

ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES
April 11, 2016 – 11:00 a.m., GC 3112

1. **TOPIC:** Opening

Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez, chair of the Academic Council, opened the meeting with prayer requests and joined the Council members in prayer for a variety of needs.

2. **TOPIC:** Approval of Minutes of meeting on March 21, 2016

Minutes were distributed electronically prior to the meeting. Dr. Timothy Norton moved for acceptance of the minutes. Dr. Kenneth Weed seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with no changes.

3. **TOPIC:** Report from Awards Committee

Dr. William McDonald, Chair of the Awards Committee, presented a report that had been distributed to the Council members electronically along with the current agenda and March Academic Council Minutes. Mr. Nathan Opp moved to accept the Awards Committee report for discussion by the Council. Dr. Timothy Norton seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

In summary of the discussion, significant concern surrounded the first point in the proposal, which was related to not allowing sabbatical research to be considered in the awards criteria. Dr. McDonald indicated that the Awards Committee considered a sabbatical to be an award to a faculty member and provided that faculty member an advantage over those conducting research as part of their regular academic load.

Additional questions by the Council involved clarification of the nomination process recommended by the Awards Committee and the standardization of the procedures for evaluating candidates for awards. Additional discussion centered around the point in the proposal to add an “at-large” faculty member to the Awards Committee, which would create an odd number on the committee and prevent a tie vote by the committee. The selection of the “at-large” member of the committee could be rotated through the various colleges. It was recommended by the committee to ask Dr. Jim Myers, committee member from the College of Education, to serve as the first “at-large” member.

Dr. Reid-Martinez thanked Dr. McDonald and the Awards Committee for their work during the year and the proposal which was presented to the Council.

ACTION: Dr. Reid-Martinez suggested that in the interim, decisions which result in a tie vote of the Awards Committee, be presented to the Provost to break the tie before presenting matters to the Academic Council. This would eliminate the need for an “at-large” faculty member being added to the committee this year. The idea was put into a motion by Dr. Andy Lang and seconded by Dr. David Burkus. The vote was 11 in favor of the motion, four opposed to the motion, and one abstention.

ACTION: Due to the amount of questions raised by the Council, Dr. Reid-Martinez recommended the creation of a sub-committee of the Council to study the proposal and make a recommendation to the Council at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The Subcommittee was charged to review this proposal prior to the end of this semester with recommendations for change to be brought to the August Academic Council meeting. This group also needs to present a recommendation for how all committees will break a tie. The following Council members volunteered/were appointed to serve on the subcommittee: Dr. Mark Hall, Dr. Kim Boyd, Dr. David Burkus, Mr. Nathan Opp, Dr. Even Culp, Dr. Lori Kanitz, and Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez.

OPEN

4. **TOPIC:** General Education Curriculum Committee – no report this month
5. **TOPIC:** Whole Person Christian Worldview Committee

Dr. Reid-Martinez reported that Dr. Patrick Otto, chair of the Whole Person Christian Worldview Committee, was pleased with the good response by the faculty in completing the Christian World View survey, which had been distributed electronically in March. To date, 119 faculty members had completed the survey. Results have not yet been compiled.

OPEN

6. **TOPIC:** Appointment/Election of members of the Academic Council and the Academic Committees for 2016-17

Mr. Terry Unruh, Vice Chair of the Academic Council, shared the results of faculty elections and appointments, which have been received from various academic deans. Of the 12 faculty members on the Academic Council, six members (one from each college) will rotate off as follows:

Arts and Cultural Studies	in the process of replacing Dr. Stephanie Coker
Business	in the process of replacing Mr. Terry Unruh
Education	Dr. Chancey Bosch will replace Dr. Timothy Norton
Nursing	in the process of replacing Dr. Audrey Thompson
Science and Engineering	Dr. Lanny Endicott will replace Dr. Andy Lang
Theology and Missions	Dr. Tim Ekblad will replace Dr. Edward Watson

Of the six members of the Awards Committee, three will rotate off. The selection of which members to rotate for 2016-17 was left to the discretion of the committee. The other three members will rotate off in 2017-18. Committee members for 2016-17:

Arts and Cultural Studies	Dr. Solomon Hailu remains for a second year
Business	in the process of replacing Dr. Rinne Martin
Education	in the process of replacing Dr. Jim Myers (even if he is retained as an “at-large” member)
Nursing	Dr. JoeAnn Robinson for a second year
Science and Engineering	Dr. Bill Gordon will replace Mr. Bob Canada
Theology and Missions	Dr. William McDonald remains for a second year

Of the six members of the Whole Person Christian World View Committee, three will rotate off. The selection of which members to rotate for 2016-17 was left to the discretion of the committee. The other three members will rotate off in 2017-18. Committee members for 2016-17:

Arts and Cultural Studies	Dr. Rafael Barreiro remains for a second year
Business	in the process of replacing Dr. Jim Russell
Education	Dr. Patrick Otto remains for a second year
Nursing	in the process of replacing Dr. Patricia Catts
Science and Engineering	Dr. Dominic Halsmer will replace Dr. Andrea Walker
Theology and Missions	Dr. James Shelton will replace Dr. Trevor Grizzle

The 15 members of the General Education Committee have been asked to remain intact for three entire years until the general education review process has been completed. During the fourth year (2018-19) a certain number of the members will rotate off. The selection of which members to rotate will be left to the discretion of the committee. Committee members for 2016-17 and 2017-18:

Arts and Cultural Studies	Dr. Lori Kanitz, Ms. Rhonda Gallgher, Dr. Michael Fulton, Ms. Beverly Garrison, Dr. Tim Waters
Business	Mr. Jonathan Wiley
Education	Dr. Linda Dunham
Nursing	Dr. Cheryl Swanson

Science and Engineering	Dr. Andy Lang, Dr. Randy Feller (replaces Ms. Judith Mayton who is retiring), Ms. Rachel Budavich, Ms. Leigh Anne Locke (replaces Mr. Daniel Ward who is retiring), Dr. Elena Gregg, Ms. Nancy Mankin
Theology and Missions	Dr. Sam Thorpe

ACTION: None

OPEN

7. **TOPIC:** Old Business – Faculty Emeritus Candidates

Dr. Reid-Martinez reported that all candidates for faculty emeritus status who were approved by the Council in March had been submitted to President Wilson's office for approval and submission to the Board of Trustees.

CLOSED

8. **TOPIC:** Old Business – schedule for faculty meetings for 2016-17

Dr. Reid-Martinez referenced the revised schedule distributed electronically prior to the Academic Council meeting, asking if anyone had any questions or corrections to the schedule that had been presented in the March Council meeting and subsequently revised to include Council recommendations and actual dates for 2016-17. No changes were recommended. The schedule was approved unanimously.

CLOSED

9. **TOPIC:** New Business – proposal from the College of Science and Engineering

Dr. Kenneth Weed, Dean of the College of Science and Engineering, presented a proposal from his college regarding a change in the university policy that sets the minimum number of hours for any ORU undergraduate degree at 128. At the April 4, 2016, meeting of the College of Science and Engineering, the faculty members of that college had unanimously approved a new on-line major (a B.S. in Information Technology) with 54 hours of general education, 30 hours in the major, 12 hours in the cognate, 18 hours in the minor, and 6 hours of elective for a total of 120 hours. Although a new major within a college does not require the approval of the Academic Council, the reduction in the total hours in the degree to 120 requires a change to university policy stated in the ORU catalog. The proposed change does

not require that all degrees be reduced to 120 hours. This requested policy change requires the approval of the Academic Council.

Dr. Andy Lang moved to accept the report from Dr. Weed for discussion by the Council. The motion was seconded by Dr. Eric Newberg. Motion to accept the report for discussion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Reid Martinez opened the floor for discussion of this proposal. The following points in the proposal were reiterated including:

1. This proposal does not require the reduction in hours for any other ORU degree.
2. The 120 hour total is in line with 50% of bachelor degree programs in the US according to a study conducted by Complete College of America.
3. The 120 hour total is in line with HLC “Assumed Practices” and the policy set by the Oklahoma State Regents
4. Dr. Weed stated that this proposed degree meets the HLC criteria for “65% to 85% substantial equivalency” with the current Computer Information Technology major offered to residential students at ORU.

Council members expressed concern that changing the policy for one degree would most certainly put pressure on other ORU degrees to be reduced to 120 total hours to remain competitive. Dr. Reid-Martinez stated that this is a nation-wide movement to improve graduation rates and to meet federal requirements that universities demonstrate how they assure students graduate in a timely and affordable manner. A question arose concerning the need for the approval of the Board of Trustees since the reduction in total hours would reduce total university revenues in a tight fiscal period. The response suggested that this change might increase graduation rates and increase student retention, thus increasing total university revenues.

Members of the nursing faculty shared that the College of Nursing was facing similar pressures from their specialized accrediting body to reduce their degree to 120 total hours. Nursing will have an accreditation visit in the fall of 2016 and will be expected to show progress toward the reduction in the total hours of their program. Dr. Cheryl Swanson stated that the Nursing program is not being required to have this reduction in place by the time of the accreditation visit.

Comments were also made concerning the timing of this proposal so late in the spring semester with an urgency to be passed by the Council with little opportunity for reflection and input from faculty members in the other colleges. Dr. Andy Lang and Dr. Sergio Matviuk responded that this new on-line degree is set to be launched in the fall of 2016 and must be competitive with other on-line programs in order to be successful. If the Council

does not approve the change in the 120 hour minimum degree policy, then this degree program will have to be sent back to the College of Science and Engineering faculty to be revised and subsequently approved, which would likely jeopardize the launch of the new program this fall.

ACTION: A motion to table the vote on this proposal was made by Mr. Nathan Opp. The motion was seconded by Dr. Eric Newberg. Dr. Reid- Martinez asked for clarification on the motion to table to include a plan of action to revisit this proposal. After much discussion about the need to act on this proposal in a timely manner, the motion to table included a recommendation for the Council to meet again this Friday, April 15, immediately after chapel. Motion passed with 15 in favor, 3 opposed, and 3 abstentions. Council members were urged to discuss this proposal with their respective faculty and chairs prior to Friday's meeting.

OPEN

10. TOPIC: Future Council meetings

Today was the last regularly scheduled meeting of the Academic Council for 2015-16. Notice will be sent to Council members if additional meetings are scheduled during the summer months.

11. TOPIC: Announcements

Dr. Reid-Martinez reminded everyone of the Lunch and Learn today in the Trustees' Dining Room.

12. TOPIC: Adjournment

The Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Unruh

Terry Unruh
Vice Chair, Academic Council