

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY
September 9, 2015

The Academic Council met at 3:35pm on Wednesday, September 9, 2015 in Derryberry Hall Deans' Conference Room with Prof. Barbara Jared, Chairperson, presiding.

The following members of the Council were present:

Dr. Thomas Payne	Prof. Barbara Jared
Dr. Doug Bates	Prof. Sue Piras
Dr. Bobby Hodum	Dr. Troy Smith
Dr. Paul Semmes	Dr. Linda Null
Dr. Jordana Navarro	Dr. Jeremy Wendt
Dr. Elizabeth Propes	Dr. David Larimore
Dr. Steve Isbell	Dr. Jim Raymondo
Dr. Jeremy Hansen	Dr. Janet Isbell
Dr. Christy Killman	Dr. Corinne Darvennes
Dr. Stephen Idem	Mr. Nick Russell
Dr. Tammy Boles	

Dr. Melinda Anderson represented Dr. Liz Mullens. Others present were Dr. Jie Cui, Dr. Sheikh Ghafoor, Dr. Mohan Rao, Dr. Ken Wiant, Dr. Bahman Ghorashi, Dr. Sharon Huo, and Dr. Mark Stephens. The following members were absent:

Dr. Darrell Hoy	Dr. Ismet Anitsal
Dr. Jennifer Shank	Dr. Holly Stretz
Dr. Melissa Geist	Dr. Brian O'Connor
Dr. Liz Mullens	Ms. Miranda Stoltz
Dr. Lee Ann Shipley	Mr. Connor Hodge
Dr. Janice Branson	Ms. Nickole Anderson

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Approved the agenda

Approved the minutes of the April 15, 2015 meeting

Approved proposal for fast-track MS program in Mechanical Engineering

Tabled request for 1+1 MS degree program in Engineering

Approved changes for fast-track MS program in Computer Science

Discussed Academic Council practices in relationship to Graduate School Executive Committee

PROCEEDINGS

Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Darvennes MOVED approval and Dr. Steve Isbell SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes of the April 15, 2015 Meeting

Dr. Darvennes MOVED approval and Dr. Navarro SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of Proposal for Fast-Track MS Program in Mechanical Engineering

Dr. Cui explained there is a need to grow our graduate program by offering the BS/MS fast track program for outstanding TTU ME undergraduate students who want to obtain a master's degree. ME undergraduate students can accumulate up to six credit hours of graduate coursework while still pursuing their undergraduate degree. Courses would be taken during their junior or senior year. There are similar fast-track MS programs in the College of Engineering. Dr. Steve Isbell MOVED approval and Dr. Semmes SECONDED. After some questions and discussion, the proposal was APPROVED unanimously.

Request for 1+1 MS Degree Program in Engineering

Dr. Rao stated the 1+1 MS Degree Program is a joint arrangement with the Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT)/Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI). An MOU has been signed with ARAI and TTU. Students will be screened and tested to determine eligibility to participate in the program. Students will spend six months at VIT and six months at ARAI. They will then come to TTU for one year to complete their degree. The Mechanical Engineering Department would accept transfer of up to 15 credit hours of graduate level credits towards the degree. Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.25. VIT is the sixth ranked engineering university in India and ARAI is the official vehicle certification entity in India. The first students would start at TTU in 2017. Dr. Semmes MOVED approval and Dr. Larimore SECONDED. Dr. Darvennes requested to table the motion until the ME faculty can discuss and approve the 15 credit hours to be transferred. Dr. Idem SECONDED the motion to table. After further discussion, the vote to table was APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of Changes for Fast-Track MS Program in Computer Science

Dr. Ghafoor spoke on behalf of the Computer Science Department. This fast-track program in Computer Science was previously approved and is similar to the other fast-track programs in the College of Engineering. The requested change to the minimum requirements for applying to the CSC fast-track program is to allow any TTU undergraduate students with a junior or senior standing to apply for the CSC fast-track program. They also must have completed CSC2400. Dr. Darvennes MOVED approval and Dr. Payne SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Academic Council Practices in Relationship to Graduate School Executive Committee

Prof. Jared stated she received a request from a graduate student be heard by the Academic Council regarding reinstatement. On the Graduate Studies website it states that Graduate Studies procedures are subject to review by the Academic Council. The Graduate Studies handbook states that the Graduate School Executive Committee has the final decision on requests for reinstatement. After some discussion, it was determined that the GSEC policy/procedure runs parallel with the undergraduate policy for the Admissions and Credits Committee, and both committees report to the Academic Council. The GSEC policy will be defined more clearly.

Such Other Matters

1. Dr. Null stated the Graduate School Executive Committee had changed the name to Graduate Studies Executive Committee. However, there are still references in many places to the old name. Dr. Stephens stated the Graduate College is in the process of correcting the name.
2. Prof. Jared stated that some Academic Council members may not be able to attend meetings due to their class schedules or other reasons. The Academic Council Procedures states that members are expected to be present at all meetings. Consistent failure to attend meetings may result in declaration that the position is vacant. If members cannot attend at meeting, they should try to send a representative in their place in order for the Council to have a quorum.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05pm.

APPROVED October 14, 2015

Carol Holley, Recorder

Documents on file with the minutes:

Proposal for Fast-Track MS Program in Mechanical Engineering
Request for 1+1 MS Degree Program in Engineering
Request for Fast-Track MS Program in Computer Science
Academic Council Practices in Relationship to GSEC