

**ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES
August 15, 2016 11:00 a.m. – 11:35 a.m., GC 3112**

1. **TOPIC:** Opening

Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez, chair of the Academic Council, opened the meeting with prayer for healing and restoration for faculty and family members.

2. **TOPIC:** Approval of Minutes of meeting on April 11, 2016

Minutes were distributed electronically prior to the meeting and available in hard copy. Dr. Jezek moved for acceptance of the minutes. Dr. Newberg seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with no changes.

3. **TOPIC:** Approval of Minutes of meeting on April 15, 2016

Minutes were distributed electronically prior to the meeting and available in hard copy. Dr. Weed moved for acceptance of the minutes. Mr. Opp seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with no changes.

4. **TOPIC:** Announcement - Dr. Lori Kanitz is resigning her position at ORU in August 2016.

Dr. Lori Kanitz's last day is August 29, 2016 as ORU faculty. The Provost stated an announcement will be made the next Academic Council meeting on the appointed Chair of the General Education Committee. No reported General Education Committee concerns.

5. **TOPIC:** Definition of Intercultural Experience

DISCUSSION: The proposed definition was displayed on the screen as follows:

Definition of Intercultural Experience: Encounters, interactions, and involvement among people from different cultural backgrounds, countries, or regions of the same country that develop students' cognitive, affective, behavioral skills and attitudinal responses.

Council members were asked to reflect on this definition. An Alternate recommendation by Dr. Jim Russell was given as follows:

Definition of Intercultural Experience: Encounters, interactions, and involvement among people from different cultural backgrounds, countries, or

regions of the same country that develop students' cognitive, affective and behavioral skills and **intercultural** attitudinal responses.

CONCLUSION: Both definitions will be emailed to the Deans for review in their colleges.

ACTION: The Deans from the Colleges will discuss the original and alternate definitions at their next College meeting, to bring back feedback to the next Academic Council meeting on September 19th. The timeline will allow for follow up in October and a possible resolution in November's Academic Council meeting.

OPEN

6. **TOPIC:** Proposal to Reduce the Minimum number of hours in an Undergraduate degree from 128 to 120.

DISCUSSION: The two proposals for the exception to policy to reduce the number of credit hours for graduation proposed last spring by the Academic Council to the University Faculty were approved by University Faculty on May 3, 2016, through a quorum and with the necessary majority votes. Mr. David Fulmer reported that the University catalog has been updated to state a minimum of 120 college credit hours for the new online degrees and the planned change for the College of Nursing.

ACTION: None

CLOSED

7. **TOPIC:** Increase faculty understanding of number of credit hours required for graduation

DISCUSSION: Members for the ad hoc committee to identify critical issues related to a change of credit hours in degree plans were named. The members represent each college, including the Chair of General Education Curriculum Committee and the University Registrar. The committee members are Dr. Cheryl Swanson, Dr. Jim Russell, Dr. Mark Hall, Dr. Linda Dunhum, Dr. Thorpe, Mr. David Fulmer and Dr. Lori Kanitz. The goal is to have this ad hoc committee provide needed information for a well-informed Academic Council on this topic

ACTION: The committee members will be contacted by the Dean of each college. An interim report will be presented in the September 19 Academic

Council meeting and a full report presented in October. The Provost will appoint someone to chair the committee.

OPEN

8. **TOPIC:** Higher Learning Commission accreditation visit

DISCUSSION: The Provost reminded the Council that the HLC visit is scheduled for Monday, October 31, 2016, and Tuesday, November 1, 2016. Dr. Weed reported that the HLC report will be submitted at the end of August. Dr. Weed indicated the need to increase faculty awareness of the HLC visit. Dr. Boyd is leading the initiative to host the HLC peer reviewers during their time on campus. The Trustee's Dining room and the conference rooms on the GC 6th floor will be the primary location reserved for this event. The Provost recognized the work of Dr. Cal Easterling, ORU's HLC Liaison, for his work in laying a good foundation for the HLC visit. This report will present a clear alignment of strategic initiatives related to the budget and the University's Adaptive Plan.

ACTION: Dr. Weed and the provost will bring any updates to the next meeting on September 19.

OPEN

9. **TOPIC:** New Business

DISCUSSION: No further reports or announcements were presented. Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez requested prayer for unity among the faculty and student body.

ACTION: Dr. Weed closed the meeting in prayer.

The Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Corie VanArsdale

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Vice Chair, Academic Council