

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Texas Tech University

Meeting of
September 20, 2011

MINUTES

Present: Cindy Akers, Adrien Bennings, Sam Bradley, Bobbie Brown, Mike Carter for Pat McConnel, Wes Cochran, Cathy Duran, Gary Elbow, Clifton Ellis, Ralph Ferguson, Dale Ganus, Robert Henry, Sheila Hoover, Lynn Huffman, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Peggy Johnson, Sue Jones, Michelle Kiser, Debbie Laverie, Ethan Logan, Felicia Martin, Amy Murphy, Walt Oler, DaNay Phelps, Nicci Price for Janessa Walls, Marjean Purinton, David Roach, Brian Shannon, Rob Stewart (chair), Kevin Stoker, Vicki West

Guests: Robin Germany, Eric Hequet, Calvin Lewis, Brenda Martinez, Jorge Ramirez

Stewart opened the meeting by calling attention to the next to the last line of the school song and noting that “strive for honor is a unique and significant motto that engenders our work here.”

Council members reviewed minutes of the August 16, 2011, meeting and requested that the last paragraph referencing the Banner system be reworded. Purinton moved that the minutes be accepted with the change, Brown seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Jones presented the September course approval summary. Title changes were suggested for #5, #6, #7, and #8. The course description for #8 also was revised. Huffman moved that the course summary be accepted with changes. Akers seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Elbow presented three new degree proposals: (1) Master of Laws in United States Legal Studies, (2) Master of Science in Plant and Soil Science, and (3) Bachelor of Arts in Art. After clarifying that “Master of Laws” is the correct title for the law degree, the council unanimously accepted the three proposals.

Brown reported on efforts to address an issue discussed at the last meeting in regard to identifying in the Banner system a suspended student who has successfully appealed to an academic dean and been granted permission to attend classes. In an effort to communicate such an exception, Brown proposed that a transcript comment be added to the term to reflect the proper status of Continued Academic Probation for the ensuing term in which classes would be taken. At the end of that semester, Official Academic Standing would be calculated and posted for that term. Henry moved that the proposed solution be accepted, Iber seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Stewart introduced Felicia Martin, Associate Athletic Director for Academic Services, as a new member of the Academic Council and announced that the October meeting of the Academic Council will be held at the Marsha Sharp Center for Student Athletes and hosted by Athletics Academic Services. Martin said her association with the Academic Council is part an effort to strengthen the relationship between athletics and the Provost’s Office.

Brown and Martinez reported on new FERPA restrictions regarding release of phone numbers and birth dates to outside parties. They assured council members that the information needed by faculty and administration would still be available but release of information to outside parties (e.g., apartment

complexes) would be restricted. They reminded the council that parents of students do not always have access to a student's record.

Elbow reported that the university will no longer provide post-ceremony corrections to the Commencement Program but will provide an updated list of graduates to the university archives.

Hughes led an extensive discussion of the requirements of HB 3025 regarding a student declaring a major and filing a degree plan after completion of 45 or more semester credit hours.

Stewart told council members that a statement has been added to the catalog clarifying that mid-semester grade reports will be provided only for freshmen and student athletes.

Announcements:

1. The Fall Faculty Meeting will be held at 3:30 on September 21.
2. Academic Support and Facilities Resources will email to council members new required changes in coding that will allow a more condensed, uniform code to depict the instructional method of Distance Education and Hybrid Instruction.