

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL  
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY  
October 4, 2023

The Academic Council met at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 via Teams videoconferencing technology, with Professor Kimberly Winkle, presiding.

**The following members of the council were present:**

Dr. Thomas Payne  
Dr. Kumar Yelamarthi  
Dr. Jeff Roberts  
Dr. Jennifer Shank  
Dr. Darron Smith  
Dr. Lee Ann Shipley  
Dr. Dennis Fennewald  
Dr. Mark Creter  
Dr. Brian O'Connor  
Dr. Sean Alley  
Dr. Hyewon Park  
Dr. Melissa Comer  
Dr. Christy Killman  
Dr. Stephen Canfield  
Dr. Syed Rafay Hasan

Dr. Scott Christen  
Dr. Ann Manginelli  
Dr. Jennifer Mabry  
Dr. Matt Langford  
Dr. Linda Null  
Ms. April Crockett  
Dr. Brenda Wilson  
Dr. Mustafa Rajabali  
Dr. Lenly Weathers  
Ms. Pooja Patel (Proxy for Ms. Claire Myers)

**Others present were:**

Dr. Lori Bruce  
Dr. Sharon Huo  
Dr. Bedelia Russell  
Dr. Julie Baker  
Dr. Mohan Rao  
Dr. Hayden Mattingly  
Dr. Matt Smith  
Dr. Jerry Gannod  
Mr. Stuart Gaetjens

**The following members of the council were absent:**

Dr. Mike Gotcher  
Dr. Lisa Zagumny  
Dr. Christopher Reames  
Ms. Megan Atkinson  
Dr. Troy Smith  
Dr. Krystal Kennedy  
Dr. Amber Spears  
Ms. Lindsey Taylor  
Mr. Eli Anderson  
Ms. Reece Edwards

## **SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Minutes from the September 6, 2023 Meeting

Approval of Revised Policy 221 Substantive Change Second Reading

Approval of Revised Policy 224 Academic Actions Notification Second Reading

Approval of Revised Policy 225 New Academic Programs Second Reading

Approval of Revised Policy 226 Academic Program Modifications Second Reading

Approval of Revised Policy 227 New Academic Units Second Reading

Approval of New Policy 259 General Education Second Reading

Approval of Revised Policy 261 Academic Credit from Other Institutions Second Reading

Recommended Changes for the Outstanding Faculty Awards Committee

Department of Mechanical Engineering ENAPP Proposal – Nuclear Engineering

College of Engineering Proposal for PhD in Computer Science

College of Interdisciplinary Studies School of Environmental Studies Graduate Admission Policy Change

College of Arts and Sciences Adding a PC Course Option for the Professional and Technical Communication Concentration

Other Such Matters

Adjournment

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Dr. Darron Smith MOVED approval and Dr. Christy Killman SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Approval of the Minutes from the September 6, 2023 Meeting**

Dr. Darron Smith MOVED approval and Dr. Christy Killman SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Approval of Revised Policy 221 Substantive Change Second Reading**

Professor Winkle noted the revised Policy 221 Substantive Change was submitted as a second reading and, therefore, the policy will be available for an actionable vote. Dr. Sharon Huo presented and stated that no changes or suggestions were given at the first reading. Dr. Darron Smith MOVED approval and Dr. Christy Killman SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Approval of Revised Policy 224 Academic Actions Notification Second Reading**

Professor Winkle noted the revised Policy 224 Academic Actions Notification was submitted as a second reading and, therefore, the policy will be available for an actionable vote. Dr. Sharon Huo presented and stated that no changes or suggestions were given at the first reading. Dr. Darron Smith MOVED approval and Dr. Christy Killman SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Approval of Revised Policy 225 New Academic Programs Second Reading**

Professor Winkle noted the revised Policy 225 New Academic Programs was submitted as a second reading and, therefore, the policy will be available for an actionable vote. Dr. Sharon Huo presented and stated that no changes or suggestions were given at the first reading. Dr. Darron Smith MOVED approval and Dr. Christy Killman SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Approval of Revised Policy 226 Academic Program Modifications Second Reading**

Professor Winkle noted the revised Policy 226 Academic Program Modifications was submitted as a second reading and, therefore, the policy will be available for an actionable vote. Dr. Sharon Huo presented and stated that no changes or suggestions were given at the first reading. Dr. Darron Smith MOVED approval and Dr. Christy Killman SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Approval of Revised Policy 227 New Academic Units Second Reading**

Professor Winkle noted the revised Policy 227 New Academic Units was submitted as a second reading and, therefore, the policy will be available for an actionable vote. Dr. Sharon Huo presented and stated that no changes or suggestions were given at the first reading. Dr. Darron Smith MOVED approval and Dr. Christy Killman SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Approval of Revised Policy 259 General Education Second Reading**

Professor Winkle noted the revised Policy 259 General Education was submitted as a second reading and, therefore, the policy will be available for an actionable vote. Dr. Sharon Huo presented and stated that no changes or suggestions were given at the first reading. Dr. Darron Smith MOVED approval and Dr. Christy Killman SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Approval of Revised Policy 261 Academic Credit from Other Institutions Second Reading**

Professor Winkle noted the revised Policy 261 Academic Credit from Other Institutions was submitted as a second reading and, therefore, the policy will be available for an actionable vote. Dr. Sharon Huo presented and stated that no changes or suggestions were given at the first reading. Dr. Darron Smith MOVED approval and Dr. Christy Killman SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Recommended Changes for the Outstanding Faculty Awards Committee**

Dr. Bedelia Russell stated that Dr. Curtis Armstrong and herself took all of the discussion and suggestions by the committee members over the past year's meetings, to draft the revisions to the Outstanding Faculty Awards Policy with the focus being to craft a policy that allows for award expansion, including an award for first year/early career faculty and adjunct faculty. If revisions are approved, it would allow for the next cycle of award notifications to expand under the new policy revisions. Dr. Brian O'Connor and Dr. Scott Christen made suggestions such as determining the number of awards that would be given in each category before the call for nominations, and adding a statement of intent, indicating the various categories should be included near the start of the policy in order to set the context of the policy. After much discussion, the agenda item was tabled and will be reintroduced at a future meeting. No vote.

### **Department of Mechanical Engineering ENAPP Proposal – Nuclear Engineering**

Dr. Rao stated the BS in Nuclear Engineering program has undergone comprehensive planning and review, including input from faculty, experts in the field, and external stakeholders. It aligns with our institution's mission and strategic goals, and we believe it will provide valuable opportunities for students and contribute to the academic offerings of our university. Dr. Darron Smith MOVED approval and Dr. Christy Killman SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

#### **College of Engineering Proposal for PhD in Computer Science**

Dr. Jerry Gannod stated for the establishment of a Ph.D. in Computer Science from a Ph.D. in Engineering is driven by three factors: the recruitment of computer science graduate students into our program, the ability of our graduates to get jobs, and the recruitment of new faculty. Dr. Darron Smith MOVED approval and Dr. Christy Killman SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

#### **College of Interdisciplinary Studies School of Environmental Studies Graduate Admission Policy Change**

Dr. Hayden Mattingly stated the School of Environmental Studies request approval to change the admissions policy by removing the requirement for the GRE. Recent studies have shown that there is little correlation between GRE scores and success in graduate schools and that the GRE requirement puts underrepresented groups at a disadvantage. Dr. Darron Smith MOVED approval and Dr. Christy Killman SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

#### **College of Arts and Sciences Adding a PC Course Option for the Professional and Technical Communication Concentration**

Dr. Linda Null stated this change would allow students to add a PC course to their program of study for flexibility in meeting academic and career goals. Dr. Darron Smith MOVED approval and Dr. Christy Killman SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

#### **Such other Matters**

There were no such other matters.

#### **Adjournment**

Dr. Darron Smith MOVED approval and Dr. Christy Killman SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Amy McCoy, Recorder

Documents on file with the minutes:  
All documents presented at the meeting

APPROVAL November 8, 2023