**Faculty Senate Special Session**

**Minutes**

**August 4, 2023**

**1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**JCK 880**

**Members Present:** Rebecca Bell-Metereau Stacey Bender, William Chittenden, Rachel Davenport, Dave Donnelly, Irani Farzan, William Kelemen, Lynn Ledbetter, Jo Beth Oestreich, Adetty Pérez de Miles, Michael Supancic, and Alex White.

Members Absent: Dale Blasingame, Peter Dedek and Jennifer Jensen.

**Guests:** Emmanuel Alanis, Bahram Asiabanpour, Semih Asian, Bill Brittain, Matthew Brooks**,** Scott Clemens, Subasish Das, William DeSoto, Ravi Droopad, Maia Erbin-Roesemann, Shelly Forsythe, Lauren Goodley, Feng Hong, Jeff Housman, Jesus Jimenez, Lindsay Kipp, Stephanie Larrison, Cynthia Luxford, Ben Martin, Melissa A. Martinez, Matt McAllister, Susan Morey, Karim Muci-Kuchler, Justin Randolph, Paivi Rentz, Arlene Salazar, Kathryn Smith, Harold Stern, Anthony Torres, Diego Vacaflores, James Wilde, Dana Willett, Ron Williams, Randall Young, Gail Zank, and Daisy Zhaoxuan Zhou**.**

**Chair Ledbetter called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.**

**MOTION** to Suspend the Rules**. PASSED.**

**University Curriculum Committee – Dr. Jeff Housman and Dr. Michael Supancic.**

Supancicprovided a brief overview of the Committee’s work related to the submitted program proposals. The proposals were posted to the TEAMS site for review by Faculty Senate. Supancic shared that the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) reviewed and accepted all 11 program proposals. Supancic noted during this process he served on the Executive Writing and Evaluation Team with Dr. Houseman, Dean Golato, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Sriraman, and Mr. Willett. The committee evaluated all the versions of the proposals during the last four weeks. Begininning on July 5, 2023, the internal department/college, UCC and Senate review process began. The program proposals were uploaded on a college TEAMS site to be accessed and pulled down on July 27, 2023. Due to the fast pace of these submissions, UCC noted there are corrections to be completed and will be done prior to submitting to the Board of Regents for their review. The program proposals were completed in a short period of time by faculty in several colleges and all contributors and reviewers have worked tirelessly the last month and a half to complete this process.

Supancic introduced representatives for each doctoral proposal to provide a brief overview of their program proposals to Faculty Senate.

**11 Program Proposals:**

The first program proposal was from the **McCoy College of Business** – Diego Vacaflores and Randy Young

* **Doctor of Business Administration** ([D.B.A](https://qph.cf2.quoracdn.net/main-qimg-9e3641004778ef33506fb19b22f623bf-lq).) Major in Business Administration. **Online (**F2F or virtual networking experiences included) Must have seven years of managerial experience. This is a research focused program. Admission will be in the fall and spring. *Emphasis of this program allows students to apply theoretical frameworks that strengthen the analytical and statistical tools developed in the program to solve and clarify advanced business problems*. [Description from the program proposal]. Students will complete the program in 3 years.

Questions from the Senate:

The first question related to the number of projected enrollment of students (278) and faculty (FTE of14) in the program. Will all students complete a dissertation? Vacaflores stated the numbers of projected students were lowered in the most recent version of the proposal. The total number of students projected to begin the first year is 30, 72 the second year, 125 the third year, 166 in the fourth year, and 207 students in the fifth year. The biggest challenge is managing dissertations. In the third year there will be 25 students completing dissertations and by year five there will be 49 students completing dissertations. How will we manage this? There are models out there such as Florida International University (FIU). FIU pays the dissertation Chair and committee members. Each faculty can chair five committees. We have the faculty to support this, and money to compensate them.

Another question related to how the program fits into your college. Was this program a top priority from the Strategic Plan submitted by your dean earlier this summer? Vacaflores stated they have been working on a PhD proposal for six years focused on data analytics. Instead of a PhD they are proposing a DBA. The DBA is designed for working professionals taking classes at night and the online version is also attractive for prospective students seeking the DBA. Both the DBA and PhD achieve the goals to increase research, have a doctoral degree in our college, and help the university on the run to R1.

What is the difference between a DBA verses a PhD? The PhD concentrates on developing new theories or testing new theories and a DBA is more applied. The DBA students are businesspeople coming with problems or data from their companies and they want to know how to best estimate or forecast things in their industry.

Does that differentiate with regard to years to finish and focus the amount of input that is necessary from faculty members and the dissertation? The only difference is the focus. Ideally, there is a burning issue from the company that they will bring into the program. The students will use what they learn in the program to solve problems empirically.

The next proposal overview is from the **College of Health Professions-**

St. David’s School of Nursing - Marla Erbin-Roesemann, Kathy Smith

* Add **Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P) Major in Nursing Practice**. **Online**. There will be some required on campus intensive hours to complete. This is a practice-based doctorate. This is considered a post-Master’s. This means all students must have earned a Master’s in Nursing to apply to the program. Students are working professionals who typically are registered nurses, or advanced practicing nurses. It is a two-year part-time online program spread out over six semesters with a summer start. Students are required to complete 580 practicum hours within a clinical setting in executive practice or executive health care management within the State of Texas. Students are required to come to campus for weekly intensives to network a couple days at a time to complete peer-to-peer, faculty-to-student networking and rotate through leadership simulations. Students must meet 1000 practice hours for graduation. Within the last fifteen years, the accrediting body has moved to require the DNP as minimal preparation for all advanced practice registered nurses. If the program is approved, TXST will be the last university in the state to offer a DNP. The program is *designed to prepare advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and nurse executives at the highest level of nursing education, the program will offer a professional terminal degree-based credential*. [Description from the program proposal].

Supancic stated the work done and committed to this proposal was not designed in the compressed timeframe. The program has been in development for at least the past 18 to 24 months.

Questions from the Senate:

Is the standard for these programs to be offered Online? All DNP’s offered in Texas and in most beyond Texas are Online programs. All programs require minimum practicum hours. Not many universities offer on campus intensives. The on-campus intensives are a niche for TXST and sets this program apart from other programs offered at other universities.

**College of Science and Engineering-**

The next program proposal is from the Department of Engineering Technology

* Add **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Major in Engineering Management** – Anthony Torres, James Wilde. Research based**. 100% Online** (asynchronous) 8-week course offerings. Can enter with a bachelor’s degree or master’s degree. Texas Tech is the only other university offering a similar program and it is F2F. The program covers the management of people and all the risks in project design, liability, sustainability, and the circular economy (recycling and reuse of materials). There are three admissions periods per year (10 students in the fall, spring and summer, 30 per year). Faculty members will provide ideas for research projects. Faculty members involved in this Online program will be supervising more student dissertations.

Questions from the Senate:

In the Business DBA, the problems they were working on were coming with the students. Is this this case in this program or will the faculty come up with the problem? The faculty are not opposed to students bringing an idea they want to work on. The general idea is that the faculty member will generate the dissertation ideas and topics.

The next program proposal is from the Department of Engineering Technology

* Add **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Major in Construction Management** – Anthony Torres. **100% Online.** 8- and some 16-week asynchronous course offerings. Entrance for students with a BA and master’s degree. Texas A&M offers a similar program but it is F2F. The focus for the program is on commercialization, sustainability, data decision-making and leadership to meet the demand of the 1st construction industry. Three admissions periods per year (30 students per year). 75% of students will be part-time and 25% full-time. Dissertation core work will come from faculty members who will provide ideas for research projects. The faculty would not be opposed to students generating research ideas.

The next proposal presentation is from the Department of Mathematics – Susan Morey

* Add **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Major in Mathematics. F2F.** 72 hours (can wave up to 30 hours if they have a master's degree). The program provides students *the ability to select general mathematics or to concentrate in applied mathematics or statistics.* [Description from the program proposal].

The next program proposal is from the Ingram School of Engineering – Jesus Jiminez, Harold Stern

* Add **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Major in Civil Engineering**. **F2F**. Practical applications of civil engineering and AI. The proposed program *focuses on the following four concentrations: 1) Environmental & Water Resources Engineering, 2) Geotechnical-geosystem Engineering, 3) Structural & Materials Engineering, and 4) Transportation Engineering. The Program Educational Objectives are: 1) Equip program graduates with applied technical knowledge in corresponding areas of Civil Engineering, 2) Equip program graduates with skills for conducting cutting-edge research in TEI that advances the state-of-the-art in Civil Engineering, and 3) Equip program graduates with leadership, innovation, communication, and entrepreneurial skills that prepare students to take on challenges in multi-disciplinary and diverse teams of academic and industry organizations*. [Description from the program proposal].

The next program proposal presentation is to

* Add **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Major in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering. F2F**. 24 hours of research. This program is unique in two aspects: 1) A focus on disruptive technologies blended with the conventional doctoral-level engineering curriculum, and 2) A focus on commercialization, entrepreneurship, and innovation.

The next program proposal is to

* Add **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Major in Electrical Engineering. F2F-full time.** Example of topic areas: Micro-electronics and smart energy power. This will be the first proposed *program in Texas to integrate electrical engineering with entrepreneurship and commercialization with a focused emphasis on advancements in areas including energy production and management, semiconductor development and commercialization, and advanced computing and communications technologies*. [Description from the program proposal]. Students will take research and technical writing, commercialization and entrepreneurship courses.

The next program proposal is from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry – Ben Martin

* Add **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Major in Integrated Molecular and Biophysical Chemistry. F2F**. BA to Ph.D. program. Focus on biotechnology. 8 students a year. *Program features interdisciplinary training of students through coursework that integrates biochemistry, biophysics, organic synthesis, medicinal chemistry, cell biology, biological chemistry, and molecular genetics; a focus on training students to enter the workforce in industry with a foundation in business fundamentals, leadership, and innovation training both in the classroom and through business boot camps*. [Description from the program proposal]. (Over 160 job openings per year). Interdisciplinary program.

**College of Education**

The next program proposal is from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction – Shelly Forsythe

* Add **Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) Major in Curriculum and Instruction**. **100% Online** program designed for working educators. 3 years of part-time study. The program *focuses on developing leaders in curriculum and instruction to help address school district and industry need for doctoral-level professionals*. [Description from the program proposal]. Content areas: special education, bi-lingual education, literacy education, educational technology and STEM education.

Senate Questions:

In the proposal presentation specifically related to the internship component of the degree, Dr. Forsythe, mentioned museums as possible sites for internships for the Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction. There are definitely spaces where a doctoral candidate with a Fine Arts background could integrate this expertise into workplaces like museums, etc. The Senator encourages the inclusion of Fine Arts in the program so that fields of study and areas of specialization such as fine arts, museum studies, and museum education drive the selection of internship possibilities.

The senator asked for clarification about the in-person internship component of the degree and suggested that the perimeters for the internship be further fleshed out and delimited in the proposal.

The final program proposal is from the Department of Health and Human Performance – Ron Williams

* Add **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Major in Sport Management. 100% Online program**. Full-time and part-time students*. This program allows students to develop advanced training and knowledge in areas including (but not limited to) leadership, finance, administration, and ethics in sports, literature review and grant writing, and quantitative and qualitative research analysis*. [Description from the program proposal]. This program will lead to careers such as becoming an athletic director, sports agent, etc. 18 hours dedicated to completing a dissertation.

Senators commended the work done by faculty from the various colleges who worked quickly and tirelessly to create the program proposals and the internal committees who reviewed the proposals. Additionally, Senators stated their concerns with the large number of Online programs and the challenge for faculty members potentially advising high numbers of Online student dissertations. Additionally, there were concerns related to how some programs would address environmental issues in their program.

Supancic thanked all representatives for their work in creating their proposals and presenting them to the Faculty Senate for review. Many thanks for Supancic’s work on these proposals, as well as other Senators who have reviewed courses (Donnelly) or helped to write the proposals (White) and others.

Chair Ledbetter declared the meeting adjourned, and the Faculty Senate moved into Executive Session.

**Executive Session**

The Senate moved into Executive Session to discuss the proposed curriculum program proposals.

**MOTION** to endorse the 11 program proposals. **PASSED**.

The Senate approved the 11 program proposals and will submit them for further approval.

**Meeting adjourned by Chair Ledbetter at 3: 40 pm**

Respectfully submitted,

JB Oestreich, Secretary