

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY
October 10, 2018

The Academic Council met at 3:35 p.m. on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 in Derryberry Hall Deans' Conference Room with Dr. Linda Null, Chairperson, presiding.

The following members of the council were present:

Dr. Doug Bates	Dr. Ann Hellman
Dr. Darrell Hoy	Dr. Troy Smith
Dr. Paul Semmes	Dr. Linda Null
Dr. Jennifer Shank	Dr. Brian O'Connor
Dr. Lee Ann Shipley	Dr. David Larimore
Dr. Douglas Airhart	Dr. Chris Brown
Dr. Troy Brachey	Dr. Corrine Darvennes
Dr. Lori Maxwell	Ms. Emily Bass
Dr. Christine Miller	Ms. Katelynn Cammack
Prof. Kim Winkle	Dr. Mark Stephens
Dr. Tammy Boles	
Dr. Barbara Jared	

Others present were: Dr. Jeremy Wendt for Dr. Christy Killman, Mr. Braden Benton for Ms. Madison Cole, and Dr. Sheikh Ghafoor. The following members of the council were absent:

Dr. Thomas Payne	Dr. Jeremy Hansen
Dr. Mike Gotcher	Dr. Barry Stein
Dr. Lisa Zagumny	Mr. David Hajdik
Dr. Bruce Greene	Mr. Brad Sells
Dr. Ismet Anitsal	Dr. Lori Bruce
Dr. Zachary Wilcox	Dr. Sharon Huo
Dr. Ben Mohr	Dr. Brandon Johnson
Dr. Holly Stretz	

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Approved the agenda

Approved the minutes of the September 12, 2018 meeting

Approved concentration name change for Early Childhood Education

Approved concentration name change for Special Education

Approved change in departmental degree requirements for Computer Science

Approved curriculum change for TN eCampus MSN program

Other such matters

PROCEEDINGS

Approval of agenda

Dr. Larimore MOVED approval of the agenda, and Dr. Troy Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of minutes- September 12, 2018

Dr. Larimore MOVED approval of the minutes from the September 12, 2018 Academic Council meeting, and Dr. Doug Bates SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of the concentration name change for Early Childhood Education, B.S.

Dr. Jeremy Wendt presented a request to change the name of a concentration under the Early Childhood Education B.S. degree from Non-Licensure to Practitioner. The department felt that the current name of Early Childhood Education, Non-Licensure does not adequately share the purpose of the program and could be interpreted as a “lesser” path. Dr. Wendt MOVED approval of this name change, and Dr. Maxwell SECONDED. The change was APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of the concentration name change for Special Education, B.S.

Dr. Jeremy Wendt presented a request to change the name of a concentration under the Special Education B.S. degree from Non-Licensure to Practitioner. The department felt that the title current title underscores the licensure/school-based aspect of special education, rather than the practical application of techniques emphasized throughout the program. The proposed name change is meant to be more representative of the program of study and may help assist in recruiting new students to the program. Dr. Wendt MOVED approval of the name change, and Dr. Maxwell SECONDED. The change was APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of change in departmental degree requirements for Computer Science

Dr. Sheikh Ghafoor presented a request to change the degree program requirements for an MS degree in Computer Science, both the Thesis and Non-Thesis options. Non-substantial changes were made to the credit hour requirements and to the wording of the requirements in order that they reflect the current program. These requirements, and the wording in the catalog, had not been updated since the creation of the program. Dr. Hoy MOVED approval of these changes, and Dr. Larimore SECONDED. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of changes to the TN eCampus MSN program curriculum

Dr. Barbara Jared presented a request to change the requirements for the Accelerated Doctor of Nursing program for students with a bachelor’s degree in another discipline. The requirements for this program had not been evaluated or updated since 2003. The goal for the proposed reduction to credit hours is to reduce redundancy in content, decrease the need for faculty resources including the faculty advisement load, increase enrollment in the program, and accelerate progression rates toward completion of degree requirements for current and future students. This is a substantive change and will require the submission of a substantive change letter from the TN eCampus Executive Director of Nursing on behalf of the MSN program partnership to the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing and to SACS six months prior to the implementation of the requested changes. Dr. Jared MOVED to approve these changes, and Dr. Darvennes SECONDED. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Other Such Matters

Dr. Airhart requested status of the Academic Calendar. Dr. Null advised Dr. Bruce was in the process of forming a committee.

Dr. Larimore brought up admission requirements for UG students, which were updated in 2015. The requirements indicated a planned change to a 2.5 GPA, with a 17 on the ACT in 2017. Requirements are currently supposed be 2.6 GPA and an ACT of 17, and next fall it is supposed to be a 2.75 GPA and an ACT of 17. However, enrollment took a deep decline. The President took action to relax the policy requirement and instead take a holistic approach to admissions instead of following the policy, and the Faculty Senate passed a resolution in support of the President's holistic approach to admission. When a proposed change to the actual admission policy came before Academic Council previously, the Council referred it to the Admissions and Credits Committee which was then to come back to the Academic Council with a recommendation. The Council has not yet received this recommendation. Dr. Larimore was advised that the Admissions and Credits Committee has not met since the proposal was referred to them by the Council, and so he feels it falls back onto the Academic Council to update the policy. Dr. Larimore referred the committee to Vanderbilt University's admissions page, which states that there is no GPA or test score requirement for admission. He felt that it was important to update the admission policy to reflect the current holistic admission practices of the university, and consequently the admission requirements posted on the university's website, as soon as possible to try to help with the continued decline in enrollment. He feels that the number of students who would be deterred from applying by the posted 2.75 GPA requirement for Fall 2019 warrants updating the policy to reflect the new holistic approach as soon as possible.

Dr. Null will consult with Dr. Julie Galloway, the Chair of the Admissions and Credits Committee, and Dr. Christy Killman, the President of the Faculty Senate from the previous year.

There being no other such matters presented, Dr. Darvennes moved to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:02 pm

APPROVED November 14, 2018

Elizabeth Sofia, Recorder

Documents on file with the minutes:

All policies and documents presented at the meeting