

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Minutes

May 14, 2020

Present: Charles McAdams, Vicki Bingham, Dave Breaux, Edwin Craft, Leslie Griffin, Beverly Moon, Billy Moore, Cetin Oguz, Christy Riddle, Jeff Slagell

Absent: Emily Dabney

Guests: Jon Westfall; Chuck Westmoreland

Call to order: A meeting of the Academic Council was held via Zoom on May 14, 2020. The meeting convened at 8:31 AM with Provost McAdams presiding.

Announcements:

Agenda item	Comments/Discussion	Action taken	Responsible party
Approval of Minutes:	April 23, 2020	Approved.	
Informational Item:			
Action Items:			
Curriculum Requests – Division of Social Sciences & History	<p><i>Curriculum Action Requests:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Delete Program – Bachelor of Science in Social Science</i> • <i>Delete Program – Master of Science in Community Development</i> <p>Motion to approve deletion of programs major was made and seconded. 8-approved, 1-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p> <p><i>Curriculum/Course Action Requests:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Course Action – GLS 690 Thesis (Interdisciplinary Studies in MA-LS)</i> • <i>Revised Major – Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (admission requirements)</i> <p>Motion to approve creation of GLS 690 Thesis and revising the admissions requirements for the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies was made and seconded. 9-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p> <p><i>Curriculum Action Request:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Revised Major – Master of Science in Social Justice & Criminology (admission requirements)</i> <p>Motion to approve revision of admission requirements for the Master of Science in Social Justice and Criminology was made and seconded. 9-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p>	Approved.	Chuck Westmoreland
Graduate Admission Requirements	In an effort to remove barriers from the admissions process, the auto-admit criteria for graduate programs were further revised and the process streamlined.	Approved.	Dr. Beverly Moon

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iMBA/MBA: Expand auto-admit criteria to include “full admission with an academic hold” for applicants in the 2.75-3.0 UG GPA range w/o 4 years’ work experience. The hold would require B’s in first semester to continue in the program. Remove the GMAT requirement for all applicants. • MCA: Lower GPA standard to 2.75 for automatic admission. Add “full admission with an academic hold” for applicants in the 2.5-2.75 UG GPA range. The hold would require B’s in the first semester to continue in the program. • MPAC: Auto-admit decisions could be applied to all applicants w/ a minimum UG GPA of 2.75 in a business-related major. Remove GMAT requirement. • MED-ELE: Expand auto-admit criteria to include “full admission with an academic hold.” The hold would require applicants to submit Class A/test scores in their first 12 hours. We already do this unofficially via communication with the program coordinator. • MED-SE: Expand auto-admit criteria to include “full admission with an academic hold” for applicants w/ 2.7-3.0 UG GPA who have applicable test scores. The program coordinator is already in agreement. • MS-SHP: Expand auto-admit criteria to include “full admission with an academic hold” for applicants in 2.5-2.75 UG GPA range. The hold would require B’s in first semester to continue in the program. The program coordinator already does this unofficially. • MAT: Add auto-admit for any applicants who send in all supplemental items AND meet the GPA threshold. Any applications < 2.75 UG GPA would be evaluated by the coordinator. • MED-EAS: Add auto-admit for any applicants who send in all supplemental items <u>AND</u> meet GPA/work experience thresholds. <p>Motion to approve revisions of auto-admit criteria for graduate programs was made and seconded. 8-approved, 0-nay, 1-abstention. Motion carried.</p>		
Grade Forgiveness	<p>In trying to determine a way to help graduate students with grade amnesty, the following were proposed: Course Repetition: A graduate student may repeat any course one time with the permission of the graduate advisor, department chair, and college/school dean. Both grades will be calculated in the student’s GPA unless the Grade Replacement Policy is applied. Credit hours are only earned for the same class one time.</p>	Approved.	Dr. Beverly Moon

	<p>Grade Replacement: A graduate student who repeats a course(s) taken at Delta State University and who earns a higher grade the second time may submit a Grade Replacement Request form. Both the original grade and the repeat grade will appear on the student's transcript. The grade for the first attempt, however, will be excluded from the student's GPA calculation; only the grade and credit hours earned in the second attempt will be counted toward degree completion. The grade replacement policy may be used a maximum of two times during the student's graduate academic career at Delta State, with a limit of once for any one course.</p> <p>Motion to approve the policies on course repetition and grade replacement at the graduate-level was made and seconded. 9-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p>		
Course Fee Requests	<p>The following courses submitted a request to adjust course fees:</p> <p>FCS 220 – new fee amount: \$70 NUR 302 – new fee amount: \$75 NUR 320 – new fee amount: \$55 NUR 333 – new fee amount: \$190 NUR 405 – new fee amount: \$0 NUR 443 – new fee amount: \$285 NUR 445 – new fee amount: \$245 NUR 312 – new fee amount: \$0 NUR 358 – new fee amount: \$90 NUR 443 (RN-BSN) – new fee amount: \$100 NUR 603 – new fee amount: \$0 NEW 605 – new fee amount: \$70 NUR 606 – new fee amount: \$270 NUR 801 – new fee amount: \$170</p> <p>Motion to approve the course fee revisions was made and seconded. 9-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p>	Approved.	
Department Guidelines for Promotion and Tenure	<p>Faculty Senate previously requested an implementation of department-specific Promotion and Tenure guidelines. Dr. Leslie Griffin introduced a timeline for establishing department-specific guidelines for Tenure and Promotion evaluative reviews along with a rubric for evaluation tenure/promotion portfolios. Discussion ensued and edits to the rubric were recommended. This item will be brought back at a later date.</p>	Tabled.	Dr. Leslie Griffin
Discussion:			
Timeline for I grades	Grades of I received by students in fall of 2019 were to be updated to a grade at		

being converted to F-COVID-19	the end of the spring 2020 semester. Provost McAdams suggested the possibility of extending the deadline to December of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Academic Council members were in agreeance with the Provost.		
Plans for Summer & Fall Terms	Provost McAdams introduced a draft of a document titled “Academic Considerations for a Safe Start in Fall 2020.” The document was created to plan and implement steps to ensure continuity of instruction while keeping safety a top priority. In an effort to allow students to return to face-to-to face instruction while providing 6 feet of space per student, there are several steps are being considered such as hybrid/blended course-delivery, revisions to the academic calendar to end the semester prior to Thanksgiving, maintaining appropriate social distancing, amending attendance and excuse policies, and more. This will be considered and discussed further.		
Adjourned:	10:27 AM		
Next Meeting:	Thursday, May 28, 2020 @ 8:30 AM		