

**ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC COUNCIL MINUTES**

September 18, 2023

11:03 – 11:29 a.m.

GC 3114

Chair: Dr. Reid-Martinez

Voting members in attendance: Rebecca Attah, Chris Brown, Kim Boyd/Amanda Wilson, Dave Crowell, Curtis Ellis, Chris Foster, Jay Gary, Mark Hall, Julie Huntley, Jared Johnston, Audrey Thompson, Kenneth Weed, Stephen Wheat, Jan Woerner

Voting members on Zoom: Jamie Kitchens

Voting members not in attendance: Bill Buker, Janet George, Adrian Hinkle, Ruby Libertus, Dean Prentice

Supporting guests: Kyle Jones, Andy Lang, Connie Sjoberg (Zoom), Jonathan Weed, Christine Welden

1. **TOPIC:** Opening
Dr. Kathleen Reid-Martinez opened with prayer.
2. **TOPIC:** Approval of April 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

DISCUSSION: Members received copies of the minutes via email. Dr. Ellis moved, and Dr. Thompson seconded to accept the Minutes. The Minutes were unanimously accepted by the Academic Council.

ACTION: None.

CLOSED

3. **TOPIC:** "Special Topics" Courses

DISCUSSION: Dr. Lang continued last spring's discussion on the potential need for interdisciplinary "Special Topics" courses to facilitate the swift implementation of a Scaffolded Interdisciplinary Course (SIC). It was suggested that the General Education Committee would evaluate any proposed "Special Topics" courses if they were intended to be offered as SIC courses in an upcoming semester. The Council members noted that to help move the process quickly, the Academic Council could vote on these new "Special Topics" courses immediately following approval by the General Education Curriculum Committee. Additionally, they discussed that if a course were accepted as a "Special Topics" offering and taught on more than two occasions, it would be required to follow the appropriate procedures to gain approval as a SIC course under a specific name (no longer "Special Topics"). Christine Welden, from the Registrar's Office, reported that having multiple "Special Topics" courses with the same course number would not pose an issue. However, it was emphasized that the management of all "Special Topics" courses must be centralized within one College rather than being divided among multiple Colleges. These courses would be designated as "*GEN XXX - Special Topics: Course Specific Name*," and the General

Education Curriculum Committee Chair would oversee the redlines for these "Special Topics" courses.

ACTION: Dr. Lang, Dr. Weed, Dr. Ellis, and a member from the Registrar's Office will review processes and procedures for this proposal on "Special Topics" SIC courses and present their recommendations at the October Academic Council meeting.

OPEN

4. **TOPIC:** Updates from the Office of the Registrar

DISCUSSION: Christine Welden shared the following information:

- Group Advisement - October 16
- Advisement Week - October 16-20
- Spring/Summer '24 Enrollment Week – October 23-27
- 2024-25 Curriculum Change Proposals are due to the Registrar's Office before October 6
- Mid-term Grades are due to Vision on October 11th @ 8:00 AM
- New Fall Graduation Fair – November 8
- Finals Schedule is now posted with online calendars

ACTION: None

CLOSED

5. **TOPIC:** Additional Curriculum Issues

DISCUSSION: Dr. Reid-Martinez recommended faculty members engage in discussions within their respective Departments and Colleges regarding the potential necessity for an increased availability of upper-division GO courses. This consideration arises from the circumstance wherein some transfer students, upon enrolling with sufficient credits to exempt them from General Education requirements, find their options for taking GO courses as part of their graduation requirement constrained. Consequently, there is a potential need for expanding the offering of upper-division GO courses to accommodate these students better.

ACTION: Departments and Colleges should discuss this at their following department and college meetings in October before the next Academic Council meeting.

OPEN

The Academic Council meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Nelson, Ph.D., Academic Council Secretary