

**ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES**

August 20, 2018 11:02 a.m. – 11:56 p.m. GC 3116

1. TOPIC: Opening

Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez, Chair of the Academic Council, opened with prayer.

2. TOPIC: Approval of Minutes of the meeting on April 16, 2018.

DISCUSSION: Minutes were sent to members via email. Dr. Jezek moved and Dr. Roberts seconded to approve the minutes. The Academic Council unanimously accepted the minutes.

ACTION: None.

CLOSED

3. TOPIC: The Academic Council discussed various items of interest that could be discussed throughout the 2018-2019 academic year.

DISCUSSION: A question was asked regarding the role Academic Council will play this year in defining leadership. Dr. Hall asked if Academic Council can address how ORU can be intentional about leadership in the curriculum and working with student life. Dr. Reid-Martinez asked if Academic Council could create a process or system for a broad curriculum map for leadership during a student's four years at ORU. The Action points below are potential issues the University may need to address and discuss across the university.

ACTION: The Deans and Colleges will need to revisit the university outcomes, specifically the "Leadership Capacity" outcome that is currently under the "Socially Adept" proficiency. Additionally, Dr. Reid-Martinez noted that the university will need to develop a common definition of leadership, as well as a map of leadership competencies across the curriculum, co-curricular dimensions of leadership, and outcomes of leadership (i.e., "Leadership Capacity"). Additionally, this initiative must include information on how to meet these outcomes for transfer students who may not attend ORU all four years.

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4. TOPIC: The Academic Council discussed items related to faculty support

DISCUSSION:

- Dr. Lyons requested that a letter from the Academic Council, in support of the initiative to increase awareness of and leadership outcomes at the university as well as excellence in teaching, be sent to the Board of Trustees.
 - **ACTION:** Dr. Lyons and Dr. Sjoberg will write the letter, send it to the Academic Council for review, and it will be voted on during September's Academic Council meeting.

- Dr. Buker asked that that Academic Council focus its meetings towards the unique programs ORU offers as a spirit-empowered university that no one else offers. For instance, what content that is taught at ORU is unique and informed by the research that we do? Furthermore, what are the parameters for excellence and teaching? Dr. Jezek added that since ORU faculty are truly spirit-empowered, we must focus on the faculty and the difference being spirit-empowered makes to our teaching. Further discussion raised the question of, “how do faculty hear the voice of God and how do they hear the voice of God in order to help students fulfill ORU’s mission.”
 - **ACTION:** Dr. Reid-Martinez asked that we look at the resources within faculty development that supports the art of pedagogy and that more resources in the future could be used towards helping teachers in content and delivery.
- Dr. Weed asked what Spirit-empowered teaching and learning should look like. He reported that last time ORU focused on teaching with excellence, the result was *The Journal of the Scholarship for Teaching and Learning for Christians in Higher Education*. As such, Dr. Weed expressed that the conflict between teaching and research may be mitigated by combining the two and researching what the Holy Spirit would have faculty do in the classroom and share that with the Academy at large. Dr. Reid-Martinez then inquired what the best way was to blend both the experiential and cognitive components in the classroom and the conscious reflection of those components. Furthermore, she reported that the faculty must be able to dialogue and share their experiences and good practices with each other.
 - **ACTION:** Dr. Jezek proposed and Dr. Reid-Martinez requested Dr. Lang to review how to create a virtual space where faculty can begin to share their good practices for experiential engagement of student and cognitive learning in the classroom. Additionally, these best practices along with the integration of faith with academics are encouraged to be shared with the broader academy as well as other external constituents.

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5. **TOPIC:** University Planning Committee – Impact 2030 work groups

DISCUSSION: None

ACTION: The University Planning Committee - Impact 2030 academic work groups on pedagogy-curriculum and teaching will share their progress at the September Academic Council meeting.

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The Academic Council meeting adjourned at approximately 11:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip Nelson, Academic Council Secretary