

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
October 13, 2006
Minutes

Members

Present: Paul Matney, Bob Austin, Robert Boyd, Diane Brice, Sally Evans, David Fike, Ann Hamblin, Michael Kopenits, Duane Lintner, Shawna Lopez, Mary Clare Munger, Ed Nolte, Jim Powell, Rathna Prabhakar, Lyndi Shadbolt, and Victoria Taylor-Gore

Members

Absent: Toni Gordy

SEPTEMBER 15, 2006 MINUTES

Munger moved, seconded by Prabhakar, to approve the September 15, 2006 minutes as submitted. The motion carried.

BUSINESS DIVISION

Business Administration

Accounting Associate and Accounting Certificate

Lintner noted that extensive research was done before making the recommendation to deactivate the Accounting Associate and Accounting Certificate programs. Over the last six years, the programs have had 25 students graduate. A phone survey contacting graduates was conducted. Results of the survey revealed that after employment, employers wanted the graduates to continue their education. It was noted that the WECM courses do not transfer. The program managers believe that students will benefit as well (if not better) from earning the transfer associate degree in Business Administration.

The WECM courses are taught by part-time faculty. Closing the program will free up funds for an annual software contract required for one of the WECM courses.

Austin moved, seconded by Boyd, to approve the request as submitted. The motion carried.

SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING DIVISION

Minimum Semester Hours Required for an Associate Degree

Matney noted that the Associate Arts in Teaching is the fourth degree that the Coordinating Board has approved. It is a degree which streamlines the transition for education majors from the community college to the university.

Amarillo College has almost 700 AAT (Education) majors. Currently Amarillo College requires 62 hours to earn an associate degree but the state requires only a minimum of 60 hours for academic (AA, AS, AAT) and technical (AAS) degrees. The proposal is for Amarillo College to change its minimum number of hours to graduate from 62 to 60 semester hours. The proposal is not suggesting programs revise and reduce their required credits, but open the option for programs where it would be beneficial.

This change would be beneficial to the AAT degrees because of the way our education programs articulate to WTAMU.

Munger is concerned that the change could impact the enrollment in the EC-4 certification classes. The TECA courses are taught in her department and already have low enrollments. Matney and Fike plan to meet with the faculty in the WTAMU Education Department and talk about the AAT Field of Study.

Powell moved, seconded by Kopenits, to approve the request as submitted. The motion carried.

STUDENT AND ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

English as a Second Language

Hamblin noted that the request is attempting to streamline the ESL program. There are four courses students take at four levels. Students usually take 2 classes during the fall semester and 2 classes during the spring semester. The proposed change would make a BAS (Basic Academic Skills) course a corequisite. The change would not increase expenses to students since only three courses would be required at each level. The request is also reducing the lab requirement of the ESL classes by one hour.

Hamblin believes requiring BAS 0203 as a corequisite will benefit students and will help them progress faster. Hamblin said the purpose of the ESL program is help students learn to write and speak English and most students continue through the third level. A small percentage of the students want to further their education. Many of the ESL students are professionals from another country. Currently Hamblin has a student from Sudan who has a bachelor's degree in microbiology.

Hamblin explained that the Learning Center is a developmental learning program with basic math, reading and writing. Students progress through the program at their own pace. Some students can complete a level in 40 hours rather than two semesters. Basically they have streamlined developmental skills into courses in which students can work on at their own pace. Last year the Learning Center served 1200 students. The lab is open 63 hours a week.

Matney suggested that the proposal be tabled pending Judy Johnson's attendance at the meeting for further consideration.

Boyd moved, seconded by Nolte, to postpone consideration of the request until the next meeting. The motion carried.

INDUSTRIAL AND TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGIES DIVISION

Diesel Technician Certificate – Clements Prison Unit

This request had been tabled at the last meeting. The proposal has been revised and the request is due to WECM changes:

Delete DEMR 1242: Power Train Applications I (This is a course specifically

taught at the prison program and has been archived by WECM)

Add DEMR 1291: Special Topics: Power Train Applications I
This course will be taught specifically at the prison program

The semester-by-semester format was also resubmitted with corrected information.

Lintner moved, seconded by Fike, to approve the request as submitted. The motion carried.

AMARILLO COLLEGE AND WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Matney said that due to new leadership, the relationship between Amarillo College and WTAMU has improved. WTAMU and AC administrators are meeting and discussing not only programs but improved relationship, friendships, and trust between the two institutions. They are also discussing possible faculty exchanges. Dr. O'Brien would also like to have contracts with AC transfer students. The relationship should be "What is good for WTAMU is good for AC and what is good for AC is good for WTAMU." Matney noted that for the most part AC is not in competition with WTAMU – the institutions serve different clients.

The WTAMU Amarillo Campus will not be teaching freshman/sophomore level classes but master levels courses/programs.

RIO GRANDE TWO STEP – UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE

The Coordinating Board has approved The University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College Rio Grande Two-Step Project. The project applies an Associate of Applied Science degree towards either a Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) or a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (BAAS) degree. What is unique about this program is that they will transfer up to 84 hours.

Dr. Peter Gawenda, Special Assistant to Provost, will explain the program at Amarillo College on Thursday, October 19, 2006 at two sessions – 11:15 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Matney encouraged that chairs, directors, and coordinators of AAS degrees attend.