

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL  
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY  
February 25, 2015

The Academic Council met at 3:35pm on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 in Derryberry Hall Room 200 with Dr. Steve Isbell, Chairperson, presiding.

The following members of the Council were present:

Dr. Bobby Hodum	Prof. Barbara Jared
Dr. Darrell Hoy	Prof. Sue Piras
Dr. Liz Mullens	Dr. Brian O'Connor
Dr. Thomas Payne	Dr. David Larimore
Dr. Doug Bates	Dr. Jim Raymondo
Dr. Jordana Navarro	Dr. Janet Isbell
Dr. Steve Isbell	Dr. Corinne Darvennes
Dr. Martha Howard	Dr. Linda Null
Dr. Michael Phillips	Dr. Wali Kharif
Dr. Tammy Boles	

Others present were Dr. Julie Baker, Dr. Rita Barnes, Dr. Alice Camuti, Dr. Ferdinand DiFurio, and Dr. Barry Stein. The following members were absent:

Dr. Jennifer Shank	Dr. Charles Carnal
Dr. Paul Semmes	Dr. Doug Talbert
Dr. Melissa Geist	Dr. Daniel Badoe
Dr. Lee Ann Shipley	Mr. William Gabelman
Dr. Janice Branson	Mr. Daniel Tribble
Dr. Elizabeth Propes	Mr. Daniel Williamson
Dr. Ismet Anitsal	Ms. Kaitlin Townsend

#### SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Approved the agenda

Approved the minutes of the January 28, 2015 Meeting

Approved Policy on Requirements for a Baccalaureate Degree and Graduation

Received update on Honors College

Received progress report on Rural Development Institute

Received information for Multidisciplinary Studies Elementary Education Concentration

Approved proposal for B.S. in Early Childhood Education

Approved proposal for B.S. in Secondary Education

Approved proposal for changes in admission criteria for Specialist in Education

Approve nine Graduate College policies

Approved Policy for University Committees

Approved Policy on Faculty Roles and Responsibilities

Received information on the phase out of the MSN RODP Nursing Informatics concentration

Approved request for suspending exams during dead week

Selected nominating committee for chairperson for 2015-16

## PROCEEDINGS

### Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Hodum requested that his item #10 be moved up to #3 as he needs to leave for Nashville. Dr. Darvennes MOVED approval of agenda with requested change and Dr. Larimore SECONDED. The agenda was APPROVED unanimously.

### Approval of the Minutes of the January 28, 2015 Meeting

Dr. Janet Isbell stated she was not present at the January meeting. Changes will be made to reflect correct attendance of Dr. Janet Isbell and Dr. Lee Ann Shipley. Dr. Darvennes MOVED approval of the minutes with noted changes and Dr. Kharif SECONDED. The minutes were APPROVED unanimously.

### Approval of Policy on Requirements for a Baccalaureate Degree and Graduation

Dr. Hodum stated the policy replicates what is currently in the catalog and MOVED approval and Dr. Hoy SECONDED. There was much discussion with several recommended editorial changes, and explanations of selected items. These changes are noted in the document. The policy was APPROVED unanimously with the noted changes.

### Update on Honors College

Dr. Rita Barnes discussed the continued work and the task force focus for establishing an Honors College. The ad hoc committee has been studying the concept and visited other institutions to learn about similar operations. They have worked hard to address all issues and are making good progress. The proposed admissions guidelines for the new Honors College include higher ACT standards and essay which is currently being piloted with approximately 100 high school students. Honors is currently piloting 11 student projects in seven different colleges at the senior level. Sample Honors paths built around departmental curricula are being developed. Several colleges have begun working with Honors to integrate these plans with initiatives unique to their strategic goals. Other actions include identifying space and staff needs, alumni board formation, an upcoming marketing survey and renovation of Murphy Hall, which will become the Honors Learning Village.

### Progress Report on Tennessee Tech Rural Development Institute

Dr. DiFurio explained that an exploratory committee met to review ideas on how the program should be developed. This is a diverse group that achieved good results. There were three recommendations: (1) To change the name from Rural Policy Institute to Rural Development Institute. (2) To make the focus on service learning at this time instead of research. A subcommittee will be sending out requests for proposals for service projects for this summer for a test run. (3) An expert will be invited to campus to share his ideas on how to form the institute.

### Name Change for Multidisciplinary Studies Elementary Education Concentration

Dr. Julie Baker presented this information in the absence of Dr. Jeremy Wendt. She stated that the name change from Elementary Education K-6 to Elementary Education K-5 is to align to recent State Department of Education changes to the associated state licensure area and respective licensure exam.

### Approval of Proposals for B.S. in Early Childhood Education (non-licensure) and Secondary Education (non-licensure)

Dr. Baker also presented on behalf of Dr. Wendt. She explained that this non-licensure option will give educators the opportunity to develop highly sought after skills, strategies, implications, and foundations for careers in Early Childhood Education. The second proposal is similar to this one but is for Secondary Education non-licensure. Dr. Larimore MOVED approval and Dr. Darvennes SECONDED. After some discussion and clarification of the difference in this program and the Human Ecology Early Childhood and Child and Family Services, both proposals were APPROVE unanimously.

### Approval of Proposal to Change Admission Criteria for the Specialist in Education

Dr. Stein explained that the change in the admissions policy will align the admissions criteria with standards in the profession and meet requirements for accreditation. Dr. Darvennes MOVED approval and Dr. Larimore SECONDED. The proposal was APPROVED unanimously.

### Approval of Graduate College Policies

Dr. Camuti requested approval of the polices as a group, which was previously approved by the Graduate School Executive Committee and legal counsel. These policies are already covered in the Graduate Catalog and will refer the reader back to detailed procedures for the policies covering general degree requirements, graduate assistantships, and online degrees. This is consistent with TBR, THEC, and HR policies that govern these policies. Dr. Darvennes MOVED approval and Dr. Larimore SECONDED. After a few questions, the policies were APPROVED unanimously.

### Approval of Policy for University Committees

Dr. Null stated that the Policy on University Committees is to define and make clear university standing committees and special purpose committees. Dr. Null MOVED approval and Dr. Darvennes SECONDED. The policy was APPROVED unanimously. Dr. O'Connor MOVED to update the Academic Council Procedures to match this policy and Dr. Larimore SECONDED. This motion was APPROVED unanimously also.

### Approval of Policy on Faculty Roles and Responsibilities

Dr. Null stated this policy is to define the roles and responsibilities of faculty. Several people worked on this policy and it was approved by legal counsel. It includes the definition of faculty and states academic matters and governance matters. This policy is needed for SACSCOC compliance. Dr. Null MOVED approval and Dr. Darvennes SECONDED. The policy was APPROVED unanimously.

### Such Other Matters

1. Dr. Stephens stated that the TBR ROCC Master of Science in Nursing Online Degree Program for the MSN RODP Nursing Informatics Concentration is being phased out due to insufficient resources and low enrollment. This was submitted to all universities participating in the program. No new students will be admitted and the phase out will continue through Fall 2017.

2. Dr. O'Connor stated at the last Faculty Senate meeting there was discussion on how to handle classes missed when the University was closed due to the weather. The President requested guidance from the faculty. Therefore, Dr. O'Connor presented the following statement *"The cancelling of classes by Tennessee Tech University for the week of February 16-21 has created challenges for teaching of courses during the current term. Tennessee Tech University believes in the professional judgment of individual faculty members to handle those challenges in the most appropriate way in their courses for the benefit of their students. In order to help accomplish that end, the Academic Council urges that the regulations concerning examinations during Dead Week be suspended for the Spring 2015 term."* Dr. O'Connor MOVED approval and Dr. Kharif SECONDED. After discussion the motion was APPROVED unanimously. Dr. Steve Isbell will present this to the President to share with the campus.
3. A subcommittee of Drs. Navarro, Raymondo and Boles was formed to nominate a chairperson for Academic Council for next year. This will be presented at the April meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.

APPROVED APRIL 15, 2015

Carol Holley, Recorder

Documents on file with the minutes:

- All policies presented at the meeting
- All proposals approved at the meeting
- Name Change Form