

**ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES**

September 17, 2018 11:05 a.m. – 12:38 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 August 20, 2018.

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

ACTION: None.

CLOSED

3. TOPIC: General Education Curriculum Committee Report – Dr. Andrew Lang

DISCUSSION: General Education Curriculum Committee (GECC) approved GEN 307 (Women's History: A Journey to Empowerment), GEN 343 (Middle East Today), and GEN 377 (Christian Worldview, Culture, and Apologetics). The Academic Council was reminded that the GECC reports to the Academic Council for final approval of all, new General Education course proposals to enter the ORU Catalog. Then, the course proposals are reported at the University Faculty meeting (no vote). Dr. Dyson inquired how new courses will be staffed. Dr. Ellis reported that if a course proposal is brought forward, it will be staffed from a Chair's perspective, but that Deans have turned some proposals down that could not be staff (see "Action" for recommendations at Deans' Council meeting). There was concern regarding the GECC not having enough input from all faculty regarding classes being offered and course descriptions. Dr. Lang remind the Academic Council that all GECC meetings are open to all faculty and that they are allowed to give input or feedback, but are not allowed to vote.

There were some edits recommended regarding the courses being proposed. Dr. Weed recommended that the Academic Council only discuss changes to new proposed course syllabi for the title and course description, as all other information is not static (i.e., it can be changed every semester if the instructor deems necessary) and does not go in the ORU Catalog. Dr. Reid-Martinez remind the Academic Council that new General Education course proposals such as the Scaffolded Interdisciplinary Courses (SIC) are not changing the required General Education curriculum, but are adding other options as part of the SIC selections. Friendly amendments were made to the following courses and their respective "Course Descriptions":

- GEN 307: "balanced" should be changed so that it does not state that empowerment has already been reached or is done
- GEN 343: concerns were presented on how to measure "student will develop Christian character and worldview through spiritual formation exercises."
- GEN 377: clarify what the "Surveys shift in worldviews" means.

There was a motion to receive all 300-level (single instructor) SIC) with a single vote. Dr. Gary moved, Dr. Livingston seconded.

Vote: Y: 17, N: 0

GECC also approved GEN 430 (Peacebuilding, Communication and Culture) which is a team-taught SIC by two instructors. There was a recommendation that the Department monitor whether or not the students get enough of the understanding of the cross-cultural dimensions in this course.

Vote: Y: 17, N: 0

Additionally, GECC approved CSC 111 (Introduction to Computing) and CSC 201 (Introduction to Data Science) as a 3-hour General Education Science course for all B.S. programs. Dr. Lang reported that if a current B.S. program requires either CSC 111 or CSC 201, then it cannot count towards the required 3-unit General Education Science course.

Vote: Y: 17, N: 0

Lastly, GECC approved the following: “To reduce the required number of general education SIC hours from 12 to 6 (COMP 303 plus one GEN SIC course) for the following pre-professional programs for which there are no undergraduate specialized accrediting bodies: **HES Pre-Physical Therapy, HES Pre-Sports Medicine, Molecular Medical Biology, and Biomedical Chemistry.**” Dr. Lang reported that these four programs will be granted an exception with the understanding that future programs who desire this exception will not only have to abide by these stated rules, but will need to submit a one-page justification for this exception with future proposals.

Vote: Y: 17, N: 0

ACTION: At the next Academic Deans’ Council, a discussion needs to take place regarding the approval of new General Education course proposals in light of funding issues.

CLOSED

4. **TOPIC:** Leadership capacity and “Socially Adept” proficiency - Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez

DISCUSSION: Will discuss at the next Academic Council meeting.

ACTION: None

OPEN

5. **TOPIC:** Letter in support of the Vision for leadership and excellence in teaching - Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez

DISCUSSION: Dr. Sjoberg shared the letter that Dr. Lyons and she wrote. It was recommended that the letter state Academic Council’s endorsement of the Vision for leadership and excellence in teaching with the hope that the President will share the letter with the Board of Trustees at their next meeting. Dr. Boyd stated that the letter should emphasize continued improvement in teaching. Additionally, the term “innovation” as well as the concern regarding scholarship should be incorporated into the letter.

ACTION: Dr. Lyons and Dr. Sjoberg will edit the letter by 10/17/18, so that it can be sent out with the Agenda for the next Academic Council meeting on 10/22/18.

OPEN

6. **TOPIC:** Programs unique to ORU and related pedagogy and University Planning Committee: Impact 2030 work groups - Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez

DISCUSSION: Dr. Huntley discussed the role of faculty for 2030 which included faculty credentialing, the role of research, and the role of faculty in the classroom (in regards to the cultural changes that may be observed among students). Dr. Weed discussed curriculum issues and teaching methodologies for 2030 with their continued emphasis on ORU's whole-person leadership through Spirit-empowered engagement of students. They seek to answer the question of how to maintain this emphasis with new methodologies in light of globalization and the future of online education/programs. Furthermore, the desire is to persevere the core of what ORU is no matter how the methods or curriculum changes.

ACTION: Any ideas regarding unique aspects/programs from a faculty viewpoint should be sent to Dr. Huntley this week as they are preparing the final document.

OPEN

7. **TOPIC:** Virtual space for faculty to share good practices for experiential engagement of students and cognitive learning in the classroom - Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez

DISCUSSION: Dr. Lang reported that he and others are working to create a D2L shell for all faculty members to see if that is a platform that all would agree to use. He would like clarification as to the direction that faculty should post in order to facilitate priming questions.

ACTION: Dr. Weed and Dr. Reid-Martinez will bring back feedback from the University Planning Committee next time to share with Dr. Lang and others.

OPEN

8. **TOPIC:** Announcements

The Academic Council meeting adjourned at approximately 12:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip Nelson, Academic Council Secretary