

**TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES  
May 20, 2021**

**Videoconference**

**Roll Call:**

Present Committee Members:

Regents Coleman (Chair), Doggett, Wilson, Hyde, Wu (ex-officio), and Tyson (non-voting)

Present Administrators:

Dr. Carine M. Feyten, Chancellor and President; Ms. Katherine Antwi Green, General Counsel, Secretary to the Board, and Chief Compliance Officer; Dr. Carolyn Kapinus, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost; Dr. Monica Mendez-Grant, Vice President for Student Life; Dr. Kimberly Russell, Vice President for University Advancement; Mr. Jason Tomlinson, Vice President for Finance and Administration

**I. Call to Order:**

With a quorum being present, Regent Coleman, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, called the meeting to order at **2:36 p.m.**

Regent Coleman reminded everyone that the meeting was being streamed live and asked that everyone speak loudly and clearly as they make comments during the meeting.

Regent Coleman noted that Regents Wilson and Hyde were joining the Academic Affairs Committee for this meeting.

Regent Coleman performed roll call noting the presence of Regents Coleman, Doggett, Wilson, Hyde, Wu, and Tyson.

**II. Consider Approval of the Minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee Meeting of March 23, 2021**

**Motion to Approve Minutes:** Regent Doggett motioned, and Regent Wilson seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee Meeting of **March 23, 2021** were approved as submitted.

**III. Agenda**

Regent Coleman said that the Board would take up the Agenda Items as listed.

**Motion to Take up Agenda Items as Listed:** Regent Wilson motioned, and Regent Doggett seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

### **Item A. Report on Faculty Senate**

Dr. Carolyn Kapinus, Executive Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Provost, introduced Dr. DiAnna Hynds, Speaker of the Faculty Senate. Dr. Hynds provided a report on the 2020-2021 Faculty Senate activities including anti-racism initiatives and their commitment to shared governance. She discussed plans to honor a past Faculty Senate speaker. Dr. Hynds also provided information to the Board on the 2021-2022 elections of senators and officers. She indicated that there would be a Faculty Senate retreat during the summer to determine initiatives for the coming year. Dr. Hynds closed by highlighting the perseverance and spirit shown this academic year by TWU faculty.

### **Item B. Report on Increasing Enrollment in the Biology Labs**

Dr. Juliet Spencer, Department Chair and Professor of Biology, provided a report on increasing enrollment in biology labs to the Board. She indicated that changes have been made with scheduling and course content to increase the availability of biology labs while still maintaining a focus on interactive experiences, thereby increasing enrollments. These changes also allowed the department to seamlessly move labs online last spring and offer them in a hybrid fashion this fall, keeping students at TWU and on track for graduation in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Spencer described the hybrid and 100% online modalities which were offered very successfully during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Spencer also described the techniques, structures, and resources used to create interactive experiences even in the COVID-19 environment. She showed that biology enrollments have been increasing, and presented to the Board a comparison of enrollment numbers from the 2010-11 academic year until the 2019-20 academic year.

Regent Doggett asked if students will want to come to an in-person lab instead of an online lab as the COVID-19 pandemic hopefully comes to an end.

Dr. Spencer indicated that some students were anxious to come back to in-person classes and labs, but that some were not ready. She indicated that the department is trying to be as flexible as possible, offering a few online labs, but the majority will be in person.

Regent Doggett then asked about the differences in costs between an online and in-person lab course. Dr. Spencer indicated that both modalities have similar costs.

### **Item C. Report on 7-Week Courses for the Masters of Business Administration Program**

Dr. James Lumpkin, Dean of the College of Business, described the seven-week courses for the Masters of Business Administration Program (MBA). Dr. Lumpkin explained that the typical MBA student is now an older, working professional with a family, who attends college part-time. They need flexibility in their graduate program and the workplace is demanding more specialized training. Dr. Lumpkin presented the transformational changes to the MBA program: classes are 100% online, the semester is a 7-week session with 6 entry points through the year, and specialized concentrations have been added. Dr. Lumpkin described the enrollment growth, which occurred as the transformational changes were made. Dr. Lumpkin further explained how the program works, its benefits, and the specialized concentrations offered.

### **Item D. Report on Redesigning the Masters of Arts in Dance with a Concentration in Education Program**

Dr. Ilana Morgan, Assistant Professor of Dance, described the structure of programs offered in the Dance department. She then outlined the steps taken to transform the Masters of Arts in Dance to meet the workforce needs of dance educators who work in K-12 schools. She indicated that enrollment in the program has increased from 1 to 2 students in 2008 to 2017 to an average of 11 students from 2018 to 2020. Dr. Morgan explained that the increase in enrollment is due to working to meet the workforce need and new marketing and recruitment approaches. Dr. Morgan explained the Low-Residency format, which is achievable, clear, and fits within a busy teacher's life. Finally, Dr. Morgan mentioned possible ways to continue the expansion of the program.

Regent Coleman said that there are times where dancers get hurt or cannot perform for various reasons but they still love to be part of the program and the changes have made that possible.

Regent Jester thanked Dr. Morgan for her department's flexibility, and being open to change and adapting to the environment.

### **Item E. Report on Psychology Resource Center**

Dr. Shannon Scott, Interim Associate Dean and Professor of Psychology and Philosophy, provided a report to the Board on the Psychology Resource Center. The Psychology Resource Center was created to provide no-cost tutoring to support students in three of the introductory psychology service courses.

Dr. Scott explained changes that were made and that the Center now supports all courses across the department. She described the community building activities that have been undertaken as well as the focus on career development initiatives. Dr. Scott said that the Psychology Resource Center has mentored and tutored hundreds of students.

### **Item F. Report on Faculty Highlight, Department of Human Development, Family Studies, and Counseling, College of Professional Education**

Dr. Aaron Norton, Associate Professor and Program Director of Marriage and Family Therapy, presented to the Board his efforts toward successfully attaining national accreditation for the Doctor of Philosophy in Marriage and Family Therapy program. He explained the transformation of the curriculum, program structure, and faculty culture.

Dr. Norton then discussed his response to COVID-19. He indicated that he developed and taught an online course on Telemental Health and also discussed his scholarship funding around Telemental Health.

### **Item G. Report on Faculty Highlight, Department of Kinesiology, College of Health Sciences**

Dr. Brandon Rhett Rigby, Associate Professor of Kinesiology, presented a faculty highlight on his research. Dr. Rigby mentors undergraduate Kinesiology students who compete in a competition for health-related issues experienced by astronauts while in microgravity.

Regent Wu left the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Dr. Rigby then discussed his research characterizing the effects and benefits of equine-assisted therapy in Parkinson's disease. He was recently awarded a grant to study the effects of this therapy in older men with the disease.

Regent Coleman said that she supported and appreciated the efforts of the department.

**Item H. Recommend Approval of Online Delivery of Post-Master's Certificate of Advanced Study: Educational Diagnostician**

Dr. Carolyn Kapinus recommended the Board approve distance delivery of the existing Post-Master's Certificate of Advanced Study: Educational Diagnostician. Dr. Kapinus indicate that this will broaden accessibility to the certificate by adding online delivery to meet the needs of working professionals. Dr. Kapinus stated that the program's curriculum and student learning outcomes will remain the same as the face-to-face program, the delivery will be 100% online, and no additional resources are requested.

Regent Doggett asked if the offering of the program online will expand the reach to more students.

Dr. Kapinus indicated that for certain segments of our students, and particularly graduate students, the online modality works very well, and the offering should expand availability of the program to more students.

Regent Hyde said that the offering is very exciting and asked if there is an out-of-state market that can be recruited.

Dr. Kapinus said that there are some licensing constraints, but advertising efforts are being used toward expanding the reach of some of TWU's graduate programs online.

Regent Coleman said that this program should be very popular in Texas due to the licensure requirement for diagnosticians. She indicated that program will increase the opportunity for those who are working full time and are very motivated to become a diagnostician and continue to help people in their field.

**Motion to Move Approval of Item to Consent Agenda:** Regent Doggett motioned, and Regent Hyde seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Item I. Recommend Approval of Hybrid Delivery of the Existing Professional Science Master's Degree in Biotechnology**

Dr. Carolyn Kapinus recommended the Board approve hybrid delivery of the existing Professional Science Master's Degree in Biotechnology in order to meet the needs of the program's students. A hybrid program will allow flexibility to meet professional and family needs with both online and in-person instruction. Dr. Kapinus confirmed that no additional resources are requested for this program.

**Motion to Move Approval of Item to Consent Agenda:** Regent Hyde motioned, and Regent Doggett seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Item J. Recommend Approval of Online Delivery of the Existing Master of Arts Degree in Multicultural Women's and Gender Studies**

Dr. Carolyn Kapinus recommended the Board approve distance delivery of the existing Master of Arts Degree in Multicultural Women's and Gender Studies. Dr. Kapinus stated that the online delivery of this program would increase accessibility and appeal to prospective nontraditional students. This program would be only one of three programs of its kind available online nationally. Dr. Kapinus stated that no additional resources are requested for this program.

**Motion to Move Approval of Item to Consent Agenda:** Regent Hyde motioned, and Regent Doggett seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

#### **Item K. Recommend Approval of New Online Master of Arts Degree in Multilingual and Multicultural Studies**

Dr. Carolyn Kapinus recommended the Board approve the new online Master of Arts Degree in Multilingual and Multicultural Studies. This new degree is designed to meet the needs of K-12 educators and is a holistic approach to multilingualism and multiculturalism to prepare graduates to create curricular and instructional innovations for bilingual learners. Dr. Kapinus stated that the program will be available fully online with the option to come to campus, and no additional resources are requested at this time.

Regent Coleman asked if there is a focus on a certain language in the program.

Dr. Lisa Huffman, Dean of the College of Professional Education, indicated the program focus is currently on Spanish but across the state of Texas the usage of many languages is on the rise. She indicated that over time, students will be able to select different languages within the program.

**Motion to Move Approval of Item to Consent Agenda:** Regent Wilson motioned, and Regent Doggett seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

#### **IV. Adjourn Academic Affairs Committee into Executive Closed Session**

Regent Coleman announced that the Board would adjourn into Executive Closed Session for deliberations regarding personnel matters relating to appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of public officers or employees pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code.

Regent Coleman said that Dr. Carolyn Kapinus, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, would join in the Executive Closed Session.

The meeting was adjourned at **4:14 p.m.**

#### **V. Reconvene into Open Session and Take Any Possible Action Regarding Matters Discussed in Executive Closed Session**

Regent Coleman reconvened the meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee into open session, a quorum being present at **4:28 p.m.** Regent Coleman said that the Board would take any possible action regarding matters discussed in the Executive Closed Session.

**Motion to Move Approval of Item to Consent Agenda:** Regent Doggett motioned, and Regent Hyde seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

#### **VI. Adjourn**

With no further business coming before the Academic Affairs Committee, Regent Coleman adjourned the Academic Affairs Committee meeting at **4:28 p.m.**