

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY
April 15, 2009

The Academic Council met at 3:30pm on Wednesday, April 15, 2009, in the Deans' Conference Room of Derryberry Hall with Corinne Darvennes, Chairperson presiding.

The following members of the Council were present:

Dr. Bobby Hodum	Dr. David Larimore
Dr. Roy Loutzenheiser	Dr. Don Visco
Dr. Paul Semmes	Dr. Brian O'Connor
Dr. Susan Elkins	Dr. John Harris
Dr. Jeff Roberts	Dr. Gretta Stanger
Dr. Steve Isbell	Dr. Corinne Darvennes
Dr. Christine Miller	Dr. Kari Rajan
Mr. Ray Jordan	

Ms. Regina Lee represented Ms. Deanna Nipp-Kientz. Others attending the meeting were Dr. Francis Otuonye, Dr. Deivy, and Ms. Phyllis Miller. The following members of the Council were absent:

Dr. Pat Bagley	Prof. Susan Clark
Dr. Larry Peach	Dr. Michael Best
Dr. James Jordan-Wagner	Dr. Susan Laningham
Ms. Deanna Nipp-Kientz	Dr. Pat Jordan
Mr. Grayson Peek	Dr. Sharon Huo
Mr. Alston Peek	Dr. Holly Anthony
Mr. Walter Fitts	Dr. Linda Null
Ms. Kristen Perrone	

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Approved agenda

Approved the minutes of the March 18, 2009 meeting

Approved annual reports from committees reporting to the Academic Council

Elected a chairperson for 2009-2010

Approved the postdoctoral research/scholars policy

Approved the visiting scholar program policy

PROCEEDINGS

Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Larimore MOVED approval of the revised agenda and Dr. Harris SECONDED. Agenda APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes of the March 18, 2009 Meeting

Dr. O'Connor MOVED approval of the minutes and Dr. Larimore SECONDED. Minutes APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of Annual Reports from Committees Reporting to the Academic Council

Dr. Larimore MOVED approval of the reports as a whole and Dr. Hodum SECONDED. There was discussion on the report from the Committee on Commencements, Convocations, and Academic Ceremonies. The committee has recommended to the President and the EAC to discontinue summer commencements after the 2009 summer commencement. The reason for this was based on the smaller number of graduates, low attendance overall, and the work associated with the ceremony. Direct cost savings was not a factor in this recommendation. It was also recommended that diploma covers be replaced with diploma tubes, saving about \$8,000 per year. It was noted that the Instructional Improvement and Faculty Development Committee was not able to have a quorum at their meetings. Dr. Armistead will look into this. Reports APPROVED unanimously.

Election of Chairperson for 2009-2010

Dr. Larimore made a motion to nominate Dr. Darvennes for another year. Dr. Roberts moved that nominations cease and Dr. Darvennes be elected by acclamation, Dr. Harris SECONDED. Dr. Darvennes was elected unanimously.

Postdoctoral Research/Scholars Policy

Dr. Deivy stated there is a need in the Centers of Excellence for a postdoctoral research/scholars policy to hire temporary people on research projects. This policy has been reviewed by HR and is consistent with TTU's hiring practices. (See complete policy for details.) Dr. Miller MOVED approval of the policy and Dr. Larimore SECONDED. These are non tenure-track appointments for one year or less and may be renewable up to three years, and with permission from TBR can be extend past three years. Motion APPROVED unanimously.

Visiting Scholar Program

Dr. Otuonye discussed the visiting scholar program and the process for appointing these people. (For complete details of the policy see research@tntech.edu.) Dr. Semmes MOVED approval of the policy and Ms. Lee SECONDED. After some discussion, the motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Change in Summer Schedule 2010

Dr. Hodum stated that TBR Universities and Community Colleges are all on a common calendar for Fall and Spring and RODP is also on that calendar. This works well because end of term processing can be done at the same time. However, Summer is not on a common calendar. RODP is proposing that the universities and community colleges all get on a common calendar for the summer. The issue is that we have two sessions and RODP has full term for 10 weeks. If we start and end on the same date as RODP, there is one and half weeks between the sessions. TTU's ending date is earlier than RODP and therefore, we cannot do end of term processing until RODP classes are finished. After much discussion, there was no motion to change TTU's current Summer 2010 schedule.

Such Other Matters

1. Covert Taping Policy Sub-committee falls under the Administrative Council not the Academic Council. This issue was brought to the Administrative Council three years ago and referred to Marc Burnett's office and there has been no closure. It will need to be revisited with the Administrative Council.
2. There was discussion on the results of the IDEA evaluations not being returned in a timely manner. This was not a problem at the national level, but within TTU. Dr. Armistead will check to see if this process can be completed more efficiently.
3. There was a question about the cost of the UNIV 1020 courses verses the benefit. Dr. Armistead stated that Dr. Null needs to be present during this discussion and suggested that an overall assessment of these classes to see if the program has been effective be done by Dr. Null and Dr. Stein and presented at one of the meetings in the Fall.
4. The hiring practices discussion item from the Faculty Senate was from a faculty member who was concerned that the university was hiring faculty who have not received their PhD, and that there are inconsistencies in the hiring process/policy. This issue was not pursued by the Faculty Senate and there was no interest by the Academic Council in changing our current hiring policies.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55pm.

APPROVED 9/9/09

Carol Holley, Recorder

Documents on file with the minutes:

Annual Reports

Postdoctoral Research/Scholars Policy

Visiting Scholar Program Policy