

**ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES**

September 19, 2016 11:05 a.m. – 12:10 p.m., GC 3112

1. TOPIC: Opening

Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez, chair of the Academic Council, and Council members participated in prayer for healing and restoration for faculty, family members, friends and students. Two students are dealing with a family loss.

2. TOPIC: Approval of Minutes of meeting on August 15, 2016

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

3. TOPIC: Christian Worldview Committee

Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez reported on the Christian Worldview Committee regarding first analysis committee work.

4. TOPIC: General Education Curriculum Committee

Dr. Sjoberg reported on the transition from Dr. Lori Kanitz to Dr. Andy Lang as the Chair of General Education Curriculum Committee. Dr. Sjoberg reported on moving forward with the review process. The committee is doing a Gen Ed assessment with the Sophomores related to National norms and updating e-portfolio systems. The four members of the committee to reform the General Education Curriculum will serve as co-chairs following the departure of Dr. Lori Kanitz.

5. TOPIC: Definition of Intercultural Experience

DISCUSSION: Dr. Jezek moved to accept the basic definition of Intercultural Experience for discussion by the Council. Dr. Catts seconded the motion. Dr. Reid Martinez opened the floor for discussion of this proposal. Dr. Sergio Matviuk shared on the difference between involvement versus interpersonal communication. Dr. Weed shared concerns that the discussion be focused on transformation and involvement to what end, which, after discussion was taken back to the university mission and vision. Dr. Endicott commented on the need to recognize human diversity as a more inclusive term, rather than looking at the cultural component. Comments, also, were provided by the following deans who represented each college's view: Dr. Hall, Dr. Huntley, Dr. Jezek, Dr. Boyd, Dr. Weed, Dr. Matviuk, and Dr. Synan. Academic Council members, Dr. Angela

Watson, Dr. Opp, Dr. Catts, Dr. Newberg and Dr. Endicott engaged in the discussion. Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez guided the discussion. The proposed definition was changed to:

Definition of Intercultural Experience: Transformative involvement among people from different cultural backgrounds, countries, or regions.

In conclusion, Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez recommended that a member of the Academic Council would be responsible to construct a ½ to 1 page document that provides an explanation of the definition in light of ORU's mission statement and clarification on the range of activities that could be used to operationalize the term involvement, especially as they related to stages of learning development. Future input could be provided by Dr. Marcela Chavan, the Department of Psychology, and College of Education.

Motion to accept the Intercultural Experience definition was approved unanimously.

ACTIONS:

- Dr. Mark Hall will oversee the construction of a short ½ to 1 page position paper that would establish a preface to the definition of Intercultural Experience and will provide clarification on the term involvement related to the range of possible activities that could be incorporated into this learning experience. The paper will be presented at the next Academic Council meeting.

OPEN

6. TOPIC: Higher Learning Commission accreditation visit

DISCUSSION: Dr. Sjoberg reported that the Steering Committee has been active and in contact with the Peer Review team. Dr. Boyd shared on the logistics of the HLC visit, which will be Monday October 31 and Tuesday November 1. The team's time at ORU has been extended through Wednesday for the HLC to write the report. The HLC team will meet with the Board of Trustees on Monday, The Steering Committee is in the process of looking at online students to visit with the HLC. Dr. Sjoberg shared about the open forum, which faculty can attend. She indicated that announcements about the open forums will be made to faculty and students. Dr. Sjoberg indicated that ORU received favorable ratings on the recent HLC opinion survey provided to students.

ACTION: Drs. Boyd and Sjoberg will provide an update at the next meeting of the Academic Council.

OPEN

7. **TOPIC:** New Business

DISCUSSION: Since the October 31 HLC visit is on the same day as University Faculty meetings, Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez recommended that the Academic Council provide an alternate for its meeting on October 24, 2016, since the University Faculty meeting may need to be moved to that date. The Council agreed that if the University Faculty meeting changed dates, then the alternate meeting date for the Academic Council would be Wednesday, October 12th from 12:00-1:00 pm.

ACTION: None.

CLOSED

8. **TOPIC:** Announcements

- Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez reported that ORU Campus Revival is Wednesday, October 26th starting at noon through Thursday, October 27th at noon. Classes will be dismissed during that time period. Faculty are asked to talk with their Deans on any difficult situations regarding class dismissal.
- Professor Corie VanArsdale shared on the anticipated week of Culture Fest activities. Cultural Fest is on Wednesday, October 5, 2016, in the area outside of Timko Barton Hall from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm. All students, staff and faculty are invited to attend the International and National event.

9. **TOPIC:** Adjournment

The Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Corie VanArsdale

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Vice Chair, Academic Council