

## ACADEMIC COUNCIL

### Minutes

**July 22, 2021**

**Present:** Andrew Novobilski, Vicki Bingham, Edwin Craft, Emily Dabney, Ellen Green, Leslie Griffin, Billy Moore, Christy Riddle, Jeff Slagell  
**Absent:** Leslie Griffin, Beverly Moon, Andrew Wegmann  
**Guests:** Rolando Herts, Director of the Delta Center for Culture and Learning; Gray Kane, Director of the Gertrude C. Ford Center for Teaching and Learning

**Call to order:** A regular meeting of the Academic Council was held in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room on July 22, 2021. The meeting convened at 8:30 AM with Provost Novobilski presiding.

**Announcements:** Provost Novobilski thanked all in attendance for the warm welcome he has received since arriving to campus.

Agenda item	Comments/Discussion	Action taken	Responsible party
Approval of Minutes:	June 10, 2021	<b>Approved.</b>	
<b>Informational Item:</b>	The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states. There will be a SACSCOC accreditation visit on campus soon. In the meantime, a leadership team and a steering committee are being devised to help with the accreditation processes.		
<b>Action Items:</b>			
Cross-Listing	Dr. Edwin Craft and Hayley Pinion participated in a meeting a few weeks ago along with some department chairs that have been requesting that their classes be cross-listed in Banner. The reasons for cross-listing being requested is for co-requisite courses, lab courses, remedial sections that are taught with a standard section, combining multiple courses into one module, and because some faculty prefer to have one course shell. The issues that arise with cross-listing include making it harder for Institutional Research and Planning to review data. Issues also arise with faculty loads and enrollment data because students in both sections are not counted correctly, along with FERPA violations. Also, cross-listing a course does not automatically combine a course in Canvas. Course-linking may be the option faculty are needing instead of cross-listing. In course-linking, links are used to connect sections of the same course when it is required that a combination of these sections be taken concurrently (e.g. lab/lecture classes). Provost Novobilski asked the deans		Edwin Craft

	to have a conversation with department chairs and to share this information. Once all perspectives are understood, a policy/procedure may be devised for this process. This item will be discussed again at the next Academic Council meeting.		
<b>Discussion:</b>			
Priorities List (Opportunity for Large Purchases)	The priorities list received by Provost Novobilski contained \$26.5 million worth of items. Although it is unsure if and when the funding of these items may occur, the list provided Provost Novobilski with a better understanding of the needs of the university.		
Advance Update	<p>Dr. Vicki Bingham is the Academic Council representative on the President’s Cabinet, so Provost Novobilski asked Dr. Bingham to provide a synopsis from Cabinet Advance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget: As of June 30, 2021, there was \$2.6 million in the budget. FY21 – \$9.4 million cash flow projections, which is approximately 64 days of cash. FY22 – General operating budget of \$48.9 million. Enrollment numbers are still a concern, as well as sales/services, which will most likely be down due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>• Golf Course Development: A proposal to build a hotel/conference center and rental apartments has been accepted and will most likely be approved by IHL.</li> <li>• Campus Master Plan: A majority of buildings on campus need some type of repairs, such as water damage repairs, roof replacements, elevators and lighting updates. Cain-Tatum and Lawler-Harkins residence halls are being renovated. Updates should be coming to some academic buildings as the budget allows.</li> <li>• Center for Community &amp; Economic Development Building: Options for this building are still being discussed.</li> <li>• Alumni/Foundation: Rick Munroe reported at Cabinet Advance that approximately \$32 million has been raised (Capital Campaign). The Greater Jackson area alumni event will be held at 5:30 PM on July 22, 2021. Rick Munroe did agree to let deans know about alumni events beforehand so that deans can attend and also have time to reach out to alumni in the area. Work is being made to expand the Golden Circle group, whose members are made up of 50+ year graduates of Delta State University.</li> <li>• Fall Events: Pig Pickin’ is scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Homecoming is scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Provost Novobilski is hoping that more faculty will be in attendance at campus events.</li> <li>• COVID-19 Plans for Fall 2021: The University is not mandating masks or vaccines, but it is encouraging everyone to get vaccines if possible, but to wear a mask and socially distance if not possible. However, the number of COVID infections are on the rise again, so plans could change. The Provost will communicate information that is accurate</li> </ul>		

	<p>and up-to-date. The campus health clinic has hired Lajoyce Stewart as a Healthcare Specialist, who will serve as the COVID liaison.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enrollment Management: 1,917 students were registered for fall 2021 at the time of the meeting. There are 117 students registered to attend the July 27<sup>th</sup> orientation. Express Registration will be held on August 11<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>	
<b>Adjourned:</b>	10:30 AM	
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	Thursday, August 12, 2021 @ 8:30 AM	