

**ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES**

November 21, 2016 11:02 a.m. – 11:30 p.m., GC 3112

1. **TOPIC:** Opening

Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez, chair of the Academic Council opened the meeting and requested Dr. Synan to pray for travel safety for students, staff and faculty over the Thanksgiving break and giving thanks related to the completion of the HLC visit.

2. **TOPIC:** Approval of Minutes of meeting on October 24, 2016

DISCUSSION: Minutes were distributed electronically prior to the meeting and available in hard copy. Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez stated the minutes were approved unanimously without corrections.

ACTION: None

CLOSED

3. **TOPIC:** Discussion of current process for new keys for faculty and staff.

DISCUSSION: Dr. Weed introduced the current key request and distribution process for adjunct faculty to receive keys. Currently, faculty can submit the form for a new key on campus without a permission process. Academic Council members provided feedback on their experiences related to the current process on new key administration from HR and Sodexo. The following faculty contributed to the discussion, Mr. Opp requested an automatic process and Dr. Sjoberg reported on HR's role in distributing keys. Additional comments were made by Mr. Fulmer, Dr. Mark Hall and Dr. Russell.

ACTION: Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez will review the process and work with HR and CIO Mathews to determine if an automated system can be put in place.

OPEN

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

DISCUSSION: Dr. Sjoberg reported that ORU has not received the preliminary report from the Chair of the HLC. This next step in the process will include a "fact check" and the availability for ORU to respond to the HLC report. The final decision is expected in February 2017. Dr. Sjoberg reported on the assessment criteria and feedback from one of the HLC reviewers. An example was given from the last page on the e-portfolio results with "What are you doing with your data? Are we at ORU being responsible with the data we have?" Dr. Reid-Martinez thanked Dr. Sjoberg and asked that this item be closed since it was related to the Peer Review visit October 31 and November 1. The

Provost thanked the HLC Steering Committee, Dr. Weed, Dr. Sjoberg, Dr. Boyd and Dr. Easterling for their HLC efforts and commended them for the great work in preparation of and during the HLC accreditation visit. She also indicated that the Academic Council would create a new agenda item for discussion on assessment at ORU.

ACTION: None.

CLOSED

5. **TOPIC:** New Business- Naturally evolving learning communities

DISCUSSION: Dr. Newberg opened the conversation by requesting clarification on learning centers. Dr. Reid-Martinez shared her ideas of students being more engaged in learning communities for problem solving, such as the Hyperloop project. This initiatives, along with flipped classrooms and cancer research at ORU forms natural, organic learning communities. The result of a natural evolving learning community involves cross disciplinary expertise and promotes student engagement in real life problems. Examples of cross-disciplinary dimensions include chemistry, bio-med, history and grant writing. Dr. Weed shared that this approach provides great opportunity for students research and real-world learning. The Provost shared on the contribution of the Librarians in becoming a support to the students in providing specific data bases on research topics.

ACTION: Leave as a discussion item.

OPEN

6. **TOPIC:** Announcements

- Mr. Fulmer reminded the Council that grades are due on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 by 11:59 pm. Also processing incomplete grades from the Spring and Summer semesters and change of grades need to be completed at this time. The Academic calendar is on the website to remind faculty and staff of the deadlines.
- Dr. Reid-Martinez reminded the Council that the Globalization Learning Center, GLC, will open in January 2017 for classes.
- Dr. Reid-Martinez stated the need to add information from committees at the next Academic Council meeting.

The Council meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Corie VanArsdale

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Vice Chair, Academic Council