

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL  
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY  
April 10, 2013

The Academic Council met at 3:35pm on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 in the Deans' Conference Room of Derryberry Hall with Linda Null, Chairperson, presiding.

The following members of the Council were present:

Dr. Doug Bates	Dr. Martha Howard
Dr. Roy Loutzenheiser	Dr. Michael Phillips
Dr. Paul Semmes	Dr. Linda Null
Dr. Matt Smith	Dr. Wali Kharif
Prof. Barbara Jared	Dr. Brian O'Connor
Dr. Susan Laningham	Dr. John Harris
Dr. Jeff Roberts	Dr. Holly Anthony
Dr. Steve Isbell	Dr. Corinne Darvennes

Others present were Dr. Michael Allen, Dr. Dan Combs, Mr. Ward Doubet, and Dr. Susan Gore. Ms. Julie Galloway represented Dr. Bobby Hodum. The following members were absent:

Dr. James Jordan-Wagner	Dr. Daniel Badoe
Dr. Bobby Hodum	Dr. Shannon Morgan
Dr. Pat Bagley	Mr. Roy West
Dr. Lee Ann Jolley	Ms. Ashley Humphrey
Dr. Mary Pashley	Ms. Karah Frank
Dr. Charles Carnal	Mr. Robert Griffin
Dr. Doug Talbert	

#### SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Approved the agenda  
Approved the minutes of the November 7, 2012 meeting  
Approved reports from committees reporting to Academic Council  
Amendment to Academic Council procedures  
Received information on Art concentration name change  
Approved three proposals from Engineering  
Approved proposal from Nursing  
Elected chairperson for 2013-14

#### PROCEEDINGS

##### Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Loutzenheiser MOVED approval of the agenda and Dr. Harris SECONDED. The agenda was APPROVED unanimously.

##### Approval of the Minutes of the November 7, 2012 Meeting

Dr. Smith MOVED approval of the minutes and Dr. Kharif SECONDED. The minutes were APPROVED unanimously.

### Approval of Reports for Committees Reporting to Academic Council

Dr. Kharif MOVED approval of the reports as a whole and Dr. Harris SECONDED. The reports were APPROVED unanimously.

### Amendment to Academic Council Procedures

Dr. Null stated that the amendment to the Academic Council Procedures has to be approved by the Administrative Council. Since both Councils are meeting at the same time today, the Academic Council voted on the amendment to the procedures electronically. The vote was 19 yes and 1 no. The amendment was approved by the Academic Council on April 1<sup>st</sup>, and was approved by the Administrative Council at their meeting today. (See attached amendment.)

### Name Change for Art Concentration

Mr. Doubet stated that the Bachelor of Fine Arts, Concentration in Digital Media is being changed to Bachelor of Fine Arts, Concentration in Design, Emphasis in Digital Media, and was approved by the University Curriculum Committee. The curriculum of the concentration in Digital Media aligns more closely with specific standards and competencies defined by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design as a concentration in general design, with an emphasis in digital media. The name change will avoid potential conflicts in compliance with NASAD standards. This item did not require approval by the Council and will be sent to TBR for approval. (See attached form.)

### Approval of Proposals from Engineering

- (1) Dr. Loutzenheiser stated that the College of Engineering is requesting to revise the undergraduate admission standards for first-time freshmen. This was approved by the Admissions and Credits Committee. (See attached memo.) The revision states that “All College of Engineering majors must have a high school GPA of 3.00, an ACT composite score of 20, and an ACT mathematics score of 22.” This change is an effort to improve retention and graduation rates as the college felt the current admissions standards for first time freshmen was too low. Dr. Loutzenheiser MOVED approval and Dr. Darvennes SECONDED. After some discussion, the revision was APPROVED unanimously.
- (2) Dr. Loutzenheiser stated that the College of Engineering is requesting changes to the Master of Science admission requirements. This was approved by the Graduate School Executive Committee. Admission will be decided based on a multi-parameter criterion that can include seven items to be evaluated by the department. (See attached memo.) Dr. Loutzenheiser MOVED approval and Dr. Darvennes SECONDED. After some discussion and a friendly amendment to make the change effective Fall 2013, the change was APPROVED unanimously.
- (3) Dr. Loutzenheiser stated that in August 2013 the Department of Chemical Engineering was approved for a BS – MS Fast Track to accelerate completion of the Master’s Program. However, this was never approved by the Graduate School Executive Committee, the Academic Council or TBR. GSEC has approved this proposal. (See attached memos.) Dr. Loutzenheiser MOVED approval and Dr. Darvennes SECONDED. The request was APPROVED unanimously.

### Proposal to Change Admission Requirements for Nursing MSN RODP

Prof. Jared stated that the Nursing MSN graduate degree is a consortium with other TBR universities and they desire to make changes to the admission criteria. (See attached memo and proposal.) The changes are to (1) include the successful completion of a three semester credit or four quarter credit undergraduate statistics course; (2) clarify and make more transparent our TOEFL requirements, and (3) require that applicants possess an unencumbered RN license prior to admission to the program. This change has been approved by the Graduate School Executive Committee. Prof. Jared MOVED approval and Dr. Kharif SECONDED. After some discussion, the changes were APPROVED unanimously.

### Election of Chairperson for 2013-2014

Dr. Laningham stated that the nominating committee of Dr. Anthony, Dr. Talbert and herself, recommend Dr. Steve Isbell as chair of the Academic Council for the 2013-14 academic year. There were no other nominations. Prof. Jared MOVED approval and Dr. Kharif SECONDED. Motion was APPROVED unanimously.

### Such Other Matters

- (1) Dr. Null stated that there had been some confusion at a TBR meeting she attended regarding TTU's Grade Appeal Procedures for RODP. After some clarification from Ms. Beth Rogers, Director of Records and Registration, it was determined that the wrong information had been submitted to TBR for the item in question. TTU does follow the published Grade Appeal Procedures for RODP students.
- (2) Dr. Null stated that there has been concern among some faculty regarding TTU hiring University of Phoenix graduates. Nursing has hired such faculty, but their Master's degree is from the University of Phoenix not their Ph.D. It is the responsibility of each department to determine the qualifications of individual candidates when hiring faculty. If their degree is from an accredited institution, the candidates should all be evaluated equally.
- (3) Dr. Null stated that at a recent Faculty Senate meeting, there was a recommendation from two of the senators regarding adjunct faculty having representation on the Councils. The Senate decided to form an ad hoc committee to review this request. The committee will meet and report to the Faculty Senate most likely in the fall. Any changes to either Council's procedures will have to be presented for approval.
- (4) Dr. O'Connor (and the Council) thanked Dr. Harris for his many years of service to the University and the Academic Council. Dr. Harris will retire in May 2013.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:25pm.

Carol Holley, Recorder

APPROVED October 16, 2013

Documents on file with the minutes:

- Annual reports from committees reporting to Academic Council
- Academic Council amended procedures
- Art concentration name change form
- Three proposals from Engineering
- Proposal from Nursing