

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY
March 9, 2022

The Academic Council met at 3:35 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 via Teams videoconferencing technology, with Professor Kimberly Winkle, Chairperson, presiding.

The following members of the council were present:

Dr. Thomas Payne	Dr. Russell Witcher
Dr. Kumar Yelamarthi	Dr. Yun Ding
Dr. Jeff Roberts	Dr. Emily Lee
Dr. Jennifer Shank	Ms. Stephanie Adams
Dr. Darron Smith	Dr. Ann Manginelli
Dr. Lee Ann Shipley	Dr. Troy Smith
Dr. Douglas Airhart	Dr. Linda Null
Dr. Troy Brachey	Ms. April Crockett
Dr. Lori Maxwell	Dr. Brian O'Connor
Dr. Sean Alley	Dr. Denis Ulybyshev
Dr. Robert Wilbanks	Dr. Chris Brown
Dr. Melissa Comer	Dr. Katherine Hermann-Turner
Dr. Syed Rafay Hasan	Mr. Cannon Jackson
Dr. Christopher Reames	
Prof. Drew Sisk	

Others present were:

Dr. Lori Bruce	Dr. Holly Stretz
Dr. Sharon Huo	Dr. Mohan Rao
Dr. Mark Stephens	Dr. Steven Frye
Dr. Bedelia Russell	Dr. Colin Hill
Dr. Brandon Johnson	Dr. Jeremy Wendt
Dr. Kimberly Hanna	Dr. Jennifer Taylor
Dr. Melinda Anderson	Dr. Fred Vondra
Dr. Darek Potter	

The following members of the council were absent:

Dr. Mike Gotcher	Dr. Jennifer Meadows
Dr. Lisa Zagumny	Mr. Jackson Lelle
Dr. Christy Killman	Mr. Braxton Westbrook
Dr. Stephen Canfield	Ms. Savannah Griffin
Dr. Matt Langford	

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Minutes from the February 2, 2022 Meeting

Whitson-Hester School of Nursing, Addition of New Concentration

School of Human Ecology, Academic Program Modification (APM) Proposal

Department of Chemical Engineering, Addition of New Concentration

Department of Mechanical Engineering, Addition of New Concentration

School of Interdisciplinary Studies, Addition of New Minor

School of Music, Addition of New Concentration

Department of English, Change of Admission Requirements

Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Addition of New Program

College of Graduate Studies, Rescind Policy 273

Office of Research and Economic Development, Informational Item on New Policy for Research Centers

College of Engineering-Change in Admission Requirements into the Engineering Technology Program

Nominations and Vote for Academic Council Chair for Academic Year 2022-2023

Such other Matters

Adjournment

PROCEEDINGS

Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Douglas Airhart MOVED approval and Dr. Steven Frye SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes from the February 2, 2022 Meeting

Dr. Douglas Airhart MOVED approval and Dr. Yun Ding SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Whitson-Hester School of Nursing, Addition of New Concentration

Dr. Kimberly Hanna stated while the WHSON has graduated several cohorts of 2nd degree students we believe the development of a new concentration aimed to address the needs of the 2nd degree adult will assist with recruitment and improve retention while maintaining an accelerated program of study allowing for a 15-month completion (upper division) as compared to the 27-month upper division program of study of the traditional BSN student. After minimal discussion, Dr. Steven Frye MOVED approval and Dr. Douglas Airhart SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

School of Human Ecology, Academic Program Modification (APM) Proposal

Dr. Melinda Anderson stated that the existing concentrations, Housing and Design and Merchandising and Design already share several core classes on their curricula. Combining these concentrations into one BS degree is a natural fit and will not require any new faculty. After minimal discussion, Dr. Douglas Airhart MOVED approval and Dr. Steven Frye SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Department of Chemical Engineering, Addition of New Concentration

Dr. Holly Stretz stated that the Chemical Engineering Department is proposing a new concentration in “Energy and the Environment” to provide students with the opportunity to prepare for workforce needs associated with production, storage and use of energy in a sustainable economy. After minimal discussion, Dr. Kumar Yelamarthi MOVED approval and Dr. Syed Hasan SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Department of Mechanical Engineering, Addition of New Concentration

Dr. Mohan Rao stated that the Mechanical Engineering Department is proposing a new concentration in Aerospace Engineering to provide current and prospective students with the opportunity to expand their knowledge base in coursework specific to Aerospace Engineering, while maintaining a base knowledge of all other Mechanical Engineering sub-disciplines. After minimal discussion, Dr. Kumar Yelamarthi MOVED approval and Dr. Douglas Airhart SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

School of Interdisciplinary Studies, Addition of New Minor

Dr. Steven Frye stated that the demand over the next 10 years for project managers is growing faster than demand for workers in other occupations. The latest PMI-commissioned talent gap analysis by Anderson Economic Group (AEG) points to outstanding opportunities in jobs and career growth for project managers. Through 2027, the project management-oriented labor force is expected to grow by 33 percent, or nearly 22 million new jobs. After minimal discussion, Dr. Yun Ding MOVED approval and Dr. Sean Alley SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

School of Music, Addition of New Concentration

Dr. Colin Hill stated currently, students who are admitted to the BM in Performance degree have the option to select from the following concentrations: instrumental, piano, vocal, composition, and jazz performance. We would like to propose a new option, Musical Theatre. Our campus is a great fit for this degree option, due to the abundance of musical theatre resources already available to us. After minimal discussion, Dr. Steven Frye MOVED approval and Dr. Douglas Airhart SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Department of English, Change of Admission Requirements

Dr. Linda Null stated a change in admission requirements for the English MA. The updated criteria will give the English Department a more meaningful way to evaluate the candidates. After minimal discussion, Dr. Jeff Roberts MOVED approval and Dr. Yun Ding SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Addition of New Program

Dr. Jeremy Wendt stated that this proposed Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Higher Education will prepare higher education professionals for leadership in colleges and universities. Through the study of higher education administration and student development, the program will provide theoretical and research-based information to be adapted to any post-secondary education leadership role with a focus to improve college access, student success, and persistence to completion. After minimal discussion, Dr. Steven Frye MOVED approval and Dr. Douglas Airhart SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

College of Graduate Studies, Rescind Policy 273

Dr. Mark Stephens stated that pursuant to TTU Policy 101, Section VIIA, respectfully request that TTU Policy 273, Online Graduate Degree Program-Graduate Student Requirements be rescinded from the currently effective policies as the new policy, Policy 223, Online and Distance Education supersedes Policy 273. After minimal discussion, Dr. Darron Smith MOVED approval and Dr. Steven Frye SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Office of Research and Economic Development, Informational Item on New Policy for Research Centers (informational only)

Dr. Jennifer Taylor stated that Research Centers at Tennessee Tech provide an important mechanism to facilitate the highest quality of inter- and multi-disciplinary research and public service around themes that involve researchers from multiple units across disciplines, departments, and Colleges/Schools.

College of Engineering-Change in Admission Requirements into the Engineering Technology Program

Dr. Fred Vondra stated as an Engineering Technology department, we would like to be more in line with our peer Engineering Technology departments in the state. Therefore, we request to change the Requirements from a GPA of 3.0 and ACT composite 20 and ACT math 22 to, a GPA 2.85 and ACT composite 18 or GPA 2.5 and ACT composite 21. We think that will enhance our recruiting efforts in the future. After minimal discussion, Dr. Darron Smith MOVED approval and Dr. Steven Frye SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Nominations and Vote for Academic Council Chair for Academic Year 2022-2023

Dr. Lori Maxwell nominated Professor Kimberly Winkle for Academic Council Chair. This will be revisited in April's meeting, no vote.

Such Other Matters

Professor Kimberly Winkle mentioned the Special Called Joint Administrative & Academic Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 23, 2022.

Dr. Lori Bruce thanked the Academic Council Committee for their hard work this semester.

Adjournment

Dr. Steven Frye MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

APPROVAL April 13, 2022

Amy McCoy, Recorder

Documents on file with the minutes:

All documents presented at the meeting