

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
LEARNING TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Academic Quality and Workforce Division
1200 E. Anderson Lane, Austin, Texas 78752

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Division of Academic Quality and Workforce
1200 E. Anderson Lane, Austin, Texas

Learning Technology Advisory Committee

December 4, 2020

10:00 AM – 2:30 PM

This meeting was held via video conference.

Members present: Justin Louder- Chair, Patrick Pluscht- Co-chair, Ruth Chisum, Ken Craver, Vicki Freeman, Rolando Garza, Mary Gentry, Michelle Giles, Daniel Gonzalez, Robert Greene, Joyce Langenegger, Carlos Morales, Pamela Morgan, Lynda Murphy, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Tim Snyder, Charlene Stubblefield, Yun Wan, Erin Warham, Julie Dellelo, Mark Garcia, Rita Fennelly-Atkinson

Members absent: Jacqueline Mok, Glynnis Gains

Staff present: Andrew Lofters, Jessica Acton, Christina Kelley, Michelle Singh, Kyla Torre, Stacey Silverman

Guests: Elizabeth Vogt (University of North Texas), Kinshuk (University of North Texas), Jiangping Chen (University of North Texas), Daniella Smith (University of North Texas), Sharon Radzysinski (The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley), Eloisa Tamez (The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley), Lilia Fuentes (The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley), Dahlia Rojas (The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley), Francisco Garcia (The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley), Robert Allen (The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley), Munir Quddus (Prairie View A&M University), Brian Lee (Prairie View A&M University), Rahim Quazi (Prairie View A&M University)

Summary Notes

1. Welcome, introductions, and call to order – Dr. Justin Louder, LTAC Chair

Dr. Louder called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

2. Introduction of the Assistant Commissioner for Digital Learning – Michelle Singh, PhD

Dr. Michelle Singh addressed the LTAC and announced that she and Dr. Kyla Torre would be taking over THECB staff responsibilities for the LTAC.

3. Consideration of summary notes from the September 18, 2020 meeting – Dr. Louder

A motion was made to accept the summary notes from the September 18, 2020 meeting by Dr. Charlene Stubblefield and was seconded by Dr. Vicki Freeman. The motion was approved unanimously and the minutes for the September 18 meeting were accepted as submitted.

4. Discussion of the distance education delivery of University of North Texas' existing Doctor of Philosophy (PHD) degree with a program in Information Science, based on the LTAC's assessment of the application's compliance with THECB distance education rules and policy – Doctoral Proposal Subcommittee Members/Institutional Representatives – Dr. Louder

Dr. Pamela Morgan provided a brief description of the request from University of North Texas (North Texas) to offer the PhD in Information Science via a hybrid/blended online delivery. Dr. Morgan invited North Texas program representatives to comment on the proposal.

Dr. Kinshuk introduced Ms. Elizabeth Vogt, Dr. Jiangping Chen and Dr. Daniella Smith. Ms. Vogt provided an overview of the proposal.

Dr. Morgan invited the Doctoral Proposal Subcommittee to ask any additional questions. There were none. She then opened the discussion to members of the full LTAC.

Dr. Louder asked for clarification on when students would take the research methods course. Ms. Vogt clarified that the course is a leveling course that would be taken after admission to the program. Dr. Louder asked if students could take additional courses while enrolled in the research methods course. Ms. Vogt further clarified that students could take additional courses but could not take advanced research courses while enrolled in the research methods course.

Dr. Louder asked if all courses in the program are accessible or will be made accessible. Ms. Vogt confirmed that existing courses are accessible and that those courses in development will be made accessible. She stated the institution would not offer a course unless it is accessible.

Dr. Louder invited Mr. Patrick Pluscht to speak. Mr. Pluscht stated the College of Information has a long history of offering quality distance education programs and offered his support of the college's ability to support distance doctoral students.

Dr. Carlos Morales asked North Texas to talk more about the College of Information's goal to make the program available via distance education and whether the local market could sustain interest. Ms. Vogt stated there has been strong student interest in the Frisco area.

5. Consideration of recommendation for approval of the distance education delivery of University of North Texas' existing Doctor of Philosophy (PHD) degree with a program in Information Science, based on the LTAC's assessment of the application's compliance with THECB distance education rules and policy – Dr. Louder

A motion for approval was made by Dr. Pamela Morgan as a recommendation from the Doctoral Proposal Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Dr. Joyce Langenegger. Mr. Patrick Pluscht recused himself from voting. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion of the distance education delivery of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley's proposed Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree with a program in Nursing Practice, based on the LTAC's assessment of the application's compliance with THECB distance education rules and policy – Doctoral Proposal Subcommittee Members/Institutional Representatives – Dr. Louder

Dr. Pamela Morgan provided a brief description of the request from The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UT-RGV) to offer the proposed Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) through online instruction. Dr. Morgan invited UT-RGV program representatives to comment on the proposal.

Dr. Sharon Radzynski introduced the other UT-RGV representatives and provided an overview of the post-master's DNP program.

Dr. Morgan invited the Doctoral Proposal Subcommittee to ask any additional questions. There were none. She then opened the discussion to members of the full LTAC.

Dr. Louder asked Dr. Andrew Lofters to explain the mark-ups made to the proposal document. Dr. Lofters explained that the original proposal contained a request for both a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) to DNP pathway and a post-master's DNP pathway. The Doctoral Proposal Subcommittee was tasked with reviewing the post-master's DNP pathway only. During review of the proposal, Dr. Jaqueline Mok marked out the references to the BSN-DNP pathway. Dr. Morgan clarified that the old doctoral proposal form was used, which caused some confusion with the Doctoral Proposal Subcommittee's review.

Ms. Rita Fennelly-Atkinson asked if the DNP would be the first online program offered by UT-RGV. Mr. Francisco Garcia clarified that this is the first online doctoral program for the campus.

Mr. Rolando Garza commented on the training and thanked UT-RGV for offering the nursing program online.

Dr. Louder inquired about cross border enrollments. Dr. Radzynski explained that to meet national accreditation and Texas Board of Nursing requirements, students must have a nursing license from the United States.

Mr. Daniel Gonzalez stated that he is from the Rio Grande Valley and commented on the positive impacts UT-RGV's growth has on the region.

7. Consideration of recommendation for approval of the distance education delivery of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley's proposed Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree with a program in Nursing Practice, based on the LTAC's assessment of the application's compliance with THECB distance education rules and policy – Dr. Louder

A motion for approval was made by Dr. Pamela Morgan as a recommendation from the Doctoral Proposal Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Daniel Gonzalez. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion of the distance education delivery of Prairie View A&M University's proposed Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) degree with a program in Business Administration, based on the LTAC's assessment of the application's compliance with THECB distance

education rules and policy – Doctoral Proposal Subcommittee Members/Institutional Representatives – Dr. Louder

Dr. Pamela Morgan provided a brief description of the request from Prairie View A&M University (Prairie View) to offer a Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) degree with a program in Business Administration via off campus face-to-face delivery at the Northwest Houston Center. Dr. Morgan invited Prairie View program representatives to comment on the proposal.

Dr. Munir Quddus provided a brief presentation on the university and proposed program.

Dr. Morgan invited the Doctoral Proposal Subcommittee to ask any additional questions. There were none. She then opened the discussion to members of the full LTAC.

Dr. Louder asked if the library would be accessible to students during the intensive on-campus weekend meetings. Dr. Quddus stated the library hours will be expanded to accommodate students. Mr. Daniel Gonzales asked if the library staff would only be available during normal hours or if staff would be available during the expanded weekend hours. Dr. Rahim Quazi confirmed the library staff and computer labs would be available during the expanded hours.

Dr. Louder asked if the Northwest Houston Center is a branch campus. Dr. Lofters explained that the center is recognized as an off-campus site.

Dr. Louder invited Dr. Charlene Stubblefield to say a few words about the program. Dr. Stubblefield spoke briefly about the resources available to students and faculty at the Northwest Houston Center.

Dr. Louder asked if the only other DBA program in Texas is in Dallas. Dr. Quddus confirmed, stating the only other DBA program in Texas is offered at University of Dallas and that Prairie View would be the first public institution in Texas to offer the program.

9. Consideration of recommendation for approval of the distance education delivery of Prairie View A&M University's proposed Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) degree with a program in Business Administration, based on the LTAC's assessment of the application's compliance with THECB distance education rules and policy – Dr. Louder

A motion for approval was made by Dr. Pamela Morgan as a recommendation from the Doctoral Proposal Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Garcia. Dr. Stubblefield recused herself from voting. The motion passed unanimously.

The LTAC went on a break until 11:22 am.

10. THECB Updates - Dr. Andrew Lofters, Jessica Acton, Dr. Kylah Torre

- a. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA)

Ms. Acton provided a brief overview of recently approved modifications to the SARA Policy Manual. The changes were minimal and included adding an additional reason a SARA institution could be placed on provisional status and clarified how institutions and other stakeholders could provide feedback on SARA policy. Ms. Acton also highlighted upcoming reports from NC-SARA including the

2020 Data Report and the Cost Savings Report. She also mentioned the upcoming NC-SARA Student Catalogue, which is a searchable, online database of distance education program offerings.

b. Open Educational Resources

Dr. Kylah Torre provided an overview of the new Division of Digital Learning, stating the division would oversee the OERTX Repository, OER grants, and the Digital Learning Clearinghouse. She provided an update on the OER grant program and repository. She also discussed the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) initiatives.

Dr. Michelle Singh stated one focus of the Division of Digital Learning would be empowering support networks on campuses and having resources available to institutions.

Dr. Louder asked if there has been any conversation about offering OER grant funding for upper level coursework. Dr. Torre stated it has been discussed and would depend on what happens with the legislature. Dr. Louder encouraged the new division to consider the option. Dr. Vicki Freeman agreed, stating there are opportunities and interest for OER courses at the health science centers. Dr. Singh stated similar feedback has been received through webinars.

Mr. Patrick Pluscht asked about the ability to use social media for promoting OER. Dr. Torre stated the Division of Digital Learning will use digital methods.

11. THECB Definitions and Standards Regarding Distance Education – Dr. Singh

Dr. Michelle Singh provided an overview of the LTAC's previous work on distance education definitions. She explained that the task force will reactivate in spring 2021.

Dr. Louder asked if the task force will be a standing committee. Dr. Singh clarified that it would stay a task force for the LTAC.

12. Discussion on COVID Responses from Campuses – LTAC Members

Members of the LTAC discussed institutional practices and strategies for transitioning to distance learning. Dr. Louder offered four questions to help guide the discussion, asking the LTAC to address faculty training, quality review measures, student experiences, and changes that may be sustained in the future.

13. Workgroup Sessions and Lunch

The LTAC went on a break for lunch and breakout sessions until 2 pm. Workgroups meeting included the Survey Workgroup and the Inclusive Access Workgroup.

14. Workgroup Session Reports

The LTAC returned from lunch at 1:28 pm.

Inclusive Access Workgroup: Mr. Daniel Gonzalez reported that group had previously met outside of LTAC and have reviewed several resources. The workgroup would like to capture additional data from more institutions through further discussions with the full LTAC. The group also noted there needs to be a distinction between OER and inclusive access.

Survey Workgroup: Mr. Patrick Pluscht reported that the workgroup refined the questions and functionality of the survey. He stated the group will work to get the survey out as soon as possible and will address THECB's Data Collection Committee concerns via email. Dr. Andrew Lofters confirmed that the survey would not need another review by the Data Collection Committee.

15. Discussion of Future Agenda Items and Meeting Dates – Dr. Louder

Future Agenda Items:

- Doctoral program considerations
- THECB updates (SARA, OER, community college baccalaureate programs)
- Workgroup breakouts, reports
- Standards and definitions
- Update from Kylah on data

Next Meeting:

February (check 12th, 19th, or 26th)

16. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:23 pm.