University Council
Minutes
April 28, 2009
Tucker Technology Center
3:30 p.m.

Members present: Pat Miller, Carol Thompson, Linda Moore, Morrison Wong, Peggy Watson, Cecilia Silva, Mary Patton, Lynn Flahive, Paulette Burns, Mike McCracken, Arnie Barkman, Bonnie Melhart, Australia Tarver, Paul King, David Whillock, Andy Schoolmaster, Scott Sullivan, Gerald Gabel, Nowell Donovan, Terri Gartner. Absent: Julie Baker, Bill Diong, Don Mills, Kelsie Johnson, June Koelker

Guests present: Kathy Baker, Catherine Wehlburg, Brad Lucas, Dick Rinewalt

Dr. Donovan opened meeting with greetings to all and turned the official proceedings over to Pat Miller. Miller asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 17, 2009 meeting. Tarver motion, Schoolmaster seconded and all approved.

Miller asked for a motion to pass the consent agenda, Sullivan motioned, several seconded and the motion carried.

Miller asked for a motion to pass the policy changing the Dean’s List GPA by two tenths of a percent; motion was made and seconded. Discussion: Sullivan explained that the number of Dean’s List students is rising every semester and this seems to negate the “uniqueness” of receiving this honor. By raising the number from 3.4 to 3.6 for freshmen; 3.5 to 3.7 for sophomores and juniors and seniors having at least a 3.8, it would cut the numbers slightly and raise the honor factor. Barkman questioned whether this would affect the Laude, Cum Laude graduates, Miller replied, “no”. The motion carried to take effect fall 2009.

Miller asked for a motion to pass a change in the existing catalog copy for advanced degree students regarding the residence requirement, motion made and was seconded. Melhart simply expressed that the copy was written long ago before the time of on-line classes and was essentially obsolete. The copy will read “There is no general residency requirement. See specific degree listings for program requirements.” This will apply to both Master’s and PhD copy. The motion was approved to take effect with the printing of the new catalog.

Miller requested a motion to change the Urban Studies interdisciplinary minor program requirement; the motion was made and seconded. Discussion: Schoolmaster explained that with the rise in urbanization, studying the consequences of this trend is important. The minor would essentially use the Fort Worth, Tarrant County and North Texas region as an urban laboratory. The question was raised about how this would be coordinated. Miller reminded the council that minors are worked through the college where the student is receiving their degree. Questions for this interdisciplinary minor should be referred to Mike Butler, AddRan College. With a friendly amendment to appendix II, number four should read “A minimum of three hours must be selected from approved Humanities courses”, the motion was approved for fall 2009.
Miller asked for a motion to change the catalog copy for the Ed.D degree; the motion was made and seconded. Discussion: Patton explained that they were trying to keep the wording more in line with other doctoral programs at TCU. The degree would be a professional degree, more reflective of a major doctoral project. Melhart questioned the wording in the proposed catalog copy for the Ed.D program in Educational Leadership, section I. Program of Study, where it states “A program of study is both a guideline for…” Melhart indicated that using the word “guideline” was rather ambiguous and needed to be clarified. New proposed copy reads: The required program of study guides the committee and student and is a vehicle for ongoing formative assessment and adaptation. The motion was approved to take effect fall 2009.

Miller asked for a motion to add an administrative track to the DNP program, motion was made and seconded. Discussion: Kathy Baker explained briefly that this addition will be for nurse executives. Melhart asked for catalog copy that was not offered with the proposal. Baker informed the Council that there will be only two sentences added to the current DNP catalog copy. Burns promised to get the copy to Melhart for review within two or three days. The motion was approved with the aforementioned friendly amendment and will take effect in fall 2009.

Miller asked for a motion to change catalog copy for the Didactic Program in Dietetics, motion was made and seconded. Discussion: Rinewalt explained that the change would separate students that didn’t want to go through licensing after earning their degree. The change would also raise the GPA from 2.5 to 2.7 to reduce the pressure on internship for students. Flahive made the point that any department could use that excuse for raising the GPA but understood that the department wasn’t trying to cut students out of the program, but simply differentiate between students wanting licenses and those that do not. Motion was carried to take effect fall 2009.

Miller requested a motion to add a Ph.D in Rhetoric and Composition to the English program; motion was made and seconded. Brad Lucas noted that this gives the students another option and would be in addition to the Ph.D in English degree already offered. To answer Burns’ question about additional courses, Lucas told the Council that there would be a few new courses and he feels that the student will have a more accurate transcript upon graduation. All agreed that the graduate would have a more competitive edge. King added that he fully supports this addition. Motion was approved for fall of 2009.

Miller requested a motion to add a B.S. degree in Sociology, motion was made and seconded. Morrison Wong explained that this addition would enhance the marketability for our students in the real world. It would prepare them for the more scientific venues, such as survey and data management. Most agreed that this was a better option than the B.A. for most students. Motion was approved to take effect fall 2009.

Miller asked for a motion to add a new MSN program; motion was made, Thompson seconded. Burns noted that this addition is needed in the area of Clinical Nurse Leader in a hospital setting, not management. Texas Health Resource has agreed to partner with Harris College students toward earning this degree. In answer to King’s question regarding clinical partnerships, Burns clarified that all clinical mentors will be approved by the Harris College Dean’s office as is the current practice. TCU will be the first to offer this degree in Texas. Motion was approved by all, to take effect summer 2009.
Miller requested a motion to add a Kinesiology minor in Fitness; motion was made and seconded by Whillock. Burns explained that all courses are currently offered and available and suggested that we all sign up for this minor. Motion was heartily approved by all. This new Fitness minor will take effect in fall 2009.

Donovan shared briefly regarding the current outbreak of the Swine Flu (H1N1) and how this would affect our university should we be infected.

Donovan thanked all for their service to the University. Donovan welcomed Mary Patton as the new dean of Education. Donovan thanked McCracken for 30 years of service to the University and the Council.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.