

## ACADEMIC COUNCIL

### Minutes

April 16, 2020

3-4 pm – (Zoom Meeting)

#### 1. Changes to PsyD Admission Criteria

Provost shared that the PsyD admission criteria that was previously passed in Academic Council was returned from University Council to Faculty Senate for edit. Rick Short pointed out changes as follows: the criteria proposed in the original document listed numbers associated with the GPA and GRE requirement, the issue was we did not include language in that proposal that recognized strongly enough the multiple factors to take into consideration when making admission decisions. Added text stating the admission committee examines the unique experiences and qualifications of all our applications, which will allow going beyond simply looking at scores. Heather Kanenberg added it went to the Faculty Senate Executive Council before coming back to send to Academic Council.

A motion was made to approve by Steven Cotten, seconded by Felix Simieou.

**The policy was unanimously approved. Item was signed by President on 4/30/20.**

#### 2. Name change for Latino/a American Studies to Latinx and Latin American Studies

Rebecca Huss-Keeler made the request for a name change only. She explained that Desdama Rios, HSH, is making the recommendation to reflect the more broadly and frequently used term LatinX.

A motion was made to approve by Jeff Mountain, seconded by Elizabeth Beavers.

**The policy was unanimously approved. Item will move forward to University Council.**

#### 3. Middle Eastern Studies Minor

Rebecca Huss-Keeler pointed out that Maria Curtis had introduced the minor which has multiple courses available, some of which can be applied to study abroad coursework. Heather Kanenberg followed, noting item is a pre-existing HSH minor with some changes toward courses that already exist but will now be able to count towards the minor.

A motion was made to approve by Elizabeth Beavers, seconded by Jeff Mountain.

**The policy was unanimously approved. Item will move forward to University Council.**

#### 4. In Progress and Incomplete Grades

The Provost introduced the additional item to share edits that Kathy Matthew and Heather Kanenberg made to the policy. He requested expeditious support to assist faculty that will be involved with these circumstances. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee has reviewed the item. He emphasized the area of focus is what was written for in progress grades. Goal is to make sure we have a system for students that do not finish the number of hours in their internships or practicums and can continue the work in the next semester without re-registering for the course. He remarked, that Kathy Matthew noted the action somewhat parallels what was done for incompletes. The issue from the original version was the statement that the Provost would work out a system that students would not be harmed if COVID-19 pandemic impacted their ability to complete their internship or practicum or have to pay additional funds. Rebecca Huss-Keeler brought forth a concern that the sunset date of

May 12, which is before grades are due. Heather Kanenberg acknowledged and stated Faculty Senate was going to propose revising to May 21, the date grades are due. Stephen Cotten put forth a friendly amendment to change it from May 12 to the 21. Brian Stephens shared an email concern from a student doing master's research thesis credit and needs to come to campus. She is afraid she will have to re-enroll if her research cannot be completed this semester. The Provost suggested meeting with the college dean, if time permits completion, to see if we can use our ability to identify and grant the student access under the research category. He shared that in working with General Counsel, some arrangements have been identified that permit the granting of essential research designations for in progress lab and field work to prevent a negative impact on a student's educational experience. The pattern is following the University of Texas process. The Provost stated he would need to provide the form to be completed and then returned for his review and granting.

Kathryn Matthew explained that the completion of thesis and dissertations were too broad and therefore, not included. Heather Kanenberg added that the very first sentence should probably read: *some undergraduate and graduate internships and practicum*. The Provost accepted as friendly amendments.

A motion was made to approve by Stephen Cotten; Elizabeth Beavers seconded.

**One abstention; motion passes. Temporary policy; does not need to be forwarded to UC.**

## 5. Faculty Development Leave

Stephen Cotten shared the FDL document, explained that the Faculty Life Committee examined the policy for necessary updates and revisions, although the document has been re-written the meaning is the same. He pointed out the yellow highlights represents language adopted from legislation that most universities have in their policy. Policy was then outlined to show what it was awarded for. Some major changes include:

- Eligibility was changed from all full-time faculty to tenured faculty.
- Must be at least 5 years since last FDL was received which is in line with other Texas universities.
- Deadlines were moved back so FDL can be worked out before fall schedules were established to allow flexibility.
- September 15, Provost announces the number of funded FDL in the college, State law allows funding up to 6% of full time tenure track faculty.
- Made the allocation proportional overtime to number of tenure track faculty in each college.
- Applicants submit applications in October 15 - two months earlier.
- New tiebreakers were introduced: Preference goes to applicant that had their FDL approved but could not take it due to inability to find coverage for example OR two equal proposals equivalent on merit goes to the faculty member with the longest period of time between the last FDL taken.
- November 15 - College committee forwards the Dean a set of only approved proposals. Can be in ranked order.
- December 15 - Dean nominates up to the maximum number that can be funded to the Provost (also forwards to the Department Chairs for awareness when creating fall schedule)
- February 1 Provost announce final decisions

- Remaining language is taken from legislation, example, FDL recipient faculty members responsibilities included they must return to serve 2 long semesters, not allowed to seek alternative employment, etc. (see document).

Jeff Mountain requested clarification on inclusion of non-tenure track faculty and chance of numbers being disproportionate when only tenured faculty are eligible. Stephen Cotten explained that the language corresponds with other public institutions within the state and is the only place where tenured faculty is being used to make a clarification in the process. Another comment was made on possibility of swing in eligibility within a college with higher ratios of tenure-track vs. tenured. Jeff Mountain proposed a suggestion of a friendly amendment to change tenure track to tenured.

Heather Kanenberg agreed there is an opportunity for a difference across the colleges but found when the variables that distinguish the differences between the populations have a direct impact on the workload, expectations and responsibilities, there are times when inclusion of tenure-track is appropriate. While moving toward the protection of junior faculty from too much in the way of service expectations and responsibilities, the result many times is the workload disproportionately falls on tenured faculty. She stated she supported the policy as is after considering the value of affording faculty the ability to receive FDL in the absence of junior leave in Texas and them assuming a heavier lift, even for a short time.

Provost inquired to Stephen Cotten on the following:

- 3.4.1 Preference: Does this mean if approved the application as written goes to top of list? The next year if they resubmit, *the application does not need to go through the process a second time but goes to the top of the selection.*
- Ranking of proposals, are there designations such as acceptable/unacceptable provided to the Dean? *The college committee forwards the Dean a set of only approved proposals which can be in ranked order.*
- Substitutions request – thought on sending more than the acceptable proposals? *Idea is that if faculty member is unable to take the FDL, the dean would then have the option to choose a substitute within the same college.*


A motion was made to approve by Miguel Gonzalez, seconded by Jeff Mountain.

**The policy was unanimously approved. Item will move forward to University Council.**

The meeting was adjourned.  
Charise Armstrong

Next meeting May 21, 2020.

Roster attached.

ACADEMIC COUNCIL 2019-2020		DATE: April 16, 2020	TIME: 2 - 3 pm
Title	Member	Alternate	Signature
Snr V.P. for Academic Affairs & Provost (Chair)	Steven Berberich	None	 = PRESENT
AVP - Academic Affairs	Kathryn Matthew	Pat Cuchens	
Interim AVP - Enrollment Management	Charlotte Tullos	Bryan Heard	
Interim AVP - Student Success and Initiatives	Tim Richardson		
Interim VP - Student Affairs	Aaron Hart	David Rachita	
Council of Professors	Jeff Mountain	James Dabney	
Dean - COB	Ed Waller	Dorothy Kirkman	
Dean - HSH	Rick Short	Samuel Gladden	
Dean - CSE	Miguel Gonzalez	David Garrison	
Interim Dean - COE	Joan Pedro	Felix Simieou	
Director - Library & Learning Resources	Vivienne McClendon	Chloris Yue	
FSEC - Senator At Large (CSE)	Brian Stephens		
FSEC - Chair, Budget (HSH)	Nick Kelling	Paul Withey	
FSEC - Chair, Curriculum (COE)	Rebecca Huss-Keeler		
FSEC - Chair, Faculty Life (COB)	Stephen Cotten		
FSEC - Chair, Teaching & Research (COE)	Sheila Baker	Christine Walther	
FSEC - Past President (HSH)	Mike McMullen		
FSEC - President (HSH)	Heather Kanenberg		
FSEC - President-Elect (COE)	Elizabeth Beavers	Sarah Costello	
Secretariat Support Charise Armstrong x 3004		60% Quorum	

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