INSTRUCTION COUNCIL

MINUTES

Thursday, August 6, 2026
126 ITLE or Zoom

https://okstate-edu.zoom.us/j/93408932681?pwd=k7XfZJyUQZIDaBosY89x45j3PHDFfs.1
Meeting ID: 934 0893 2681
Passcode: 097849

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

In attendance: Shannon Baker, Laurie Beets, Larry Burns, Aaron Christensen, Cynda Clary, Chris Francisco (Chair), Craig Freeman, Richard Frohock, Jami Fullerton, Ty Hawkins, Kelva Hunger, James Knecht, Marlys Mason, Rita Peaster, Darius Prier, Carisa Ramming, Rebecca Sheehan, Ronna Vanderslice, Ashley Varnell.

Meeting was called to order at 9:02am.

1. **Program reviews – Chris Francisco**
   Francisco updated the council on recent changes affecting academic program reviews following new state legislation. The legislation codifies State Regents' productivity requirements and requires every academic program to undergo review on a five-year cycle, eliminating the previous flexibility to adjust review schedules to align with accreditation cycles or related degree programs. As a result, the university anticipates less flexibility in scheduling reviews and is working with the State Regents to resolve discrepancies in review records and identify practical workarounds where possible. Eight certificate programs will undergo expedited academic program reviews this fall because their review dates must now align with the State Regents' database. Two will be handled within Academic Affairs and six by other units. To reduce the burden on the reviewers, expedited reviews will omit institution-specific components that are not required by the State Regents. Francisco also noted that the State Regents are revising the APR reporting form, so the university is delaying the launch of the 2027 review cycle until the new requirements are finalized.

2. **Brief update on academic strategic planning – Chris Francisco**
   Francisco provided a brief update on academic strategic planning, focusing primarily on the proposed expansion of six-week grade reporting beyond lower-division courses. Before implementation, Academic Affairs may spend the fall semester communicating with faculty about the purpose of six-week grades as a student-success initiative and sharing available resources (Canvas-to-Banner grade submission tools, videos, etc.) before making the practice mandatory. Discussion emphasized the importance of meaningful early assessments so six-week grades accurately reflect student performance, as well as continued communication through Provost's memos, Faculty Council, Academic Leadership Series, college-level discussions, and department heads. Francisco also noted ongoing efforts to improve the flow of information from Faculty Council to the broader faculty community.

3. **Curriculum**

Course Action Summaries:

Center for Health Sciences

Christensen reviewed one course action from the Center for Health Sciences. The proposal modified the description of a Physician Assistant Professional Enrichment course by removing the research assistant component and placing greater emphasis on examination preparation.

Clary moved to approve, and Freeman seconded. Instruction Council members approved the Center for Health Sciences course action summary.

Program Modifications:

N/A

4. **Other**

Clarification to the scholarship selection process

Members discussed a clarification to the scholarship selection process indicating that students selected for a college scholarship program in the first round may later choose to move into another eligible scholarship program if they are selected in the second round (e.g., McKnight Scholars). Additional discussion focused on improvements to the student scholarship portal and the importance of communicating that scholarship opportunities may change as students submit updated admissions information.

Free Speech Training / Instruction Council Meeting – September 17th

Francisco also announced that this year's State Regents free speech training will be held on September 17th from 9am-noon at the UCO campus and that a small group of institutional representatives from Academic Affairs and Student Affairs will attend. Council members were invited to participate by notifying Francisco. Depending on agenda needs, Instruction Council may be canceled that day (with course actions and program modification votes completed via email) or facilitated by another representative.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:24am.

Minutes were recorded by Ashley Varnell.