

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL  
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY  
November 18, 2009

The Academic Council met at 3:30pm on Wednesday, November 18, 2009, in the Deans' Conference Room of Derryberry Hall with Corinne Darvennes, Chairperson, presiding.

The following members of the Council were present:

Ms. Deanna Nipp-Kientz	Dr. Christine Miller
Dr. Roy Loutzenheiser	Dr. David Larimore
Dr. Paul Semmes	Dr. Chris Wilson
Dr. Larry Peach	Dr. Susan Gore
Mr. Matthew Bedford	Dr. Jon Jonakin
Dr. Susan Laningham	Dr. Brian O'Connor
Dr. Jeff Roberts	Dr. John Harris
Dr. Steve Isbell	Dr. Gretta Stanger
Dr. Corinne Darvennes	

Others attending the meeting were Mr. Charles Wilkerson, Dr. Tony Baker, Dr. Francis Otuonye, Ms. Denise Hensley, and Ms. Julie Galloway representing Dr. Bobby Hodum. The following members of the Council were absent:

Dr. James Jordan-Wagner	Prof. Susan Clark Reeves
Dr. Bobby Hodum	Dr. Michael Best
Dr. Pat Bagley	Dr. Lebron Bell
Dr. Susan Elkins	Dr. Steve Canfield
Ms. Heather Christie	Dr. Linda Null
Mr. Julian Lyons	Dr. Holly Anthony
Mr. Lawrence Haas	

#### SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Approved agenda

Approved the minutes of the September 9, 2009 meeting

Approved modification to procedure for evaluation of foreign transcripts

Approved revision to Faculty Research Committee Annual Report

Approved Distinguished Faculty Fellow Award guidelines

Discussed Turnitin Software

#### PROCEEDINGS

##### Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Harris MOVED approval of the agenda and Dr. Stanger SECONDED. Agenda APPROVED unanimously.

### Approval of the Minutes of the September 9, 2009 Meeting

Ms. Nipp-Kinetz MOVED approval of the minutes and Dr. Larimore SECONDED. Minutes APPROVED unanimously.

### Evaluation of Foreign Transcripts

Mr. Wilkerson requested to modify the passage of the evaluation procedure for transfer credits from international institutions for undergraduates to include all NACES approved organizations. Since MTSU, University of Memphis, ETSU, and TSU are utilizing all NACES members, the International Affairs Committee did not want TTU to lose students on the premise of the requirement of getting another evaluation as a result of accepting only WES. The change will read: *TTU will utilize NACES organizations members for evaluating international transcripts. Also, undergraduate international students and students with international college transcripts requesting credit would be required to use a NACES member to evaluate their coursework for consideration of transfer credit with additional course descriptions.* Ms. Galloway stated that this was passed by the Admissions and Credits Committee. Dr. Larimore MOVED approval of this change and Dr. Loutzenheiser SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### Revised Faculty Research Committee Annual Report

Dr. Otuonye stated there was information omitted from the Faculty Research Committee Annual report that was submitted to the Council in April. Revisions were made to the *Handbook for Faculty Research Committee Grants* by the Faculty Research Committee. The revisions included increasing the amount of the total award from \$4,000 to \$5,000 and the amount of travel limit from \$1,000 to \$2,000. Dr. Gore MOVED approval of the revised report and Dr. Peach SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### Distinguished Faculty Fellow Award

Dr. Armistead stated that Dr. Semmes chaired a committee to look at the earlier version of these guidelines and a draft was developed. After the budget cuts, Dr. Armistead reconvened the three previous recipients and the attached draft revision was completed in September. This revision emphasizes the purpose of the award, it reduces the amount of the award, and reduces the number of fellows from three to two. It also specifies that each fellow would have duties during their second year such as mentoring and working with Dr. Stephens in connection with other faculty development efforts. This is an award that Dr. Bell originated and the first three fellows were chosen without any written guidelines. Dr. Miller MOVED approval of the guidelines and Dr. Stanger SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously. Dr. Armistead stated that this process would be started in January and awards will be given next year.

### Turnitin Software

Dr. Otuonye explained that in 2005 there were several issues with plagiarism involving graduate students. There were also problems with plagiarism on a proposal submitted to a federal funding agency. In 2007, a plagiarism detection software, "Turnitin," was recommended, and a Turnitin Use Policy was presented to the Graduate School Executive Committee and it was approved. The policy was also sent to TBR legal counsel for language clarification. The Turnitin software

was then made available for faculty and students to use. (See attached policy and information on use.) This Fall an email was distributed to all faculty regarding the availability of Turnitin software. Dr. Otuonye then received an email from Dr. Anthony Baker challenging the ethics, the legality, and the cost-effectiveness of the use of Turnitin. Dr. Otuonye explained that Turnitin is being used by many institutions in the country, including East Tennessee State University, Middle Tennessee State University, and the University of Memphis. A federal court recently ruled that Turnitin does not violate the “fair use” of intellectual property. Dr. Baker presented his feelings and comments regarding use of this software. (See attachment on Five Reasons Not to Approve Turnitin.) After much discussion, Dr. Roberts **MOVED** to appoint a sub-committee to review this issue and Dr. Gore **SECONDED**. Volunteers for the sub-committee were Dr. Laningham, Dr. Larimore and Dr. Baker. The sub-committee is not restrictive of what software to use and the needs. The motion was **APPROVED** unanimously. The sub-committee will report to the Council by the end of the year (April 2010). The graduate school will continue to use Turnitin at this time.

#### Such Other Matters

1. Dr. Armistead stated that he presented the request to revise the TBR Academic Freedom Policy to the Academic Affairs Sub-council in October. After discussion, it was agreed that Dr. Short’s staff would check into the policy and legal ramifications. They were not opposed to changing the policy to cover all teaching faculty.
2. Dr. Miller announced that the Faculty Senate has passed a motion to form an advisory group to study the problems with the new website. They have discussed the concerns with Matthew Gann in Public Affairs.
3. Dr. Armistead stated that Linda Null made a presentation on University 1020 courses to the Faculty Senate on Monday. Since all the faculty on the Academic Council are not part of the Senate, Dr. Null can make her presentation to this Council in January. Dr. Semmes has also invited the Dean of the College of Science and Technology at Georgia Southern University to come to TTU on January 27, 2010 to talk about retention with the Deans Council and the Academic Council.

The meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 4:30pm.

**APPROVED 1/27/10**

Carol Holley, Recorder

Documents on file with the minutes:

- Evaluation of Foreign Transcripts & NACES Members list
- Revised Faculty Research Committee report
- Distinguished Faculty Fellow Award guidelines
- Turnitin web information, policy, and reasons not to approve it