

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Minutes

June 9, 2022

Present: Andrew Novobilski, Vicki Bingham, Edwin Craft, Emily Dabney, James Gerald, Ellen Green, Leslie Griffin, Ouida McAfee, Beverly Moon, Billy Moore, Christy Riddle, Jeff Slagell

Absent: Josh Armstrong

Guests: Chrisa Mansell, Director of Institutional Research and Planning; Merideth Van Namen, Chair of Teacher Education, Leadership & Research; Karen Bell, Director and Advisor of Interdisciplinary Studies and University Studies; Darla Poole, Complete 2 Compete Coach

Call to order: A regular meeting of the Academic Council was held in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room on June 9, 2022. The meeting convened at 8:32 AM with Provost Novobilski presiding.

Announcements:

- **A program will be held on Monday, June 13th to honor the memory of Dr. James Broom. The event will take place in Broom Hall with lunch to follow at the President’s home.**
- **ACUE begins August 29th.**
- **Dr. Beverly Moon will be retiring in September 2022.**

Agenda item	Comments/Discussion	Action taken	Responsible party
Approval of Agenda	Motion to approve the agenda was made by Leslie Griffin and seconded by Beverly Moon. All in favor.	Approved.	
Approval of Minutes	Motion to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2022 meeting was made by Jeff Slagell and seconded by Beverly Moon. All in favor.	Approved.	
Informational Item:			
Cabinet Update	<p>Dr. Leslie Griffin provided the following updates from the most recent Cabinet meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 18th: <p>Introductions/General Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1st official meeting for AC rep (Leslie); Staff rep (Caroline Fletcher); FS rep (Josh Armstrong); and SGA rep (Lucia Habis) ○ President attended Chamber Board Meeting previous week ○ Dr. Novobilski held debriefing with WTR Chair/Co-Chair, Dr. Natasha Barnes and FaDerricka Harvey ○ Final BPAC event of year (Waitress) ○ Career coaches from Tupelo/NE MS toured campus and met with academic programs 		

- Mike Kinnison expressed appreciation for the commencement ceremony held for baseball players
- President reported on meeting with IHL Commissioner to expand work with Ellucian across state
- Lucia reported successful celebration at President's home for graduating international students
- Commencement exercises successful; note shared from Walt Bettinger complimenting DSU community/hospitality; Dr. Novobilski thanked those involved for support and indicated future discussion on whether to stay at 1 or return to 2 ceremonies
- Extending Purple Runway – goal to get more into pipeline to sign with FedEx—more support for flight support candidates—need to do more to build relationship with FedEx
- Centennial Campaign steering committee report from Rick—large list of names of companies and individuals generated—working to get pieces in place and get it going
- Ole Miss ROTC – crosstown commitment with Ole Miss ROTC – commitment from students—drill with corps of cadets 1 day a week in Oxford—get stipend of \$300 or \$350; Colonel is alumnus of DSU-- has spoken with President LaForge—think MOU is ready to go (note: re ROTC candidates –95% of jobs in AF are not flying commitments)
- President attended Grammy Board meeting
- Visioning event in Jackson with Alumni John Fletcher/Art Johnston (Beth Pickering attending) went well
- President just returned from NCAA

Updates from VP of Finance

- Current roofing projects are into liquidated damages (due to missing contract date), so getting break on price; architects and Bureau of Housing/Facilities are monitoring with completion expected within 30 days

- Parking lot behind Fugler-Hammett to be completed this weekend
- Repair of Whitfield Hall (DMI) roof sent out for bid; other roofs to be repaired include Jobe Hall, Ferris Museum, Holcombe-Norwood Hall, and Kent Wyatt Hall
- Mr. Rutledge created spreadsheet for R & R funds projects with time frames and projected costs to be disseminated at future meeting
- SON project delayed due to change order—additional costs to correct dirt problems, but have contingency funds to cover
- Excess cash funds provided by State to use for bond projects will be used to renovate Foundation Hall, add an elevator to BPAC, demolish Court of Governors, and create pre-plan documents for Ward and Hugh White Halls

Updates from Athletic Director – Mike Kinnison

- Reported on DSU BB team advancement to NCAA South Regional Tournament -- St. Leo, FL—playing Rollins
- DSU recently hosted 21 different HS FB teams—giving FB coaches opportunity to recruit—thanks to Facilities team for prep
- Athletics has 3 coaching positions and 1 administrative position to fill

Business

Mr. Rutledge (Facilities Management Update)

Building Closures

- Announced tentative building closures for Summer 2022 (defined as non-occupied buildings with lights switched off, appliances unplugged, temp set at 78 degrees—to save on utilities)
- Residence halls closed for Summer 22: Lawler-Harkins, Fugler-Hammett, Cain-Tatum; and Foundation Hall. SS students and campers will reside in Brumby-Castle and Blansett Halls
- Academic buildings include Jobe, Holcomb-Norwood, and Broom. 4 set for partial closures w/lower temp and ability to turn on lights/appliances
- Request by Dr. Armstrong to ensure air temp in Zeigel areas housing musical instruments will be addressed with Facilities Director Gerald

Finley

- Building closure update will be distributed campus-wide

Bond Plan for FY24

- Bond plan for FY24 shared; annually, university provides list of projects to be funded to Bureau of Buildings/IHL; priority list is then shared with legislature. During next legislative session, DSU scheduled to receive \$6.8 mil. in bond funds to complete FY24 capital projects, including additional renovations to Walter Sillers Coliseum (ADA accessible restrooms, remodeling concessions stand, adding elevator, adding room on 2nd floor for various functions, and remodeling front entrance; in addition, it will include repairs/upgrades to university’s HVAC and electrical systems.

NOTE: FY 24 year is set “as is” – other years can be discussed—looks like (unofficially) that appropriated funds may be good for next two years, so preparing for “asks”.

Bond Plan for FY25

- Continuation of Walter Sillers Coliseum renovations: complete interior transformation including offices and meeting rooms
- Renovation of Ward Hall – to accommodate Honor’s College

Bond Plan for FY26

- Renovation of academic buildings and completion of renovations to Walter Sillers Coliseum to include addition to north side housing a volleyball program, atrium, and training rooms.

Bond Plan for FY27

- Transform Hugh White into visitor’s center with office spaces.

Bond Plan for FY28

- Campus-wide roof repair and upgrades to HVAC and electrical systems.

Will Young Volleyball Court (completed)

Reminder: All contracts obligating DSU for any amount need advance approval by Mr. Rutledge.

Audit – being conducted for processes for contracts, MOUs—recommending software program.

MDOT Sidewalk Project – Phase II

- Transportation Alternative Award of \$746,851 from MDT will allow for replacement of sidewalks on campus; 20% match required

(\$149,370); will use plant funds and insurance funds to cover match; upon completion, 95% of DSU sidewalks will have been improved.

Update on FY23 Annual Operating Budget (AOB)

- FY23 AOB is incomplete due to Legislative Budget Office and Dept. of Finance and Administration not yet determining how state agencies should report State's excess cash funds that have been designated for facility projects (typically paid for by bond funds); however, this does not alter university's budget; Cabinet approved Mr. Rutledge proceeding with submission of the university's AOB by June 1 deadline.

FY Budget Status Update

- Spending has slowed, with most procurement cards being suspended until July 1; University requested \$1.5 million in Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds, to be reflected in June revenue statement; university is meeting budget expectations and should report an increase in days of cash at year's end.

Dr. Lovin (Enrollment Update)

- Reported a good week in admissions, with graduate admissions running ahead
- 135 away from being at 551 goal for new UG students through TCOB days

Dr. Novobilski (Institutional Effectiveness and Planning Update)

- Announced that QEP proposal is almost complete and should be presented in June
- Each college/school is reviewing its respective strategic planning activities to make sure they correspond with the university's strategic plan
- 2 grants submitted to Hearin Foundation—one focusing on first-year experience, fulfilling QEP
- Annual reports have been announced with due dates

Additional Items/Info

- Dr. Novobilski shared that the CAOs began a discussion about a system-wide contract with the AdAstra program

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Volunteers sought for Delta Council Meeting June 17—contact Joyce Shelton to volunteer ○ Mr. Rutledge announced that the DSU Sodexo manager is no longer at the university. An interim general manager will be on campus soon, with a general manager named prior to start of fall classes. Cafeteria will not open for summer school due to low number of students on campus—will be provided flex dollars for use in Union. <p>● June 6th</p> <p>Introductions/General Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Caroline Fletcher reported that the Blansett Professional Development Day was well attended and received positive feedback; Daniel Vassel presented teamwork activities that were engaging and the school supply service project to benefit local schools was successful ○ President LaForge shared that the May IHL Board meeting highlight was introducing Dr. Novobilski and Dr. Lovin to the Board and other presidents; in addition, they had opportunity to meet Casey Prestwood and her staff and members of IHL’s legal team ○ President LaForge met virtually with the Casey Board staff – provided opportunity for them to hear reaffirmation of the university’s commitment to working with their project to open access to education for young African American males ○ President LaForge traveled recently to Sofia, Bulgaria, to The University of National and World Economy (UNWE) and engaged in a class on nuclear energy policy. The bulk of his time was spent working with the Institute of Postgraduate Studies (IPS) Director Jivko Draganov on a collaboration for certificate programs for professionals who are not interested in programs leading to degrees, but rather certification programs that may require some courses and/or other experiences. The possibility of onsite visits for faculty/staff at each institution was discussed. The certificate programs would be primarily online delivery. ○ SSI began – fewer than 5 students actually on campus in dorms— 		
--	--	--	--

primarily online courses

- Mike Kinnison represented President LaForge at the Gulf South Conference where two individuals hailing from DSU were inducted into the Hall of Fame: Scott Eisner, former QB on FB team (2007) and Dr. Kent Wyatt, charter member and two-time president of the organization; 2 key items under discussion at Conference: interconference transfers (allow? have them sit out? appeal process?)—no decision; voted down proposal for baseball to be a 3-day weekend instead of a 2-day weekend

Updates from Athletics Director – Mike Kinnison

- June is camp season: football, some instructional, some prospect identification; baseball, camps for recruiting
- Recruiting for 3 coaching positions; recently hired Kristen Rincker as Athletic Business Administrator and Kel Lange as Athletics Development Officer
- Athletic fundraising event in Hernando Thursday

Updates from VP for Finance - Facilities Mgt. - Jamie Rutledge

- Current roofing projects are into liquidated damages (due to missing contract date), progress continues; bid opening for DMI roofing; Jobe/KW Hall, POs to fix roofs this week; roof repairs to several buildings were successful with no reported leaks from recent rains
- \$1.4 million in additional funds for projects; \$6 million in R & R – will be process to hire pre-approved architect firms to help manage over 40 projects—guarantee that they will save enough to cover fees
- Bond funds – Installation of BPAC elevator and renovations to Foundation Hall, as well as pre-plans for 2 other buildings (Ward and Hugh White Halls) - will move forward with process when IHL provides its description of this process
- Nursing parking lot had adjacent swimming pool that will have to be addressed through excavation work
- Parking lot for Fugler-Hammett – equipment malfunction but should

be completed by end of week

- President LaForge has Chamber Board meeting Tuesday of this week, meeting with evaluator of National Heritage Commission, and visioning meeting hosted by Mike Neyman in North MS
- Celebration of Life to be held for DSU alum and supporter Jutta Ferretti at Our Ladies of Victory Catholic Church
- Steve Azar Celebrity Charity Golf Tournament in Greenville this weekend
- President and Mrs. LaForge will attend MS Institute of Arts and Letters Saturday in Jackson

Business

Mr. Rutledge (Budget/Financial)

- FY22 – Kelvin Davis looking closely to ensure no overages on budgets and keeping purchases to minimum to meet cash/budget goals
- Commissioner Rankins, John Pearce, President and Mr. Rutledge projecting where DSU will end up in 2022 based on ratios they evaluate Pres. on – increase in cash—don’t know exactly how many (mentioned figure of 48 or 49 days of cash later in conversation)
- Total E & G Budget is \$51,583,115. This includes the \$2,736,610 increase in state appropriations and \$1,355,000 for legislative earmarks. Earmarks include the following: DMI, \$300,000; E-Learning, \$155,000; Aviation, \$800,000; and Delta Center for Culture and Learning, \$100,000
- Capital Improvement budget is made up of 2023 allocation for R & R - \$599,527; 2023 special appropriations for purchase of aircraft - \$2,478,000; 2023 special appropriations that replace bond funds - \$5,640,000; and \$2022 re-appropriated R & R funds - \$306,355 for a total of \$9,023,882 in Capital Improvement funds.

Dr. Lovin (Enrollment Update)

- Pleased with report of 468 students in process of registering/transferring through TCOB days – goal is 551; June 14, 16, transfer and virtual sessions vital

- Also, graduate programs looking good; Megan (Financial Aid) upgraded data from Christy Riddle to determine how Financial Aid might assist students in planning to maximize usage of resources; Athletics will follow

Dr. Novobilski (Institutional Effectiveness and Planning Update)

- Upcoming call with SACSCOC to discuss review of financial plan that was submitted
- Several from DSU attending SACSCOC Conference in July in Orlando

Additional Items/Info

- Congratulations offered to CEHS for award of continuing accreditation for 7 years by CAEP
- Cabinet Advance scheduled for Monday, August 1, and Tuesday, August 2
- Revisiting summer office schedule – in error, it was extended one week in August that now interferes with start of school—need to consider amending to have last day of summer schedule reflect August 4th instead of August 11th
- Jamie Rutledge announced that Delta Council lunches will be offered to those who attend without tickets – will not be turning attendees away if they don’t have tickets; response has been strong for request for volunteers; Blackhawk helicopter will land June 16th at 4:30
- Rick Munroe described plans for “Dr. Broom” event to honor first president of DSU—with every President or a representative in attendance by video – effort to connect with families for the campaign (grand-niece of Dr. Broom involved); attended memorial service for donor Dr. Fred Pittman
- Legislative Funding Tour by Bureau of Buildings and Legislators scheduled for June 21st
- Murat Gur – OIT – Employee of the Month
- Jamie Rutledge announced that DSU will be involved in final

	<p>selection of Gen. Mgr. for Sodexo - in process of securing staff/team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff Development for Customer Service being considered through LinkedIn ○ Caroline Fletcher announced that the Communications and Marketing Team received a sweep of honors at the Communications, Public Relations, and Marketing Conference of Mississippi, suggesting that the increase in budget yielded positive outcomes ○ Lucia Habis attended a meeting of the Student Govt. Presidents at IHL, where she was elected VP; this group is planning projects to propose at their respective institutions in light of anticipated future increases in state revenue (looking at a focus in outdoor recreation spaces for student access) ○ Dr. Andrew Wegmann (attending for Josh who was at conference in Alaska); while in Paris was a guest of the Liberian Ambassador to France and spoke at a UNESCO meeting as a cultural expert ○ Dr. Novobilski shared that there will be a Faculty Development Day on August 11th with Colber Prosper speaking at lunch on faculty recruitment of new students (strengthening ties) ○ Dr. Novobilski also announced that the MA Low Residency program is now accredited and is a terminal degree ○ IPS Director Professor Jivko Draganov of The University of National and World Economy (UNWE) in Sofia, Bulgaria will be the first Colloquia speaker in late August (AY 22/23) 		
Faculty Senate Update	Faculty Senate has not met; no report.		Josh Armstrong
Action Items:			
Graduate Catalog Edits	<p>Graduate catalog revisions recommended by the Graduate Council were presented.</p> <p>Motion to approve the graduate catalog edits was made by Jeff Slagell and seconded by Beverly Moon. 10- approved; 0-nay; 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p>	Approved.	
Curriculum Action Request	Dr. Merideth Van Namen presented a curriculum action request to update all initial teacher preparation programs to align with what is required by CAEP or MDE. This includes a writing requirement, minimum general education GPA, and a performance on standardized test (ACT, CORE R/W/M). By aligning with the new standards, the	Approved.	

	<p>teacher preparation programs will still meet the new requirements of CAEP while also potentially increasing the number of teachers admitted to teacher education programs by reducing unnecessary barriers to admission.</p> <p>Motion to approve changes to the initial teacher preparation programs (TELR/English/Music/MathScience/HPER) was made by Leslie Griffin and seconded by Beverly Moon. 10- approved; 0-nay; 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p>		
Faculty Rights & Responsibilities – Commencement Policy	<p>The Commencement policy requirement was combined into the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities policy.</p> <p>Motion to approve the editorial change to include the commencement requirement in the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities policy was made and seconded. 10- approved; 0-nay; 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p>	Approved.	
Discussion:			
Grade Forgiveness & Latin Honors	The current Honors policy does not reflect that the Complete 2 Compete students who receive grade forgiveness should not receive Latin honors. It was also discussed whether to address Latin honors in the Grade Forgiveness policy. Discussion ensued but this topic was tabled .		
Updates:			
Review of Faculty-Related Policies (Tenure, Promotion, Annual Evaluations, Faculty Positions) & Attendance-Related Policies (Attendance, Class Absences, Attendance of Online Classes)	The working committee is scheduled to meet on June 21 st . The working group will send a draft to the Faculty Senate for review.		
Faculty Development Workshop	Dr. Ouida McAfee provided an update on the plans for the Faculty Development Workshop scheduled for August 11 th and encouraged all faculty to register. Dr. Bingham requested a list from Dr. McAfee of the faculty that have registered for the workshop thus far.		
Adjourned:	10:16 AM		
Next Meeting:	Thursday, June 23, 2022 @ 8:30 AM		