

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY
March 12, 2025

The Academic Council met at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 via Teams videoconferencing technology, with Dr. Brenda Wilson, presiding.

The following members of the council were present:

Dr. Thomas Payne	Dr. Ann Manginelli
Dr. Kumar Yelamarthi	Dr. Amy Hill
Dr. Daren Snider	Dr. Linda Null
Dr. Jennifer Shank	Ms. Ka Grimes
Dr. Lisa Zagumny	Dr. Mustafa Rajabali
Dr. Ciana Bowhay	Dr. Lenly Weathers
Dr. Mark Creter	Mr. Harrison Simpson
Dr. Brian O'Connor	Ms. Cheyenne Bare
Dr. Yi Peng	Ms. Kathryn Dye
Dr. Hyewon Park	Ms. Kashaina Nucum
Dr. Melissa Comer	
Dr. Christy Killman	
Dr. Alfred Kalyanapu	
Dr. Syed Rafay Hasan	
Dr. Kexin Xu	

Others present were:

Dr. Lori Bruce
Dr. Julie Baker
Dr. Sharon Huo
Dr. Bedelia Russell
Dr. Rachel Hall
Dr. William Eberle
Dr. Martin Sheehan
Dr. Kevin West

The following members of the council were absent:

Professor Kim Winkle
Dr. Mike Gotcher
Dr. Darron Smith
Dr. Lee Ann Shipley
Professor Joshua Field
Dr. Scott Christen
Dr. Jennifer Mabry
Dr. Matt Langford
Ms. Megan Atkinson
Dr. Krystal Kennedy
Dr. Amber Spears

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of Minutes from the February 5, 2025 meeting

Policy 205: Faculty Tenure (First Reading)

Policy 206: Faculty Promotion (First Reading)

Removal of recommendation letters for admission to Post Graduate Nursing Certificates

Credit hour change for Master's Degree in Computer Science

Foreign Languages: Program Name Change

Chemical Engineering- New Concentration

Policy 102: University Committees (First Reading)

Such Other Matters

Adjournment

Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Linda Null MOVED approval and Dr. Lisa Zagumny SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes from the February 5, 2025 Meeting

Dr. Linda Null MOVED approval and Dr. Lisa Zagumny SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Policy 205: Faculty Tenure (First Reading)

Policy 206: Faculty Promotion (First Reading)

Dr. Lisa Zagumny discussed **Faculty Tenure Policy No. 205 and the Faculty Promotion Policy No. 206**. In the fall 2024 semester, Kimberly Winkle and Lisa Zagumny were tasked with leading a committee of sixteen members from across campus to update and revise Policy No. 205 and Policy No. 206. Instead of dividing the work in half by policy the committee was split into smaller groups to review section by section of each policy. The goal was to streamline the two policies and make them easier to understand for faculty seeking tenure and promotion. The entire committee had been meeting since October 2024 and smaller groups met to work on their respective sections.

Dr. Lisa Zagumny highlighted a few of the changes. One change was to differentiate “research/creative activity” and scholarship. In the original policy, it was stated as “research/scholarship/creative activity”, and time was spent defining each term. It was decided that scholarship is different from research and creative activity. Research and creative activity were the initial stages of inquiry to learn and examine while scholarship was the dissemination of that research or creative activity. This was as broken down into separate terms so that candidates who read the policy would understand the distinction between the three.

Removal of recommendation letters for admission to Post Graduate Nursing Certificates

Dr. Rachel Hall stated letters of recommendation can be very difficult to obtain which can delay a student application being reviewed. We are recommending that the 3 letters of recommendation be removed from the Post-Graduate Certificate application process and require the students to add three professional references to their CV. This applies to the following PGC programs: Family Nurse Practitioner, Psych Mental Health NP, Women's Health NP, Adult Geriatric Acute Care NP, Pediatric NP, and Nursing Education. After little discussion Dr. Linda Null MOVED approval and Dr. Lisa Zagumny SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Credit hour change for Master's Degree in Computer Science

Dr. William Eberle stated. currently, the CS Master's program requires 31 credits for thesis track students and 34 credits for project and course-only tracks. This memorandum proposes a plan to standardize the credit requirement to 30 credits for all CS MS students. The change applies regardless of the chosen track. These proposals were discussed in the faculty meeting on January 9, 2025, and unanimously approved. After little discussion Dr. Linda Null MOVED approval and Dr. Lisa Zagumny SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Foreign Languages: Program Name Change

Dr. Martin Sheehan stated the Foreign Language faculty propose updating the department's name to "World Languages and Cultures." The new name more effectively communicates our department's role in preparing students for careers in the global economy. Many institutions and organizations across the U.S. have made similar updates. This change will keep our department current and competitive, enhancing our ability to promote and market our programs. After little discussion Dr. Linda Null MOVED approval and Dr. Lisa Zagumny SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Chemical Engineering- New Concentration

Dr. Kevin west stated admissions data for Chemical Engineering at Tennessee Tech is trending towards students declaring a concentration in the major, a kind of descriptor of a pathway that will lead to a specialized career focus, a specific aim for jobs. At one time there was a general sense that Chemical Engineering students found jobs in oil and gas or academia. After little discussion Dr. Linda Null MOVED approval and Dr. Lisa Zagumny SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Policy 102: University Committees (First Reading)

Dr. Huo discussed the revised Policy No. 102 University Committees. The policy had been used in Tennessee Tech's SACSCOC reaffirmation report. Within the policy it stated that a review would occur every four years, and the policy needed to match what was presented in the reaffirmation report. The revised policy would need to be approved and published by July 1, 2025. Some statements regarding University Assembly, Academic Council, and Administrative Council were revised for consistency. The first change was for University Assembly, which added a sentence to clarify its function because of the committees that directly reported to University Assembly. For Academic Council, the number of members listed within the procedures had changed, so it was updated within this policy. For Administrative Council, the number of members listed was updated as well as the line about the vice chair position

Two committees reporting to Academic Council were updated. An update was made to the University Curriculum Committee name within the policy, as it had been referred to as the Curriculum Committee. A new standing committee, the General Education Committee, was added. The Faculty Development Steering Committee was moved under the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. The new Export Control Committee was added to committees that report to Administrative Council. The committee formerly known as Faculty and Staff Traffic Appeals Committee was updated to its new name, Non-Student Citation Appeals Committee. The new Radiation Safety Committee was added to committees that report to Administrative Council as well. A line was revised to clarify the structure and committees reporting to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs: Academic Calendar Committee, the newly added Center Stage Committee, Faculty Development Steering Committee, and Outstanding Faculty Awards Committee.

Such other Matters

Dr. Bedelia Russell stated to the committee that Policy 207 would be presented at the next Academic Council meeting in April.

Adjournment

Dr. Linda Null MOVED approval and Dr. Lisa Zagumny SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Amy McCoy, Recorder

Documents on file with the minutes:

All documents presented at the meeting