

ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, October 24, 2011
Interactive Video Classrooms
Vernon Campus and Century City Campus

Present: Dr. Gary Don Harkey, Chair; Greg Fowler, Karen Gragg, Marian Grona, Kristin Harris, Joe Hite, Mark Holcomb, Shana Munson, Mike Ruhl, Jessica Sutherland, and Sharon Winn, and Michelle Wood. Absent: Joe Johnston. Guest: Dr. Dusty Johnston

I. Old Business

Approval of Minutes

Greg Fowler motioned to accept the March 28, 2011 minutes, seconded Karen Gragg. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Harkey commented that all motions made via e-mail were approved by committee members by electronic vote.

II. New Business

A. Dr. Johnston addressed the committee outlining some items he labeled as ‘ideas for future consideration.’ He referenced the notes that were included in the Academic Council Packet as he explained that the items listed were not in any priority order and none of the items were expected to be accomplished immediately. Dr. Johnston said the information was a culmination of topics that have been discussed in numerous meetings and in major publications. Items offered for discussion included the following:

- Student Success Skills – imbedded in each course and presented during the first week of classes or offered as a separate, required course. The ACGM does list a Student Success course under developmental education. A maximum of three semester hours credit is listed for this course. Discussion from council members included whether the course would be taught by each instructor or whether it would be a stand-alone course required for all students.
- Developmental Refresher Courses – offered as an option to semester-long developmental courses possibly through Continuing Education.
- Competency Based Developmental Education – utilizing various formats for delivery of course information and for assessment of student learning.
- Articulation Agreement with Western Governor’s University – opportunity through the TACC for students to transfer their Associate Degree curriculum seamlessly toward a Bachelor’s Degree offered in an online format.
- Continue efforts to improve student retention and successful completion.
- Explore implementation of a 4-day class week leaving Fridays for faculty and staff to participate in committee and other meetings. Students would attend classes on Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday with the exception of some special programs that might require Friday classes.

Dr. Johnston also mentioned the following topics that he labeled as ‘future concerns/issues.’ Topics included in this category included:

- THECB is beginning to look at faculty workload and trying to correlate to faculty productivity. Dr. Johnston said that we need to review the Vernon College load/overload policy to prepare for the questions that will follow.
- THECB is proposing
 - that course options for degrees be narrowed to “decrease student confusion and to increase completion”

- that more blended/hybrid courses be offered to increase accessibility for working students
- to increase internships and credit for work experience to increase the correlation between workforce programs and industry workforce needs, and
- that admissions standards for community colleges with development of a separate track for students who cannot meet basic skill entrance exams.

B. Administrative Office Technology

Mark Holcomb made a motion to revise the Administrative Specialist Certificate by adding ACNT 1304 Introduction to Accounting II as an elective and to remove the prerequisite of COSC1301 Introduction to Computing or Consent of Instructor from POFT 1309 Administrative Office Procedures I. Jessica Sutherland seconded the motion and the committee passed it unanimously.

C. Automotive Technology

Mark Holcomb made a motion to deactivate the Automotive AAS degree effective Fall 2012 due to the low number of graduates in the program. Sharon Winn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mark motioned to remove the elective from the Automotive Certificate program and replace it with AUMT 2310 Automotive Service Consultant which will become the capstone course for the Automotive Certificate of Completion. Shana Munson seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to accept the motion.

Mark made a motion to delete AUMT 2267 Practicum (or Field Experience)-Automobile/Automotive Mechanics Technology/Technician from the course inventory because it is not applicable to the certificate program. Greg Fowler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Sharon Winn commented that the certificate program will go from a range of 29-32 semester hours to 29-31 semester hours.

D. Emergency Medical Services

Shana Munson motioned to deactivate the Emergency Medical Service AAS degree effective Fall 2012 due to low graduate rates. The certificate program will remain the same. Mark Holcomb seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

E. Farm and Ranch Management

Karen Gragg made a motion to deactivate the Farm and Ranch AAS degree effective Fall 2012 due to low graduate rates. The certificate program will remain the same. Greg Fowler seconded the motion and the committee voted unanimously to accept the motion.

F. Computer and Information Sciences

Mark Holcomb made a motion, effective Spring 2012, to revise ITNW 1325 Fundamentals of Networking Technologies by changing the lecture/lab hours from (3-2) to (2-2). Mark explained that this is a catalog listing error that Sharon Wallace brought to his attention. Shana Munson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

G. Government

Greg Fowler made a motion to add a prerequisite to GOVT 2304 Introduction to Political Science effective Spring 2012. The other government courses offered at Vernon College include a prerequisite of Texas Success Initiative clear in reading and writing and this course should have the same requirement. Shana Munson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

H. Physics

Karen Gragg motioned to delete PHYS 1411 Introductory Astronomy I and PHYS 1412 Introductory Astronomy II and add PHYS 1403 Stars and Galaxies and PHYS 1404 Solar System. Karen explained that PHYS 1411 and PHYS 1412 are no longer listed in the

Lower Division Academic Course Guide Manual. She also noted that PHYS 1404 more closely mirrors PHYS 1411 and PHYS 1403 mirrors PHYS 1412. After discussion, the committee recommended that this change be made effective Fall 2012 to lessen the confusion for students. Karen said the new courses will not include prerequisites the same as was the case for PHYS 1411 and PHYS 1412. Greg Fowler seconded the motion. Kristin Harris suggested that the catalog listing for the new courses include a course equivalency to the appropriate course being replaced. The motion passed unanimously.

I. Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM) Changes (Information Only)

Sharon Winn reported the following changes in the ACGM.

Course title changes: BIOL 1406 ~~General~~ Biology for Science Majors I, BIOL 1407 ~~General~~ Biology for Science Majors II, MATH 1332 Contemporary Mathematics I, and PHED 1321 Coaching/Sports/Athletics I.

Course description changes and/or learner outcome changes: MATH 2413 Calculus I, MATH 2414 Calculus II, PHYS 1415 Physical Science I, SPAN 1411 Beginning Spanish I, SPAN 1412 Beginning Spanish II, TECA 1311 Educating Young Children, all MUAP courses, and MUSI 1304 Foundations of Music. Course title and description changes: MUEN 1151 Chamber (**Small**) Vocal Ensembles, and MUEN 1152 Chamber (**Small**) Vocal Ensembles.

Sharon commented that we may choose to add to the course descriptions if necessary but we should have the published description at a minimum and that we are not required to adopt the ACGM course titles but by doing so we assist our students when they transfer to another college or university. Sharon noted that the main change in the course description for TECA 1311 is that the minimum hours of field experience increased from 15 to 16 hours.

Dr. Harkey said he anticipates that the ACGM will be developing more course outcomes in the near future.

J. Other

Shana Munson shared information about a free program called My EDU that helps students evaluate their degree plan, find information about professors, and other useful tools. Shana encouraged committee members to check out this program.

III. Adjourn

Greg Fowler motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mike Ruhl and unanimously accepted.