

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY
April 13, 2022

The Academic Council met at 3:35 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13, 2022 via Teams videoconferencing technology, with Professor Kimberly Winkle, Chairperson, presiding.

The following members of the council were present:

Dr. Thomas Payne	Dr. Christopher Reames
Dr. Kumar Yelamarthi	Prof. Drew Sisk
Dr. Jeff Roberts	Dr. Emily Lee
Dr. Jennifer Shank	Dr. Matt Langford
Dr. Mike Gotcher	Dr. Ann Manginelli
Dr. Lisa Zagumny	Dr. Troy Smith
Dr. Darron Smith	Dr. Linda Null
Dr. Douglas Airhart	Ms. April Crockett
Dr. Troy Brachey	Dr. Brian O'Connor
Dr. Sean Alley	Dr. Jennifer Meadows
Ms. Robert Wilbanks	Dr. Chris Brown
Dr. Melissa Comer	Dr. Denis Ulybyshev
Dr. Christy Killman	Dr. Katherine Hermann-Turner
Dr. Stephen Canfield	Mr. Cannon Johnson
Dr. Syed Rafay Hasan	Mr. Braxton Westbrook

Others present were:

Dr. Sharon Huo	Dr. Jeremy Wendt
Dr. Mark Stephens	Dr. Kent Dollar
Dr. Bedelia Russell	Dr. Benjamin Mohr
Dr. Brandon Johnson	Dr. Kate Nicewicz
Dr. Bruce Greene	Dr. Jeff Boles
Dr. Melinda Anderson	Ms. Holly Mills
Dr. Samantha Hutson	

The following members of the council were absent:

Dr. Lee Ann Shipley	Ms. Stephanie Adams
Dr. Lori Maxwell	Mr. Jackson Lelle
Dr. Russell Witcher	Ms. Savannah Griffin
Dr. Yun Ding	

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Minutes from the March 9, 2022 Meeting

Approval of Annual Reports of Committees Reporting to the Academic Council for 2021-2022

- Admissions and Credits Committee
- Committee on Commencement, Convocations, and Academic Ceremonies
- Faculty Development Steering Committee
- Faculty Research Committee
- Graduate Studies Executive Committee
- Teacher Education Committee
- University Curriculum Committee
- University Library Committee
- University Research Advisory Committee

Department of Curriculum & Instruction Concentration Name Change
 Department of Curriculum & Instruction Combine Concentrations
 Department of History Addition of New Minor
 Department of Mathematics Addition of New Concentrations
 School of Art, Craft & Design Concentration Name Change
 Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Addition of New Concentration
 School of Human Ecology Change of Admission Requirements
 College of Business Addition of New Graduate Certificate
 Proposed URAC Procedure Change
 Revised Academic Procedures
 Approval of Research Center's Policy 706
 Nominations and Vote for Academic Council Chair for Academic Year 2022-2023
 Such other Matters
 Adjournment

Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Mr. Braxton Westbrook SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes from the March 9, 2022 Meeting

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Mr. Braxton Westbrook SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of Annual Reports of Committees Reporting to the Academic Council for 2021-2022

- Admissions and Credits Committee
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- University Research Advisory Committee

All reports were approved and seconded. Dr. Douglas Airhart MOVED approval and Mr. Braxton Westbrook SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously

Department of Curriculum & Instruction Concentration Name Change

Dr. Jeremy Wendt stated the current Multidisciplinary Studies, General (Non-Licensure) concentration program name does not adequately share the purpose of the program and in some instances is interpreted as a "lesser" path. It is our desire to clarify the program purpose by changing the name from Multidisciplinary Studies, General (Non-Licensure) concentration, B.S. to Multidisciplinary Studies Generalist, B.S. After minimal discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Mr. Braxton Westbrook SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Department of Curriculum & Instruction Combine Concentrations

Dr. Jeremy Wendt stated the combination of concentrations will better align with state licensure, while giving students stronger special education foundational skills. Students will seamlessly transition into the new, broader concentration with advisor guidance. The original concentrations will be phased out no later than August 2023. After minimal discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Mr. Braxton Westbrook SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Department of History Addition of New Minor

Dr. Kent Dollar stated this minor should be particularly attractive to students who wish to explore how the quantitative, computationally-engaged research methodologies of the STEM fields can enhance their understanding of central problems in the humanities. After minimal discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Mr. Braxton Westbrook SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Department of Mathematics Addition of New Concentrations

Dr. Brian O'Connor stated the currently existing tracks (Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Statistics, and Actuarial Mathematics) will be elevated to the new concentrations (Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Statistics and Data Science, and Actuarial Science). Most of the curricula in the new concentrations correspond to the current tracks. After minimal discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Mr. Braxton Westbrook SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

School of Art, Craft & Design Concentration Name Change

Professor Kim Winkle stated the School of Art, Craft & Design's accrediting body, NASAD, requires the use of General Fine Arts: Dual-Focus (instead of studio). This is simply a change of name, the curriculum and learning outcomes are the same. After minimal discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Mr. Braxton Westbrook SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Addition of New Concentration

Dr. Benjamin Mohr stated the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering is proposing a new concentration in Construction Engineering and Management to provide current and prospective students with the opportunity to expand their knowledge base in construction practices, while maintaining a base knowledge of all other Civil Engineering sub-disciplines.

After minimal discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Mr. Braxton Westbrook SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

School of Human Ecology Change of Admission Requirements

Dr. Melinda Anderson stated changes to admission requirements in Graduate Catalog for Community Health and Nutrition Graduate program. Applicants are selected on a competitive basis and, therefore, admission is not granted to all applicants who meet only the minimum requirements. After minimal discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Douglas Airhart SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

College of Business Addition of New Graduate Certificate

Dr. Kate Nicewicz stated the Agribusiness Certificate is designed for current or prospective students seeking a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture or related field. The Agribusiness Certificate consists of 15 hours of industry-relevant credit and may be acquired in conjunction with, or independent from, other graduate credentials- including the Master of Business Administration (MBA). If in conjunction with the MBA, 9 hours of (specifically directed) credit may be counted toward both the MBA and the Agribusiness Certificate. After minimal discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Mr. Braxton Westbrook SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Proposed URAC Procedure Change

Dr. Jeff Boles stated Research Centers can be within a specific College or be University-wide if they involve faculty and resources from multiple Colleges or units, provided they are approved by the dean(s) of the Colleges involved and then by the President and Vice President for Research in consultation with and agreement of the Provost. They report to the appropriate Dean or the Vice-President for Research. As official units of Tennessee Tech, all Research Centers must develop and utilize transparent processes of governance and review. After minimal discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Mr. Braxton Westbrook SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Revised Academic Procedures (Library)

Ms. Holly Mills stated there shall be a total of thirty-seven members distributed as follows: Faculty: Twenty-three faculty members, one elected from the College of Interdisciplinary Studies, two elected from each of the remaining six colleges, two elected from the School of Nursing, and the Library; and eight elected at large by the University faculty. Twenty-five faculty members, two elected from each of the following: College of Agriculture and Human Ecology, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business, College of Education, College of Engineering, College of Fine Arts, College of Interdisciplinary Studies, and the School of Nursing; and, one elected from the Library. After minimal discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Mr. Braxton Westbrook SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Revised Academic Procedures (Academic Council)

Professor Kim Winkle stated that the vice chair from the previous academic year shall be chair for the current year. The vice chair shall be elected annually from the membership of the Council. Dr. Linda Null MOTIONED to table discussion and Dr. Douglas Airhart SECONDED. This will be revisited, no vote.

Approval of Research Center’s Policy 706

Dr. Douglas Airhart MOTIONED to table discussion and Dr. Sean Alley SECONDED. This will be revisited, no vote.

Nominations and Vote for Academic Council Chair for Academic Year 2022-2023

Prof. Kim Winkle was nominated and elected as chairperson. After minimal discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Douglas Airhart SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Such other Matters

There were no such other matters.

Adjournment

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Mr. Braxton Westbrook SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

APPROVAL September 7, 2022

Amy McCoy, Recorder

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