

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY
October 9, 2024

The Academic Council met at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 9, 2024 via Teams videoconferencing technology, with Professor Kimberly Winkle, presiding.

The following members of the council were present:

Dr. Thomas Payne	Dr. Ann Manginelli
Dr. Kumar Yelamarthi	Dr. Jennifer Mabry
Dr. Daren Snider	Dr. Matt Langford
Dr. Jennifer Shank	Ms. Megan Atkinson
Dr. Mike Gotcher	Ms. Amy Hill
Dr. Lisa Zagumny	Dr. Linda Null
Dr. Darron Smith	Ms. Ka Grimes
Dr. Lee Ann Shipley	Dr. Brenda Wilson
Dr. Dennis Fennewald	Dr. Krystal Kennedy
Dr. Mark Creter	Dr. Lenly Weathers
Dr. Brian O'Connor	Ms. Amber Spears
Dr. Yi Peng	Mr. Harrison Simpson
Dr. Hyewon Park	Ms. Kashaina Nucum
Dr. Melissa Comer	
Dr. Christy Killman	
Dr. Alfred Kalyanapu	
Dr. Kexin Xu	
Dr. Scott Christen	

Others present were:

Dr. Julie Baker
Dr. Sharon Huo
Dr. Bedelia Russell
Dr. Steve Frye
Dr. Charmian Leong
Mr. Neal Hunt
Professor Sharon Holderman
Mr. Elijah Tidwell
Dr. Ciana Bowhay
Dr. Jerry Gannod

The following members of the council were absent:

Dr. Syed Hasan
Professor Joshua Field
Dr. Mustafa Rajabali
Ms. Cheyenne Bare
Ms. Kathlyn Dye

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of Minutes from the September 11, 2024 meeting

Agriculture Concentration Termination – Horticulture

Agriculture Concentration Termination – Nursery and Landscape Management

Agriculture Concentration Proposal/Addition – Horticulture, Landscape and Turfgrass Management

Agriculture Concentration Termination – Agricultural Education

Agriculture Concentration Termination – Agricultural Communication

Agriculture Concentration Proposal/Addition – Agricultural Education

Agriculture Name Change with Curriculum Change – Agri-Science to Soil and Water Conservation

Foreign Languages New Certificate – French in the Workplace

Interdisciplinary Studies New Program – Interdisciplinary Computing (NAPP)

New Policy 791 - Research Security Framework (First Reading)

New Policy 216 -Student Academic Integrity (First Reading)

Such Other Matters

Adjournment

Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Darron Smith MOVED approval and Dr. Lisa Zagumny SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes from the September 11, 2024 Meeting

Dr. Darron Smith MOVED approval and Dr. Lisa Zagumny SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Agriculture Concentration Termination – Horticulture

Dr. Ciana Bowhay stated terminating the Horticulture concentration is necessary to establish an inclusive and cohesive Horticulture, Landscape, and Turfgrass Management (HLTM) concentration. If approved, the new HLTM concentration will be promoted for incoming students beginning Fall 2025. After little discussion Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darren Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Agriculture Concentration Termination – Nursery and Landscape Management

Dr. Ciana Bowhay stated terminating the Nursery & Landscape Management concentration is necessary to establish an inclusive and cohesive Horticulture, Landscape, and Turfgrass Management (HLTM) concentration. If approved, the new HLTM concentration will be promoted for incoming students beginning Fall 2025. After little discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Agriculture Concentration Proposal/Addition – Horticulture, Landscape and Turfgrass Management

Dr. Ciana Bowhay stated the consolidation of concentrations into one cohesive Horticulture, Landscape, and Turf Management (HLTM) program acknowledges the inherent interconnectedness of these fields. This concentration provides cohesiveness among students while offering track specific electives that prepare students to enter their desired career field. After little discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Agriculture Concentration Termination – Agricultural Education

Dr. Ciana Bowhay stated terminating the Agricultural Education and Agricultural Communication concentrations and creating a new inclusive and cohesive Agricultural Education and Communications (AGEC) that will provide current and future students with a more diverse curriculum and increased opportunities for internships and career exploration. After little discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Agriculture Concentration Termination – Agricultural Communication

Dr. Ciana Bowhay stated terminating the Agricultural Education and Agricultural Communication concentrations and creating a new inclusive and cohesive Agricultural Education and Communications (AGEC) that will provide current and future students with a more diverse curriculum and increased opportunities for internships and career exploration. After little discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Agriculture Concentration Proposal/Addition – Agricultural Education

Dr. Ciana Bowhay stated it is believed that with the proposed course changes and new alignment, prospective students will be interested in the diverse curriculum as well industry leaders seeking graduates with a diverse portfolio of coursework and leadership and communication skills and experiences. After little discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Agriculture Name Change with Curriculum Change – Agri-Science to Soil and Water Conservation

Dr. Ciana Bowhay stated the Soil & Water Conservation (SWC) concentration places the TN Tech School of Ag in a position to provide real-world experience and training for students seeking innovative career fields in environmental or soil sciences. The SWC better reflects the course work and training students will receive. The concentration is expected to attract future students by providing curriculum that develops successful environmental and soil scientists. After little discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Foreign Languages New Certificate – French in the Workplace

Dr. Daren Snider stated the Certificate in French for the Workplace differs from the major in French by virtue of its focus on building students' workplace-related skills, rather than expanding their knowledge of general French culture. This certificate differs from the minor by requiring students to complete two courses (FREN 3200 and FREN 4910) dedicated to pre-graduation work experience and career readiness. FREN 3200 will expand its current course unit on professional French and require students (with faculty guidance) to write professional emails in French and English to contact professionals from French-owned

businesses or professional organizations. After little discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Interdisciplinary Studies New Program – Interdisciplinary Computing (NAPP)

Dr. Steve Frye stated the BS in Interdisciplinary Computing is a partnership between the Department of Computer Science and the School of Interdisciplinary Studies. The program has undergone comprehensive planning and review, including input from faculty, experts in the field, and external stakeholders. It aligns with our institution's mission and strategic goals, offers new opportunities to address the growing need for computing professionals in various fields, will provide valuable opportunities for students, and will contribute to the academic offerings of our university. After little discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

New Policy 791 - Research Security Framework (First Reading)

Dr. Charmian Leong stated Tennessee Tech recognizes that open scientific collaboration between scholars from all over the world is one of the cornerstones of innovation and technological advancement. However, the research community faces a rising threat from foreign governments and entities that seek to exploit and undermine the United States' research and intellectual capital. While Tennessee Tech strongly supports and encourages collaborative research, we also recognize the necessity of having safeguards in place to protect intellectual properties and our research enterprise from undue foreign influences.

No Vote Required

New Policy 216 -Student Academic Integrity (First Reading)

Dr. Julie Baker requested that Policy 217 Student Academic Misconduct be archived and replaced with the new Policy 216 Student Academic Integrity. Academic integrity is at the foundation of the educational process. Maintaining high standards of academic integrity is critical to the reputation of Tennessee Tech, its Students, faculty, alumni, and the employers of Tennessee Tech graduates. All Students have the right to due process as described in this policy when suspected of an Academic Integrity Violation.

No Vote Required

Such other Matters

There were no such other matters.

Adjournment

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Amy McCoy, Recorder

Documents on file with the minutes:
All documents presented at the meeting

