

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY
April 15, 2015

The Academic Council met at 3:35pm on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 in Derryberry Hall Room 200 with Dr. Steve Isbell, Chairperson, presiding.

The following members of the Council were present:

Dr. Bobby Hodum	Dr. Tammy Boles
Dr. Darrell Hoy	Prof. Barbara Jared
Dr. Jennifer Shank	Dr. Brian O'Connor
Dr. Paul Semmes	Dr. David Larimore
Dr. Liz Mullens	Dr. Jim Raymondo
Dr. Tom Payne	Dr. Janet Isbell
Dr. Janice Branson	Dr. Corinne Darvennes
Dr. Elizabeth Propes	Dr. Linda Null
Dr. Ismet Anitsal	Dr. Wali Kharif
Dr. Steve Isbell	

Dr. Christy Killman represented Dr. Michael Phillips. Others present were Dr. Melinda Anderson, Dr. Julie Baker, Dr. Alice Camuti, Dr. Steve Frye, Dr. Mark Groundland, Dr. Jeremy Wendt, and Mr. Charlie Wilkerson. The following members were absent:

Dr. Melissa Geist	Dr. Doug Talbert
Dr. Doug Bates	Prof. Sue Piras
Dr. Lee Ann Shipley	Dr. Daniel Badoe
Dr. Jordana Navarro	Mr. William Gabelman
Dr. Martha Howard	Mr. Daniel Tribble
Dr. Michael Phillips	Mr. Daniel Williamson
Dr. Charles Carnal	Ms. Kaitlin Townsend

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Approved the agenda

Approved the minutes of the February 25, 2015 meeting

Approved reports for committees reporting to Academic Council

Approved policies for the following: Approval of Academic Programs, Units, and Modifications; Grade Appeals; Distance Education; General Graduate Degree Requirements; Academic Credit from Other Institutions; Requirements for a Baccalaureate Degree and Graduation

Approved changes to Quality Point Average and Admission Requirements for Nursing Transfer Students

Approved IELTS score changes

Approved proposal to establish a new academic unit – Rural Development Institute

Approved proposal for M.S. in Human Ecology

Approved three proposals for Curriculum and Instruction

Approved three proposals in Exercise Science, Physical Education, and Wellness

Approved proposal to establish a new minor in religious studies

Tabled proposal for DNP program in Nursing with ETSU

Tabled proposal for an Engineering program with ETSU

Elected chairperson for 2015-16

Approved Lecturer position description

Received information on requiring sexual awareness training in first year experience courses

PROCEEDINGS

Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Stephens asked to change the order of items 14 and 15. Dr. Hodum MOVED approval of the agenda with the change and Dr. Kharif SECONDED. The agenda was APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes of the February 25, 2015 Meeting

Dr. Hodum MOVED approval of the minutes and Dr. Anitsal SECONDED. The minutes were APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of Reports for Committees Reporting to Academic Council

Dr. Darvennes MOVED to approve all the reports as a whole and Dr. Propes SECONDED. There were a couple of editorial changes and spelling corrections in two reports. The reports were APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of Policies – Dr. Stephens

- a. Approval of Academic Programs, Units, and Modifications – Dr. Stephens explained that the changes for this policy are based on TBR changes in the forms and process. Page 3, F.2. of the policy should read TBR forms not TECH forms. Dr. Darvennes MOVED approval and Dr. Propes SECONDED. The policy was APPROVED unanimously.
- b. Approval of Grade Appeals Policy – Dr. Stephens stated that this is a revision to an existing policy to streamline the process. The most significant change is Step 4 which is the final step for Academic Council review. Dr. Darvennes MOVED approval and Dr. Semmes SECONDED. A correction was noted for page 5 to delete iii. and iv. as they are the same; v. will become iii. After some discussion on the process, the policy was APPROVED unanimously. The policy will become effective after approved by the University Assembly and changes will be made in the Student Handbook as well.

Approval of Policy on Distance Education

Dr. Frye stated this is an existing policy and minor changes are being made at the request of SACS reviewer and the Distance Education consultant. Dr. Darvennes MOVED approval and Prof. Jared SECONDED. Dr. Frye stated that item 3. was added under III. A. After some noted spelling corrections, the policy was APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of Policy General Graduate Degree Requirements

Dr. Camuti stated that this policy is in the Graduate Catalog and has been used for some time. The updates were made to be consistent with Policy Central format and were approved by GSEC. Dr. Darvennes MOVED approval and Dr. Semmes SECONDED. With a noted change under II.D. to delete “or higher” from the sentence, the policy was APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of Policies – Dr. Hodum

- a. Academic Credit from Other Institutions - Dr. Hodum stated the policy is in the catalog. This is to clean-up the document and make it more understandable. Dr. Hodum MOVED approval and Dr. Darvennes SECONDED. A few minor changes/corrections, clarifications on the process, and noted that this policy also includes RODP courses. The policy was APPROVED unanimously.
- b. Requirements for a Baccalaureate Degree and Graduation – Dr. Hodum stated this policy was approved previously by the Academic Council. Section I. Exceptions or Appeals was added to the policy. Dr. Hodum MOVED approval and Dr. Darvennes SECONDED. After a minor correction on section E.3.a. to remove the word “not”, the policy was APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of Changes – Dr. Hodum

- a. Quality Point Average – Dr. Hodum stated TBR set this policy and TTU must follow it. The newly calculated Cumulative (Overall) Grade Point Average will be used for the purposes of Academic Standing and for Graduation. However, TTU may choose which GPA is used for other purposes such as graduation honors and scholarship renewals. Dr. Hodum MOVED approval and Dr. Propes SECONDED. After a few minor corrections, the change was APPROVED unanimously.
- b. Changing Admission Requirements for Nursing Transfer Students – Dr. Hodum stated the Whitson Hester School of Nursing wants to strengthen the requirements for nursing transfer students; changing QPA from 2.0 to 3.0. Dr. Hodum MOVED approval and Dr. Larimore SECONDED. The change was APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of IELTS Score Changes

Mr. Wilkerson stated this change is to make the undergraduate and graduate admissions IELTS scores more comparable to other TBR schools. Dr. Darvennes MOVED approval and Dr. Kharif SECONDED. The change was APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of Proposal to Establish a New Academic Unit

Dr. Stephens stated this proposal is to establish the Rural Development Institute (RDI). At the request of the Provost, a subcommittee reviewed the development of this program. The mission of the RDI is to explore the rural communities and address unique challenges and opportunities. Dr. Mullens MOVED approval and Dr. Kharif SECONDED. Dr. Stephens explained the RDI would function similar to faculty development. Proposals will be selected for funding by a selection committee of representatives from each of the colleges. One-time funds of \$100,000 have been set aside to fund the proposals. The desire is that participants will receive funds from other grant sources. The proposal was APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of Proposal for M.S. in Human Ecology

Dr. Anderson stated the Master of Science degree in Human Ecology would include three concentrations: (1) Human Ecology Education, (2) Child and Family Sciences, and (3) Sports Nutrition. The Letter of Intent for the new program was approved by TBR in December 2014 and has been approved by GSEC. Prof. Barbara Jared MOVED approval and Dr. Hodum SECONDED. After some questions and clarification that this program is not a duplication with the College of Education, the proposal was APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of Proposals – Dr. Wendt

- a. B.S. Multidisciplinary Studies, four new concentrations – Dr. Wendt stated the proposal is directly related to State Department of Education licensure changes for middle school education. Dr. Janet Isbell MOVED approval and Dr. Darvennes SECONDED. The proposal was APPROVED unanimously.
- b. B.S. Special Education, new concentration – Dr. Wendt stated the Special Education program currently has two concentrations – Comprehensive and Modified. This new non-licensure concentration would allow candidates to work with adults beyond K-12 with special needs. Dr. Darvennes MOVED approval and Dr. Semmes SECONDED. The proposal was APPROVED unanimously.
- c. M.S. Applied Behavior Analysis Concentration – Dr. Wendt stated this concentration is to assist with the increasing demand for services for students with disabilities. Students who complete the ABA concentration will be eligible to sit for the national certification exam administered by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board. Dr. Darvennes MOVED approval and Dr. Semmes SECONDED. The proposal was APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of Proposals – Dr. Killman

- a. Concentration Name Change and Modification in Curriculum – Dr. Killman stated the request is to change the name of the concentration from Coaching and Sport Administration to Sport Administration. This will allow students to be more job ready upon completion. Students can minor in coaching or business with better access to the job market. Some coaching classes have been removed and business classes added to the curriculum. Dr. Larimore MOVED approval and Dr. Hodum SECONDED. The proposal was APPROVED unanimously.
- b. Establish a New Minor in Coaching – Dr. Killman stated that offering a minor in coaching will provide an opportunity for students who are interested in coaching to take relevant classes that will provide outstanding learning experiences. Dr. Propes MOVED approval and Dr. Kharif SECONDED. The proposal was APPROVED unanimously.
- c. Establish a New Minor in Exercise Science – Dr. Killman stated offering a minor in Exercise Science will assist students within the major and outside the major to help diversify their knowledge base on exercise and fitness. Dr. Janet Isbell MOVED approval and Dr. Kharif SECONDED. The proposal was APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of Proposal to Establish a New Minor in Religious Studies

Dr. Frye stated the minor is interdisciplinary with five colleges offering classes for inclusion. This will allow students from various majors to supplement their education with religious studies content. It is the study of the history and psychology of religion, not Christianity. Prof. Jared MOVED approval and Dr. Null SECONDED. The proposal was APPROVED unanimously.

Proposal for Engineering Program with TTU & ETSU

Dr. Hoy stated the Letter of Intent for this program was approved by TBR and THEC last year. However, he requested to table the proposal at this time. Dr. Hoy MOVED approval and Dr. Propes SECONDED. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Proposal for DNP Program in Nursing

Dr. Stephens stated the DNP Program in Nursing is a joint package with the Engineering Program for TTU and ETSU. One cannot move forward without the other. Prof. Jared MOVED to table the proposal and Dr. Semmes SECONDED. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Election of Chairperson for 2015-16

Dr. Raymondo, Dr. Boles and Dr. Nararro were the subcommittee to select a chairperson for next year. Prof. Barbara Jared was nominated. Dr. Null MOVED nominations cease and Prof. Jared be elected by acclamation and Dr. Propes SECONDED. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Such Other Matters

- a. Lecturer Position – An ad hoc committee was appointed by the Faculty Senate to make recommendations for this new Lecturer position. Recommendations included in the document submitted with the agenda. Dr. Null MOVED approval of the recommendations and Dr. Darvennes SECONDED. There were several questions regarding the appointment and title Lecturer, role of the position, teaching load, evaluation, eligibility for promotion, agreement on responsibilities, etc. Another ad hoc committee is reviewing the process for promotion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously. All policies will be posted in the tenure and promotion policy and policy central.
- b. Requiring Sexual Awareness Training in First Year Experience Courses – Dr. Null stated this is an information item to inform the campus that the sexual awareness training course will be added to the UNIV 1020 curriculum. This is in addition to the current course and is a two part program that will be offered this fall. Other items can be added to this course.
- c. Dr. Stephens stated that the proposal forms on the TBR website include the THEC financial form. These forms have been updated.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30pm

APPROVED September 9, 2015

Carol Holley, Recorder

Documents on file with the minutes:

- Reports of committees reporting to Academic Council
- All policies presented at the meeting
- All proposals presented at the meeting
- Information regarding Lecturer position