

**ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES**

January 12, 2026, 11:00 a.m. to 12:09 p.m., GC 3112

Chair: Provost Kathaleen Reid-Martinez

Voting members in attendance: Kim Boyd, Matthew Delaney, Rafael Duarte, Cal Easterling, Curtis Ellis, Randall Feller, Jay Gary, Janet George, Mark Hall, Adrian Hinkle, Julie Huntley, Jared Johnston, Dean Prentice, Kenneth Weed, Wendy Wells-O’Rear

Voting members not in attendance: Daniel Bunn, Angela Foster, Ray Smith, Norah Swiney, Audrey Thompson

Non-voting members and supporting guests: Kyle Jones, Andy Lang, Connie Sjoberg, Christine Welden, Amanda Wilson

1. Welcome and Prayer – Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez

2. Approval of Minutes from 11/17/2025 – Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez
DISCUSSION: Motion - Randall Feller, Second - Jay Gary
ACTION: Approved
CLOSED

3. Exploring Technology-Driven Innovations in Academic and Professional Practice – Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez
DISCUSSION: AI and technology in the Oral Roberts University classroom to enhance whole person education
 - Dr. Gary hosted a faculty open meeting with primarily online faculty with a growing distrust between faculty and students on the topic of AI with focus on student experience, discussed a potential request of removing generative AI from Grammarly available to faculty and students, faculty and students can turn it off as individuals
 - University policies posted in various places including syllabi, handbooks, and ORU web pages, ORU has implemented University-wide policies
 - Employers, especially Oklahoma institutions, require AI competencies to speed production
 - Potential of discussion for student cognitive development (AI slop), ethics, and effective use – AI should enhance student capacity, should not replace innovation – the student (employee) must be better than AI can produce, or AI will replace the student (employee)
 - Danger of speaking past desired ORU outcomes – professional versus personal information – whole person education tends to blend – what is the role of AI in balancing the professional development and personal formation
 - Technical issues – incorrect or inefficient use of AI leads to technical and reporting errors – faculty need guidance in communicating the correct use of AI to students

- Students need to learn to evaluate the quality of AI usage and critical of the results, faculty need to move students beyond the first draft into editing and evaluating
- AI is changing student assessment; evaluation needs to move toward critical thinking and results presentation
- Faculty training and development does take time, purpose, and support, with clear detailing of course-specific student AI-use expectations listed in the course syllabus
- AI will continue to improve and soon will allow students to complete and submit all the course assignments within moments and then grade the submitted assignments – what will be the role of the student and the faculty member?

ACTION:

- Colleges need to identify discipline-specific “champions” to investigate the correct use of AI within the various disciplines to help develop faculty guidance for student development; faculty need to learn about the available tools, like the VR/AR sandbox in the library
- General Education Committee will review “Information Literacy” to include generative AI in a specific general education course and then promote use of generative AI throughout the professional curriculum by developing a listing of desired AI-required outcomes to develop a procedure to provide students with AI certification
- Colleges to update the collection of professional AI usage data to help create a listing of AI-required outcomes to enhance whole person education
- Deans to consider how to resource faculty (time, funds, sources, etc.) to enhance whole person student learning experiences

CLOSED

4. Registrar Update – Dr. Connie Sjoberg

DISCUSSION: Beginning of semester deadlines with a focus on Tuesday, Jan 20, as drop day with one week to re-enroll

ACTION: Representatives asked to encourage faculty members to confirm enrollment of students after the Jan 20 drop

CLOSED

5. New Business – Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez

DISCUSSION: No items requested

CLOSED