.

Stewart led a debriefing of the effect on campus of accommodating the mid-week Texas Tech vs. TCU football game. Council members did not note significant problems.

Stewart provided copies of a letter sent to deans by the Interim Provost detailing a new process for choosing faculty named as Integrated Scholars. He noted that nominations should be received by November 1.

Stewart said the Provost's Office is working to centralize and compile a list of faculty awards that are not only university-wide but also statewide and nationwide. He said the university wants to have a procedure in place to cultivate and foster applicants.

Stewart reported on recent university initiatives regarding the following:

- A Special Committee on Distance Learning is preparing a White Paper for the university president.
- A Committee on Academic Advising and Retention is identifying retention strategies and creating new ideas.
- The Provost will soon appoint a committee to address international issues that can benefit from Texas Tech assistance.
- The university is initiating an outreach and engagement effort to identify and track outreach efforts of the university.

Felicia Martin said that Ifeatu Okafor, a 2013 graduate and student-athlete, is among 9 finalists for NCAA Woman of the Year. The winner will be announced during an October 20 ceremony in Indianapolis.