

### 3.4.10

#### **Educational Programs: All:Responsibility for curriculum**

The institution places primary responsibility for the content, quality, and effectiveness of the curriculum with its faculty.

#### **Judgment**

Compliance    Partial Compliance    Non-Compliance    Not Applicable

#### **Narrative**

Primary responsibility for the curriculum at Tennessee Technological University (TTU) resides with the faculty. Faculty members initiate all changes to the undergraduate curriculum and individual courses, following a rigorous approval process outlined in the Procedures for the University Curriculum Committee [1]. Changes to the graduate curriculum follow the policy and procedures of the Graduate Studies Executive Committee [2]. These procedures ensure that curricular matters are faculty driven and that curricula are related to departmental and the University missions.

#### **Program Modifications**

Each academic program at TTU is coordinated by a faculty member with responsibility for overseeing the curriculum and student advising in that program (see discussion of CS 3.4.11). Each department or school also has a curriculum committee made up primarily of its faculty to assure the appropriateness of course content and goals and the coherence of its degree programs and concentrations.

Additions, deletions, and modifications to undergraduate courses and programs are initiated by faculty and approved by these department/school committees and a college-level curriculum committee (such as the Teacher Education Committee in the College of Education) before they are forwarded to the University Curriculum Committee for final approval, as documented in the minutes of its meetings [3]. The membership of the departmental/school curriculum committees is made up of faculty in their constitutive units. The membership of the college-level curriculum committees includes faculty and chairs/directors of the units of the respective colleges. The University Curriculum Committee includes one faculty representative from each academic unit, generally the departmental chairperson or director, a minimum of 14 administrators, and five students, representing the schools and colleges [4].

Additions or modifications to graduate-level programs follow a similar approval process, with the Graduate Studies Executive Committee, rather than the University Curriculum Committee, giving final approval [5]. The membership of this committee is made up of faculty representing the six colleges or schools that offer graduate degrees (Arts and Sciences, Business, Education, Engineering, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Nursing), along with administrators and students [6].

Faculty members are responsible for the ongoing quality and effectiveness of individual courses and of the program. Effectiveness and conformity to accepted standards and best practices for degree programs are assured through external accreditation for many programs or, for programs for which accreditation is not available, through a mandated peer-review process or Academic Audit. Each department/unit collects data on the effectiveness of program goals and assesses the extent to which it has achieved student learning outcomes. Based on an analysis of results, the department/unit makes modifications as needed to ensure curricular and program improvement. Each department/unit reports annually on program and learning outcomes in the Institutional Effectiveness System --Unit Strategic Planning. (See Comprehensive Standard 3.4.1 for a more detailed description of program improvements based on data results.)

#### **Conclusion**

Through the University's established curricular initiation and review processes, the faculty maintain primary responsibility for the content, quality, and effectiveness of the curriculum. Therefore, TTU is in compliance with Comprehensive Standard 3.4.10.

## Sources

-  [1] University Curriculum Committee Procedures
-  [2] GSEC Procedures
-  [3] UCC Minutes
-  [4] University Curriculum Committee
-  [5] GSEC Minutes
-  [6] Graduate School Executive Committee Membership