

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

April 6, 2004

Members

Present: R. E. Byrd, Bob Austin, Mike Bellah, Toni Brasher, Diane Brice, David Fike, Kim Hays, Jerry Moller, Ken Pirtle, Jim Powell, Kathy Reed, and Bob Sloger

Members Absent: Cherie Clifton, Bill Crawford, Mary Graff, Judy Johnson, Mark Usnick

MARCH 24, 2004 MINUTES

Austin moved, seconded by Hayes, to approve the March 24, 2004 minutes as submitted. The motion carried.

INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION AND TECHNOLOGIES

Non-Destructive Testing and Evaluation

Byrd expanded on the background for the program proposal. An advisory committee has been meeting for the past two years – as recently as last week. The advisory committee had wanted a transfer (A.S.) program which would require physics and trigonometry. Byrd explained to the advisory committee that technical fields usually attract students who do not plan to transfer and usually have to remediate. As a compromise the AAS list the option of taking NUCP 1319 or MATH 1316 and PHYS 1301/1101. Pirtle suggested rather than using an *to designate the option to actually list the option in the Major Course Requirements. The committee members concurred.

Byrd noted many graduates of the Radiography Program have been employed in this field at Pantex and given special training on the job. It was noted that there are many fields that need employees trained in this field – railroads, pipeline industries, tanker trucks, and various tanks (gas, helium, pressurized, etc).

Byrd believes that eventually we will offer a certificate program but at this time Pantex does not support such.

Pirtle moved, seconded by Sloger, to approve the request with the noted change in the option. The motion carried.

NEW PROGRAMS

Byrd noted that at the Board meeting, Regent Nelson had asked if we develop new programs. Byrd informed him of the Non-Destructive Testing and Evaluation Program and potential Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program. It was noted that Amarillo College probably offers all the AAS and Certificate programs needed in the tri-state area.

Byrd reported that he and Mike Bellah have been discussing developing an AAS in

Technical Communication which could be offered totally on-line. The program would not require any new faculty, space, or equipment. Bellah noted that technical writing is "hot" occupation. Graduate of such a field with bachelor's degrees are starting out making in the mid \$40,000 range and master degree graduates start in the mid \$50,000's. Austin Community College already offers such a degree. Byrd noted that most technical program advisory committees have noted that most AAS degrees have strong/sufficient technical skills but they would like better soft and communication skills.

Austin said that the Virtual College of Texas is looking into offering entire programs thru VCT and this may be an outlet for Amarillo College also.

SACS guidelines have been that if a program has more then 50% of its courses via on-line, there must be a substantive change proposal. Byrd believed that this guideline may be deleted in the near future (if it hasn't already been).