

**ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES
November 16, 2015 – 11:00 a.m., GC 3112**

1. **TOPIC:** Opening

Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez, ORU Provost and chair of the Academic Council, welcomed Council members and asked for prayer requests. She led a time of corporate prayer for various needs, including the impact of the recent shootings in Paris.

2. **TOPIC:** Approval of Minutes of meeting on October 19, 2015

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION: Minutes were distributed electronically in the week before the Council meeting. One correction to the October 19 minutes was recommended - in item #7, the ACTION by Dr. Lori Kanitz should be changed from “. . . and bring a proposal to the November meeting of the Academic Council” to “. . . to form a subcommittee to redraft the proposal made at the April 2015 Faculty Senate meeting and then report again at the November meeting of the Academic Council.” Move for acceptance as amended by Dr. Kenda Jezek, seconded by Dr. Ken Weed. Approved unanimously.

ACTION: None.

CLOSED

3. **TOPIC:** Provost Update

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION: Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez reported that she made a presentation at the recent meetings of the ORU Board of Trustees which was well received by the Academic Committee of the Board. Dr. Wilson plans to share more details concerning the Board meeting at next Monday's University Faculty meeting. The board was also informed of the upcoming HLC accreditation visit.

Dr. Reid Martinez asked Dr. Mark Hall, Dean of the College of Arts and Cultural Studies, to talk about the new academic programs in his college. The Music Therapy program is already full and has received dual accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) and American Music Therapy Association (AMTA). An application has been submitted for post BS certification in Music Therapy. This certification has been requested by many alumni who want to return to ORU for additional training. The Music Technology program has been updated and renamed Music Production. The Worship Arts major has been revamped and now includes five separate concentration tracks in (1) Theology, (2) Theater, (3) Music Production, (4) Ethno-Musicology, and (5) Dance. A Film Scoring track in the Composition major is being developed.

Dr. Reid-Martinez was pleased to announce the Nursing program completed an external review by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing and, in the exit interview, the reviewer indicated her report would have no recommendation for improvement. A review of the

Nursing program by the national certification group, Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), will take place in February 2016. This good news marks the fourth clean report recently received by ORU programs, including Education, Music, Nursing, and the spring 2015 HLC Visit.

On-line enrollment continues to grow with approximately 395 students this fall. This number is on target with original plans for the on-line programs. Dr. Jay Gary is the new chair of on-line programs and will assist with development for online faculty. Dr. Sergio Matviuk, Dean of On-Line and Life-Long Learning, plans to launch an on-line BS in Psychology in spring 2016, and a BS in Information Technology in fall 2016. He is discussing the development of online BS programs in International Business and Ministry, as well as one in Management.

At the Provost's request, Dr. Easterling shared that he is reviewing how we report faculty loads. Dr. Easterling also reported that program review is an ongoing rather than periodic process at ORU. Dr. Connie Sjoberg and Dr. Gweth Holzman, as well as Senior Institutional Research Assistant Lee Tarrant, assist with this process. Program review includes studies of retention, graduation success, and assessment in every program.

Dr. Reid-Martinez reported that the new faculty governance structures were approved by the Board of Trustees last summer. The recently revised faculty handbook is available on-line and includes the new governance structure and reconstituted committees. She thanked the Task Group on the Role of Faculty in Governance for their excellent work throughout last school year and last summer.

Dr. Reid-Martinez reported that the three-year process of general education review is underway. Also under consideration is a new Ph.D. in Global Christian Studies in the College of Theology and Missions. She encouraged other colleges to submit proposals and ideas for additional or new programs at all levels.

Dr. Andy Lang from the College of Science and Engineering asked if there could be improvements in the communication, to include more information about any proposed new programs. Another concern is that reports have been sent to the Public Relations Department but little has been publicly reported. Dr. Reid-Martinez acknowledged the issue and indicated that she would work with the VP Ossie Mills on this. She indicated that it was important for all academic departments and colleges to update their web pages to reflect changes and new initiatives in their programs. Members of the Academic Council recommended the faculty newsletter as a source of information about faculty scholarly activities and program developments, but recognized that the newsletter does not meet the need of external communication.

Dr. Eric Newberg from the College of Theology and Missions, indicated frustration in the information requested from the alumni office to assist in the promotion of the new Ph.D. program. Dr. Reid Martinez responded that VP Laura Bishop is aware of these problems and that it is currently being addressed. The Provost will ask for an update from VP Bishop on the current status of the alumni data base accuracy.

Dr. Andy Lang raised a concern about the process for determining which classes or class sections should be cancelled. Currently, the determining factor is low enrollment in a particular class. But this process ignores the faculty load. For example a faculty member may have a class of 40 students and a different course with only 5 students. Dr. Lang suggested a change in the cancellation criteria from students in a particular class to students contact hours for a particular faculty member.

ACTION: Dr. Reid-Martinez will check with Dr. Even Culp to insure all faculty curricula vitae have been updated on the website prior to the HLC visit. Dr. Reid-Martinez will discuss the class cancellation at the Academic Deans weekly meeting. Dr. Reid-Martinez will invite VP Laura Bishop to a future meeting of the Academic Council.

OPEN

4. **TOPIC:** Rules of Order for Academic Council Meetings

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION: Mr. Terry Unruh reported that the revised rules had been distributed electronically to all Council members along with the minutes of the October Council meeting. The rules of order are also on the Academic Council website. Mr. Unruh asked if there were any additional questions or revisions to the rules of order. None were offered.

CLOSED

5. **TOPIC:** Conflict with Academic Council and Academic Committee meetings

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION: Mr. Terry Unruh has contacted members of the Awards Committee and the Whole Person Christian World View Committee to (1) determine if their committee has met, (2) determine if their committee has elected a chair, and (3) to communicate the policy approved by the Academic Council in which the Chairs of Academic Committees are asked to be available from 11:00–11:30 on the third Monday of the month in order to make reports to the Academic Council and then return to their committee meeting after presenting to the Academic Council. Unfortunately, neither of the committees has met this year, primarily because no one was appointed to convene these meetings.

ACTION: Dr. Reid-Martinez asked the Task Group on the Role of Faculty in Governance to stay after the conclusion of the Council meeting to discuss ideas how to initiate the activity of these committees.

OPEN

6. **TOPIC:** Review of General Education Curriculum

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION: Ongoing. No report

OPEN

7. **TOPIC:** Distinctions between a BS and a BA degree at ORU.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION: Dr. Lori Kanitz, chair of the General Education Curriculum Committee, reported that a sub-committee has been appointed to study the issue and prepare a proposal as soon as possible

ACTION: None.

OPEN

8. **TOPIC:** New Business

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION: None.

CLOSED

9. **TOPIC:** Announcements of future meetings of Academic Council

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION: Dr. Reid-Martinez pointed out that the Council will not meet in December because of Christmas holidays and will not meet in January because the third Monday is Martin Luther King Day. Should any matters arise between now and the February Council meeting that would require action by the Council, electronic notification will be used to announce the time and place of a meeting.

CLOSED

10. **TOPIC:** Announcements and closing thoughts

The Missouri-Oklahoma-Kansas-Arkansas (MOKA) 2015 Ellucian Users Group Conference will be meeting on November 18 and 19 on the 21st floor and 60th floor of the Citiplex Towers. The event will have 36 different sessions and 15 vendors present. Thirty-six institutions will be involved and 257 people will be participating.

Today at 1:00 a demonstration of the new D2L “Leap” program will occur in LRC 118.

The Global Learning Center lab should be open in January 2016.

President Wilson returned to China this week. The Chinese Ministry of Education is interested in our liberal arts programs. We are currently investigating future opportunities in Europe.

The nursing department has experienced recent thefts and break-ins. Dr. Kenda Jezek warned that these types of activities seem to escalate as the holidays draw near.

CLOSED

11. **TOPIC:** Adjournment

ACTION: The Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Unruh

Terry Unruh
Vice Chair, Academic Council