

**2013-2014
Mid-Year
Committee/Advisory Council Report**

Committee Name: Academic Council

Chairperson: Dr. Gary Don Harkey

List of members: Dr. Brad Beauchamp, Jessica Bennett, Cathy Bolton, Greg Fowler, Dr. Karen Gragg, Marian Grona, Mark Holcomb, Kristin Harris, Joe Hite, Bettye Hutchins, Dr. Adrien Ivan, Joe Johnston, Lynn Kalski, Shana Munson, Sharon Winn, Michelle Wood

Dates of meetings: September 27, 2013, October 25, 2013, and November 22, 2013

Accomplishments:

September 27, 2013 –

1. Discussed upcoming changes to the developmental English and reading courses to accommodate the non-course-based (NCBO) requirements.
2. Discussed the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) policy change that had required the removal of low-completion degree plans. Vernon College deleted the A.A.S. degrees in Automotive Technology, Emergency Medical Services, and Farm and Ranch Management as result of the coordinating board regulations. With the reversal in policy, Vernon College has the opportunity to reinstate these degree plans. Action to implement these changes will be presented at a future meeting.
3. Reviewed the THECB requirements for core curriculum. The Student Core Competencies Subcommittee recommends keeping SPCH 1315 Public Speaking in the core and moving ENGL 1302 Composition II to the list of courses that students may select as their Humanities requirement. To meet the 42 semester credit hour core, the committee recommended adding KINE 1164 Introduction to Physical Fitness and Sports. COSC 1301 Introduction to Computing will no longer be included in the core requirements but may be included in the list of major requirements or elective options. The committee noted that some community colleges are including a computer literacy test in some programs with the option of taking an introductory course if the student does not successfully complete the test. Final recommendations will be submitted to the council at a future meeting.

October 25, 2013 –

1. The Industrial Automation Systems A.A.S. program submitted revisions effective fall 2014 to facilitate the 60-semester hour limit for A.A.S. degrees. The program degree plan deleted CETT 1407 Fundamentals of Electronics, moved COSC 1301 Introduction to Computing to the elective options list, and added CETT 1307 Fundamentals of Electronics. Similar revisions will be forthcoming for all A.A.S. degree plans.
2. Council members approved the addition of ACRW 0210 Academic Reading and Writing (a non-course based option) and ENGL 0305 Developmental Reading and Writing effective spring 2014 to accommodate the newly implemented TSI Assessment requirements and THECB mandates.

November 22, 2013 –

1. Council members approved the submission to the THECB of a Local Needs Course Renewal Application for AUMT 1472 High Performance Modification: Theory and Execution. The current approval expires August 2014. The Automotive Program Advisory Committee recommended continuing to offer this course as an elective because there is a demand for technicians who have the knowledge and ability to modify high-performance engines. No other course listed in the Workforce Education Course Manual (WECM) provides this specialized training.
2. Council members approved the revision of MATH 0310 Developmental Mathematics to accommodate the new Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment requirements and to better align with the S3 Grant. Included in the revision is a statement that the course may be repeated two additional times for credit.
3. Council members approved the removal of COSC 1301 Introduction to Computing from the core requirements of the Vernon College Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, Associate of Arts in Teaching, and Associate in Applied Science degree plans to meet the 15-semester hour core curriculum and 60-semester hour maximum degree limits. Council members noted that SACS 2.7.3 requires at least 15 hours of general education coursework but computer literacy is no longer addressed.
4. After a review of the updated core curriculum requirements for the A.A., A.S., and A.A.T. degree plans, council members voted unanimously in support of the changes.

Recommendations:

1. Academic Council members recommended to the THECB a 42-semester hour core curriculum as follows:

Core Curriculum Requirements

Component Area (THECB Codes)	Courses	Required Semester Credit Hours
Communications (010)	ENGL 1301, SPCH 1315	6
Mathematics (020)	MATH 1314, MATH 1414, MATH 1332, MATH 1342	3
Life and Physical Sciences (030)	BIOL 1406, BIOL 1407, BIOL 2401, BIOL 2402, CHEM 1406, CHEM 1411, CHEM 1412, PHYS 1401, PHYS 1402, PHYS 1403, PHYS 1404, PHYS 1415	8
Language, Philosophy, and Culture (040)	ENGL 2322, ENGL 2323, ENGL 2327, ENGL 2328, ENGL 2332, ENGL 2333, HIST 2311, HIST 2312	3
Creative Arts (050)	ARTS 1301, DRAM 1310, MUSI 1304, MUSI 1306	3
American History (060)	HIST 1301, HIST 1302	6
Government / Political Science (070)	GOVT 2305, GOVT 2306	6
Social and Behavioral Sciences (080)	ECON 2301, ECON 2302, PSYC 2301, SOCI 1301	3
Foundation Component Area Option (090)	KINE 1164, ENGL 1302 (3*), Integrated Science Lab Hours(2*)	4
TOTAL		42

*Indicates semester credit hours allocated to Foundation Component Area Option

2. Council members recommended to the Vernon College Board of Trustees the reinstatement of the previously closed A.A.S. degrees in Automotive Technology, Emergency Medical Services, and Farm and Ranch Management. Upon approval, the degree plans will be revised to meet the core curriculum and program semester hour requirements.

Membership suggestions: N/A

Agendas, exhibits and minutes posted to Vernon College web site address:

www.vernoncollege.edu

Submitted by: Dr. Gary Don Harkey

Date submitted: January 30, 2014