ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Friday, September 27, 2013
Interactive Video Classrooms
Vernon Campus and Century City Campus

Present: Dr. Gary Don Harkey, Chair; Dr. Brad Beauchamp, Jessica Bennett, Greg Fowler, Dr. Karen Gragg, Mark Holcomb, Kristin Harris, Joe Hite, Bettye Hutchins, Dr. Adrien Ivan, Joe Johnston, Lynn Kalski, Sharon Winn, and Michelle Wood. Absent: Cathy Bolton, Marian Grona, and Shana Munson.

I. Old Business
A. Approval of Minutes
Greg Fowler motioned to accept the March 28 and June 27, 2013 minutes seconded by Joe Hite. The motion passed unanimously.

II. New Business
A. Developmental English and Reading
Joe Johnston updated council members about the upcoming changes to the Developmental English and Reading courses. At this time, plans are to delete ENGL 0300, ENGL 0301, ENGL 0302, READ 0300, READ 0301, and READ 0302 and add one course incorporating English and reading. This proposal is similar to the model used by the Math Department. Students will have the option to repeat this course as needed to improve their skills. Additionally, a non-course-based option (NCBO) will be available to students that are one point short of testing as college-ready. These students will enroll in ENGL 1301 and the NCBO course concurrently.

Kristin Harris asked whether the proposed developmental course will be self-paced and Joe replied affirmatively that, as mandated by the State, the course will be offered to adjust to each student's needs. Kristin cautioned that it is important for the course to be offered with a grading scale of A, B, C, D, F, or E (for continue) and not reliant on the Accuplacer scores to determine the grade for the course. She further explained that this is important because students that are documented through Special Services as being unable to successfully complete a standardized computerized test must have another option.

Joe Hite reminded council members that an "E" grade is considered a non-completion for financial aid purposes and students receiving this grade could face financial aid probation or suspension. Similarly, students on academic probation due to a low GPA could face academic suspension after receiving an "E" grade.

Joe Johnston will give an update and present a motion to the Academic Council at a future meeting.

B. Emergency Medical Services
Sharon Winn explained that the Emergency Medical Services A.A.S. degree was deleted several years ago due to THECB (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board) regulations that dictated removal of a program that did not meet the prescribed minimum number of completions. The Coordinating Board no longer dictates the removal of a program; furthermore, the EMS program now has sufficient program completions to support the reinstatement of the A.A.S. degree. The EMS Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet in October to finalize their approval of the addition. In the meantime, Sharon will determine exactly what documentation is required to reinstate the degree.

C. Core Curriculum
Joe Johnston reported that, effective Fall 2014 the THECB will require colleges to have a 42 semester hour credit core curriculum. Vernon College's core curriculum currently includes 44 semester hours of credit. Recognizing the importance of students having

the ability to make oral presentations, the Student Core Competencies Subcommittee recommends keeping SPCH 1315 in the core requirements and moving ENGL 1302 to the group of courses from which students select from for their Humanities requirements. The committee also recommends keeping the two lab science classes in the core. This will bring the total semester hour credit to 41 leaving one single hour unassigned. The committee is recommending PHED 1164 Introduction to Physical Fitness and Sports to complete the core. This course will introduce concepts of teamwork and emphasize the benefits of physical activity. The Student Core Competencies Subcommittee will submit the proposed Core Curriculum Plan to Academic Council in October and then to the THECB in November.

Several council members questioned whether COSC 1301 Introduction to Computing would remain in our Core Curriculum. Joe explained that several community colleges are opting to require their students to take a computer literacy test and those that do not pass the test will be required to take an introductory computer course. This course will not be part of the required core curriculum but it will be a requirement for their certificate or degree programs. The Vernon College Associate Degree Nursing Program removed COSC 1301 from their degree plan due to the semester hour limits imposed on A.A.S. programs. Reductions in program-specific credits could not be identified so the institutional option course was removed. With A.A.S. programs being limited to 60 semester hours, other programs may have to explore similar options.

III. Other

A. Dr. Harkey reported to council members that he, Joe Hite and Dr. Johnston had discussed the possibility of expanding the schedule change period from the first two days of the semester to the first three days. He explained that since the college discontinued late registration, several students have argued that they did not have a chance to make schedule changes because their first class was on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday evening and the schedule change period ended at 5:00 pm on Tuesday. Most likely, more students found themselves facing this quandary but only a few persisted until they reached one of the college deans for a resolution. Greg Fowler made a motion to extend the schedule change period to the first three days of class for the Spring 2014 semester. Adrien Ivan, Faculty Senate representative, commented that their group discussed this topic and came to a consensus that they do not support the proposed schedule change extension. Adrien explained that faculty often refrain from progressing in their classroom instruction as long as student rosters continue to change. The motion was approved by majority vote (9 supporting, 1 opposing.)

B. The next Academic Council Meeting will be Friday, October 25th at 11:00 am in VER204 and CCC712.

IV. Adjourn

The committee voted unanimously to adjourn.