

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY

March 10, 2021

The Academic Council met at 3:35 p.m. on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, via Zoom videoconferencing technology, with Dr. Lori Maxwell, Chairperson, presiding.

The following members of the council were present:

Dr. Thomas Payne	Prof. Kim Winkle
Dr. Jennifer Shank	Dr. Joseph Slater
Dr. Lisa Zagumny	Dr. Matt Langford
Dr. Darron Smith	Dr. Troy Smith
Dr. Douglas Airhart	Dr. Linda Null
Dr. Troy Brachey	Dr. Barry Stein
Dr. Lori Maxwell	Dr. Brian O'Connor
Dr. Russ Witcher	Dr. Chris Brown
Ms. Stephanie Adams	Dr. Doug Bates
Dr. Christy Killman	Mr. Zach Brown
Dr. Kristine Craven	Ms. Courtney Fowler
Dr. Holly Stretz	
Dr. Lee Ann Shipley	
Dr. David Larimore	
Dr. Jennifer Meadows	
Ms. Ann Manginelli	
Ms. Melody Roth	
Ms. Nia Buntin	

Others present were: Dr. Lori Bruce, Dr. Sharon Huo, Dr. Mark Stephens, Dr. Brandon Johnson, Dr. Bedelia Russell, Dr. Jeffery Roberts and Dr. Charles Wilkerson. The following members of the council were absent.:

Dr. Emily Lee
Dr. Susan Laningham
Dr. Paul Semmes
Dr. Mike Gotcher
Dr. Mark Melichar
Dr. Robert Wilbanks
Dr. Zac Wilcox
Dr. Jeff Womack
Dr. Yun Ding

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of Minutes from the November 11, 2020 Meeting

Proposed Concentration Name Change from *Data Science* to *Data Science and Artificial Intelligence*, Computer Science

Change in Admission Requirements for MS in Chemistry

Change in Admission Requirements for MS Engineering Management Program

Change in Engineering Non-Degree Graduate Student Admissions

New Minor in Race and Ethnic Studies in the US, History Department

New Concentration in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (MSN)

New Concentrations for PhD in Engineering
Policy 240, Full Course of Study Requirements for International Students
Policy 223
Such Other Matters
Adjourn

PROCEEDINGS

Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Douglas Airhart MOVED approval and Dr. Barry Stein SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from the November 11, 2020 Meeting

Dr. Holly Stretz MOVED approval and Dr. Barry Stein SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously

Proposed Concentration Name Change from *Data Science* to *Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science*

The name change reflects the new broader focus of the concentration. This broader focus is a response to the increased application of artificial intelligence in industry.

After discussion, Dr. Thomas Payne MOVED approval and Dr. Holly Stretz SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Change in Admission Requirements for MS in Chemistry

Dr. Mark Stephens stated the Department of Chemistry requests that future applicants to the MS Chemistry graduate program include a short “Letter of Introduction” in addition to a “Statement of Interests and Career Goals.” After discussion, Dr. Holly Stretz MOVED approval and Dr. Douglas Airhart SECONDED. Motion was APPROVED with one opposed.

Change in Admission Requirements for MS Engineering Management Program

Dr. Joseph Slater stated the admissions process for the Fall 2020 initial cohort started in the previous year. Based on the review of applicants, the application reviewers are proposing some relatively small changes to the admission requirements to improve the admissions process. After discussion, Dr. Holly Stretz MOVED approval and Dr. Thomas Payne SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Change in Engineering Non-Degree Graduate Student Admissions

Dr. Mark Stephens stated the current approach for non-degree graduate students requires a full application process, payment of the application fee and admission review for any student to take a single course. We would like to propose a simplified process that reduces the burden on the College of Graduate Studies and allows a rapid and simple determination by the department offering the course to allow the student to take a given course as a non-degree student. After discussion, Dr. Holly Stretz MOVED approval and Dr. Thomas Payne SECONDED. Motion APPROVED with one opposed and three abstentions.

New Minor in Race and Ethnic Studies in the US, History Department

Dr. Jeffery Roberts stated the minor offers a coherent study of issues that continue to have significant relevance to the United States and the world. It would supplement many programs and areas of study across the campus. The minor will further assist the University in reaching its goal of increasing diversity and enriching the experience of students who may have had limited exposure to cultural variation. After discussion, Dr. Barry Stein MOVED approval and Dr. Thomas Payne SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

New Concentration in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (MSN)

Dr. Matt Langford stated we are living in an area with an inadequate supply of Mental Health Providers during a time when the need is growing rapidly. It is our goal to address this need with the initiation of a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner concentration in our Master of Science Nursing program. After discussion, Dr. Darron Smith MOVED approval and Dr. Holly Stretz SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

New Concentrations for PhD in Engineering

Dr. Mark Stephens stated the PhD enrollment has more than doubled and that enrollment has been maintained for the past five years. In addition, enrollment in most departments have been at a much larger level than in the past. The higher enrollments, coupled with enforcing policies, that enable students to graduate in a timely manner, has resulted in a higher degree production by the program After discussion, Dr. Holly Stretz MOVED approval and Dr. Barry Stein SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Policy 240, Full Course of Study Requirements for International Students

Dr. Charles Wilkerson stated policy 240 Full Course of Study Requirements for International Students that have been approved by the International Affairs Committee. We request approval of the changes as submitted After discussion, Dr. Darron Smith MOVED approval and Dr. Barry Stein SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Policy 223

Dr. Bedelia Russell stated this policy applies to undergraduate and graduate online and distance education courses and programs originating from Tennessee Tech, including the online components of any web-enhanced or hybrid modality when used as an approach to deliver online and distance education courses or programs. After discussion, Dr. Barry Stein MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Such Other Matters

Adjourn

Dr. Holly Stretz MOVED approval and Dr. Douglas Airhart SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

APPROVED April 14, 2021

Elizabeth Sofia, Recorder

Documents on file with the minutes:

All documents presented at the meeting

