

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY
September 8, 2010

The Academic Council met at 3:30pm on Wednesday, September 8, 2010, in the Deans' Conference Room of Derryberry Hall with Susan Laningham, Chairperson, presiding.

The following members of the Council were present:

Dr. Larry Peach	Dr. Mary Pashley
Dr. James Jordan-Wagner	Dr. David Larimore
Dr. Doug Bates	Dr. Steve Canfield
Dr. Bobby Hodum	Dr. Shannon Morgan
Dr. Roy Loutzenheiser	Dr. Corinne Darvennes
Mr. Lee Gatts	Dr. Susan Gore
Mr. Daniel Bouch	Dr. Linda Null
Mr. Bo Murphy	Dr. Jon Jonakin
Dr. Michael Best	Dr. Brian O'Connor
Dr. Susan Laningham	Dr. John Harris
Dr. Jeff Roberts	Dr. Holly Anthony
Dr. Steve Isbell	

Others attending the meeting were Ms. Beth Rogers and Dr. Homer Kemp. Dr. Kurt Eisen represented Dr. Paul Semmes. The following members of the Council were absent:

Dr. Pat Bagley	Prof. Linda McQuiston
Dr. Paul Semmes	Dr. Lebron Bell
Dr. Susan Elkins	Dr. Chris Wilson
Mr. Julian Lyons	

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Approved the agenda
Approved the minutes of the April 14, 2010 meeting
Discussed Guidelines for Granting Unpaid Leaves of Absence
Discussed Proposed Policy for Promotion of a Tenured Instructor
Reviewed Academic Calendar schedule

PROCEEDINGS

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes of the April 14, 2010 Meeting

Dr. Darvennes MOVED approval of the minutes and Dr. Peach SECONDED. Minutes APPROVED unanimously.

Guidelines for Granting Unpaid Leaves of Absence

Dr. Armistead stated that this is not a new policy, but a guideline to interpret the current policy. (See attachment) This is a reference for the deans and chairs when considering unpaid leaves of absence. This is not an entitlement for the faculty as the department may not be able to wait for the faculty to return or maintain the workload without them. The department's ability to meet their obligations is a primary factor in granting a leave of absence. The most important issue to consider is that the person intends to return to TTU. This guideline will be placed in the appropriate area of the Faculty Handbook.

Proposed Policy for Promotion of a Tenured Instructor to a Tenured Assistant Professor

Dr. Armistead MOVED that this item should be changed from an action item to a vote by the Council since this will be part of the current tenure and promotion policy, and Dr. Isbell SECONDED. (See attachment) Dr. Armistead stated that there is no current policy specifically for this and it will be added to the Faculty Promotion Policy in the Faculty Handbook. Each department and college will still have the choice regarding hiring and promoting instructors. After much discussion, Dr. Armistead withdrew his motion to vote on this item as Dr. Kemp stated that the Administrative Council has just approved this and it will go to the University Assembly in December. The suggested changes to the language will be presented to the Academic Council at the next meeting. If approved, it will be sent to the Administrative Council as a proposed revision.

Such Other Matters

Dr. O'Connor provided a power point presentation on how the academic calendar has changed over the years with regards to the number of days in a semester, particularly the number of class meetings for each day of the week. He explained in detail the process since 1980 and calculated the number of days and minutes in each semester for comparison. From the mid 1990s through the 2003-04 academic year, the TTU calendar had equal class meetings between semesters and among the days of the week. This symmetry was accomplished by having the Wednesday after Fall break designated as Monday classes and the Thursday that started Spring semester designated as Monday classes. In 2004, the Common Calendar was initiated by TBR and prevented TTU from continuing with the Spring semester Thursday-to-Monday swap. The capability was restored beginning in 2008-09. However, this year, the Wednesday after Fall break will be Wednesday classes and the Thursday to start Spring semester will be Thursday classes. The reason for this change was in preparation for dual enrollment students attending the community colleges, starting in Spring 2011, and other concurrent enrolled students, so as to avoid confusion and scheduling problems. After much discussion on how to balance the number of days, Dr. Armistead stated that he would check with TBR to see what our limits are based on the common calendar guidelines.

The meeting was ADJOURNED at 4:40pm.

APPROVED 10/6/10

Carol Holley, Recorder

Documents on file with the minutes:

Guidelines for Granting Unpaid Leaves of Absence

Proposed Policy for Promotion of a Tenured Instructor