

**ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC COUNCIL MINUTES**

**February 21, 2022
11:00 a.m. to 11:56 a.m.
GC 3114**

Chair: Kenneth Weed (in Dr. Reid-Martinez' absence)

Voting members in attendance: Kim Boyd, Bill Crawford, Curtis Ellis, Chris Foster, Cristi Freudenrich, Rebecca Gunn, Julie Huntley, Jane Malcolm, Norah Swiney

Voting members on Zoom: Brenna Bohatec, Jay Gary, Elena Gregg, Wonsuk Ma, Dean Prentice, Hal Reed

Voting members not in attendance: Bill Buker, Janet George

Supporting guests: Connie Sjoberg, Jonathan Weed, Christine Welden, Marshal Wright

1. **TOPIC:** Opening
Dr. Kenneth Weed opened with prayer.
2. **TOPIC:** Approval of Minutes of the meeting on January 24, 2022.

DISCUSSION: Members received copies of the minutes via email. The Minutes were accepted by Dr. Weed after no changes were requested.

ACTION: None.

CLOSED

3. **TOPIC:** Registrar's Office, Digital Diplomas via Blockchain – Dr. Connie Sjoberg and Mr. Jonathan Weed

DISCUSSION: Mr. Jonathan Weed showed the Academic Council the Digital Diploma via Blockchain. It was explained that graduating students would automatically receive a link to their Digital Diploma and that past graduates who have not received a Digital Diploma could request one from the Registrar's office. Any request from alumni for a Digital Diploma would have current signatures on it that may not match signatures from their original diploma. Graduates who receive the Digital Diploma link can send it to prospective or current employers who would then have immediate access to proof of their diploma.

ACTION: None

CLOSED

4. **TOPIC:** Updates from the Registrar's Office – Dr. Connie Sjoberg

DISCUSSION: Dr. Sjoberg shared important upcoming dates with the Academic Council. Advisement Weeks (February 21 - March 4), Graduation Fair (LRC 3rd - Thursday March 3), Summer/Fall Enrollment Begins (March 7), Deadline to Apply to

Graduate (registrar.oru.edu - March 15), and Deadline to Petition to Participate in Commencement (April 1).

ACTION: None
CLOSED

5. TOPIC: General Education Committee Proposal: GEN 402 - Crafting Solutions to Global Health Issues - Dr. Andrew Lang

DISCUSSION: Dr. Lang let the Academic Council know that GEN 402 would be team taught over the summer by a minimum of two faculty. There were no objections raised during the discussion.

Vote - Yes: 16, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0

ACTION: None
CLOSED

6. TOPIC: Faculty Emeriti - Dr. Kenneth Weed

DISCUSSION: An anonymous paper vote (or anonymous electronic for voting members attending via Zoom) for Faculty Emeriti was taken.

ACTION: The votes were given to Dr. Kenneth Weed to present to the Provost, Dr. Reid-Martinez. The Provost will forward the results to the President who will make recommendations to the Board of Trustees for their consideration during the April 2022 meeting.

CLOSED

7. TOPIC: Process for the consideration of the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar - Dr. Kenneth Weed

DISCUSSION: The Academic Council members discussed possible schedule changes and impacts on diversifying the types of experiences students have and how faculty shape those experiences. One member stated that fewer weeks in a semester (regardless of hours in class) result in less time outside of class for students to complete academic requirements while balancing work and other extracurricular activities. Another asked what the economic return would be of any impact on enrollment versus the academic costs to the learners. A suggestion was made for returning to a 50-minute classes on MWF by adopting the alternative schedule and starting the semester two days earlier. However, the Registrar's office said that a Monday or Tuesday start to the semester is difficult due to the extra staff required to cover move-in activities over the weekend. Lastly, a suggestion was made to poll student opinion concerning the academic calendar. The Registrar's office reported that students have an ORU chat app that would make such a survey possible.

ACTION: Academic Council members will discuss the academic calendar in their departments/colleges and revisit the topic during the March 2022 Academic Council meeting.
OPEN

The Academic Council meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Nelson, Ph.D., Academic Council Secretary