

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL  
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY  
October 6, 2021

The Academic Council met at 3:35 p.m. on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 via Teams videoconferencing technology, with Professor Kimberly Winkle, Chairperson, presiding.

The following members of the council were present:

Dr. Thomas Payne	Dr. Christopher Reames
Dr. Jeff Roberts	Prof. Drew Sisk
Dr. Jennifer Shanks	Dr. Yun Ding
Dr. Mike Gotcher	Dr. Emily Lee
Dr. Lisa Zagumny	Dr. Matt Langford
Dr. Darron Smith	Ms. Stephanie Adams
Dr. Lee Ann Shipley	Dr. Ann Manginelli
Dr. Troy Brachey	Dr. Linda Null
Dr. Lori Maxwell	Ms. April Crockett
Dr. Robert Wilbanks	Dr. Brian O'Connor
Dr. Melissa Comer	Dr. David Larimore
Dr. Christy Killman	Dr. Jennifer Meadows
Dr. Steve Canfield	Dr. Chris Brown
Dr. Syed Rafay Hasan	Dr. Katherine Hermann-Turner
Dr. Russell Witcher	Mr. Jackson Lelle
Dr. Troy Smith	Mr. Braxton Westbrook
Dr. Douglas Airhart	Mr. Cannon Johnson

Others present were: Dr. Lori Bruce, Dr. Sharon Huo, Dr. Mark Stephens, Dr. Brandon Johnson, Dr. Bedelia Russell, Dr. Sandra Smith-Andrews, Dr. Colin Hill, Dr. Brenda Wilson, Mr. Andrew Bleignier, Ms. Kate Nicewicz, and Dr. Joseph Slater for Dr. Kumar Yelamarthi.

The following members of the council were absent:

Dr. Sean Alley  
Ms. Savannah Griffin

#### SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Approval of the Agenda  
Approval of the Minutes from the September 8, 2021 Meeting  
School of Music, New Degree Proposal: Bachelor of Science in Music  
Department of Communication, Addition of New Minor: Journalism  
Policy 223: Online and Distance Education  
International Affairs Committee, Change to Policy 240: Full Course of Study Requirements for International Students  
College of Business, Admissions Requirement Amendments  
College of Interdisciplinary Studies, New Courses for Project Management for Professionals  
Informational only – Policy 208, Faculty Workload and Overload  
Such Other Matters  
Adjournment

## PROCEEDINGS

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Mr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Approval of the minutes from the September 8, 2021 Meeting**

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **School of Music, New Degree Proposal: Bachelor of Science in Music**

Dr. Colin Hill stated that the Tennessee Tech School of Music currently offers Bachelor's degrees in music education and music performance, as well as four minors: music history, music performance, music technology, and music theory & composition. While these degree programs continue to be successful, there is a growing need for a new program that provides students with greater curricular flexibility, broader content, and training for careers that don't fit the traditional models of music education and performance. The purpose of this program is to broaden the educational opportunities and graduation pathways for students seeking an accredited degree in music. After minimal discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Department of Communication, Addition of New Minor: Journalism**

Dr. Brenda Wilson stated that students have inquired about a Journalism minor for some time. Journalism faculty agree that a journalism minor is needed to meet this need and to join with Communication and Event Planning within the Communication Department in offering a minor. After minimal discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Policy 223: Online and Distance Education**

Dr. Bedelia Russell stated that the mission of online and distance education at Tennessee Tech is to support the vision and mission of the university by utilizing technology, instructional technology, and remote locations to provide accessible and effective learning opportunities for those students who choose to pursue their education through online and distance education. A friendly amendment was made to include tutoring and subject to program review. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **International Affairs Committee, Change to Policy 240: Full Course of Study Requirements for International Students**

Mr. Andrew Bleignier stated that per the student exchange visitor program, which is an office under United States customs and enforcement and immigration and customs enforcement regulations, students in F-1 or J-1 status must meet specific enrollment criteria each semester to meet the immigration policy on international students maintaining full-time status. After minimal discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **College of Business, Admissions Requirement Amendments**

Ms. Kate Nicewicz stated that effective immediately for all admissions for the Spring of 2022 and beyond, GMAT/GRE admissions exams will be waived for all students who have earned an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 overall, or better. GMAT/GRE admission exams will also be waived for Tennessee Tech students who have earned an undergraduate GPA of 2.8 or better, overall. For non-Tech students with a GPA of less than 3.0, and Tech students with a GPA of less than 2.8, a GMAT or GRE will be required as part of the current MBA admissions matrix requirements. After minimal discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

**College of Interdisciplinary Studies, New Courses for Project Management for Professionals**

Dr. Mike Gotcher stated that the School of Professional Studies requests the approval for the new concentration and new certificate in project management for the master of professional studies degree. The concentration and certificate will address the growing need for trained project managers. The certificate represents a stackable credential that will enhance any degree field (Agriculture, Nursing, Criminal Justice, Religious Studies, Business, History, etc.). Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

**Informational only – Policy 208, Faculty Workload and Overload**

Dr. Stephens stated that this policy defines University requirements and expectations regarding faculty workload, thereby helping to ensure equity in workload assignment and overload pay eligibility across campus. Academic units will follow this policy in developing more specific guidelines for their colleges/school (required), and departments/schools/centers (recommended).

**Such Other Matters**

There were no such other matters

**Adjournment**

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Amy McCoy, Recorder

APPROVAL November 10, 2021

Documents on file with the minutes:

All documents presented at the meeting

