

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Texas Tech University

Meeting of
October 15, 2013

MINUTES

Present: Cindy Akers, Stefanie Borst, Bobbie Brown, Luke Cotton, Cathy Duran, Gary Elbow, Stephen Ekwaro-Osire, Cliff Fedler, Ralph Ferguson, Paul Goebel, Ryan Gibbs, Jarod Gonzalez, Melanie Hart, Cheryl Hedlund for Sue Jones, Bob Henry, Sheila Hoover, Lynn Huffman, Patrick Hughes, Jorge Iber, Peggy Johnson, Michelle Kiser, Ethan Logan, Justin Louder, Andrew Martin, Pat McConnel, David Mondt for Anna Young, Audra Morse, Juan Munoz, Catherine Parsonneault, Marjean Purinton, David Roach, Brian Shannon, Brian Steele, Rob Stewart (chair), Kevin Stoker, Janessa Walls, Vicky West

Guests: Peyton Craig, Jennifer Hughes, Jacob Price, Tanner Shipp

Stewart presented the minutes of the September 17, 2013, meeting. Akers moved they be accepted as presented. Henry seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Price said the Office of Academic Support and Facilities Research is preparing guidelines and parameters for restricted space in order to make more space available for teaching. He also presented a visual presentation on the transformation of AGR 214 into a general purpose classroom that conforms to codes required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Cotton reported that the Student Government Association is working to find ways to bring more recognition to students who are named on the Dean's List. He also said SGA is researching the cost of materials and books and the high cost being passed down to students.

Munoz presented a proposed new Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences. After extensive discussion, Roach moved that the proposal be tabled so that the College of Arts and Sciences can review and discuss the proposed degree. Iber seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Louder updated council members regarding plans to offer a Bachelor of Science in Biology at Texas Tech University in Waco, one of numerous TTU regional sites.

Elbow reported on his efforts to clarify the minimum grade acceptable to fulfill a core curriculum requirement. Although most universities accept a grade of D-, Elbow believes a clarifying statement should appear in print stating that degree plans may not require a higher minimum grade for core courses unless the core course is also required as a part of the student's major or required as a prerequisite for courses in the major. Elbow will work with colleges to determine the proper wording.

Stewart presented the October course approvals. Huffman moved they be accepted as presented. Roach seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Although the fall 2015 academic calendar has already been approved, Stewart said the short time period between fall commencement ceremonies and the start of faculty/staff Christmas holidays will cause a burden in grade processing for both the colleges and the Registrar's Office. Because starting the fall 2015 semester one week earlier will alleviate the problem, he reported that Official Publications had contacted all affected offices and student groups regarding a possible calendar change. Everyone responded positively to the change. Henry moved that the starting date of classes for all 2015 be moved to August 24 to allow commencement ceremonies to be held on December 11-12. Morse seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Elbow said that the university only allows students to transfer 66 semester credit hours from a community college, but the Academic Council can change that limit to accept more hours. He proposed that a sub-committee be created to consider the advisability of raising the limit. Stewart appointed a sub-committee composed of Hughes, Henry, Elbow, Gibbs, Johnson, Brown, and Parsonault.

Elbow presented a blanket list of five untaught courses that will be deleted from the course inventory of the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Other Business:

- Stewart gave an update on the course fee entry deadline for the spring 2014 semester.
- Stewart gave an update on the progress of a White Paper being prepared by a Special Committee on Distance Learning.
- Stoker updated council members on the search for a new director of the Office of Official Publications.
- Parsonault updated the council on the SACSCOC reaffirmation process.
- Brown said mid-term grading for athletes and freshmen will be open until 5 p.m. October 21.