

Teaching Academy Executive Council Minutes February 28, 2025

Members Present:

Nancy Soonpaa, Jeffrey Harper, David Roach, Karen Alexander, Ameri Gurley, Suzanne Tapp, Belinda Kleinhans, Cindy Akers, Katie Langford, Andrew Stetson, Rob Stewart, Charles Crews, John Masselli

Members Not Present:

Shane Blum, Fanni Coward

Welcome and Group Activity:

Nancy Soonpaa led the council in a group activity called “Rose, Thorn, and Bud” as an example of what instructors could do in class to get to know and support their students. Nancy asked council members to share something they were happy about, something that was stressful, and something they were looking forward to.

Approval of Minutes:

Karen Alexander moved to approve the minutes from January 24th; Charles Crews seconded. The council approved the January minutes.

Departmental Excellence in Teaching Award:

Courtney Meyers gave a report from the award selection committee. The committee met on February 13th and discussed the results of the review process. After deliberation, the committee selected the department that ranked highest and did not think a rescoring was necessary. Courtney noted that in the Voting Protocol, there is a point of clarification that gives weights to each document in the award materials. However, the review rubric asks the committee to score the evidence given in the combined materials and doesn’t allow for weighing individual documents. Courtney’s recommendation was to remove the point of clarification and keep the current review rubric. The council agreed to consider the recommendation and will vote on the issue in March.

New Chair Elect:

Belinda Kleinhans plans to leave Texas Tech at the end of the semester and will step down as the Chair Elect. Ameri Gurley nominated herself and the council voted unanimously in favor. Ameri will serve the remainder of the semester as Chair Elect.

Chancellor’s Council Distinguished Teaching Award Updates:

The council continued to review the recommended updates to OP 32.13 and deliberated the benefits of a new format for application materials. Council members will continue to review the recommendations and vote on any changes in March.

Announcements:

The TLPDC is hosting a workshop about intergroup dialogue on March 11th. Since this topic fits with the Teaching in Turbulent Times theme, the council agreed to sponsor the session.

Teaching Academy membership applications are now open. Completed applications are due on March 11th and the letters of support are due on March 25th. Council members are allowed to support one applicant if desired.

Suzanne shared updates about RaiderCanvas and noted that all courses have been migrated. She is working with TTU Online to facilitate trainings for department groups on campus. She reminded everyone that courses older than 18 months need to be moved manually and older materials should be saved.

Adjourn:

John Masselli moved to adjourn the meeting; Belinda Kleinhans seconded. The meeting was adjourned.