

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Minutes
March 11, 2021

Present: Charles McAdams, Vicki Bingham, Edwin Craft, Emily Dabney, Ellen Green, Leslie Griffin, Beverly Moon, Christy Riddle, Jeff Slagell, Jon Westfall
Absent: Billy Moore
Guests: Mike Smith, Interim Chair of the Division of Language and Literature; Tanya McKinney, Interim Chair of the Division of Math and Sciences

Call to order: A meeting of the Academic Council was held via Zoom on March 11, 2021. The meeting convened at 8:31 AM with Provost McAdams presiding.

Announcements:

Agenda item	Comments/Discussion	Action taken	Responsible party
Approval of Minutes:	February 25, 2021	Approved.	
Informational Item:			
Action Items:			
Curriculum Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Health, Physical Education & Recreation</i> - Course Revision – Deletion of the Varsity Athletics courses PER 251, 252, 351, and 352. This change is needed because the Varsity Athletics courses do not meet the criteria for an academic course or have an academic course syllabus. <p>Motion to approve deletion of the Varsity Athletics courses was made and seconded. 9-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p>	Approved.	Dr. Leslie Griffin
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Languages & Literature</i> - Curriculum Revision – Bachelor of Science in Education (English). Request to change the number of elective hours listed in the catalog for the BSE (high) track from 11 to 12. This change will rectify the addition error in the catalog, showing the total hours to be the required 120. <p>Motion to approve revisions to the correction in number in elective hours for the BSE (English) was made and seconded. 9-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p>	Approved.	Mike Smith
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Languages & Literature</i> - Course Revision – Deletion – ENG 305 Applied Writing. <p>Motion to approve deletion of ENG 305 Applied Writing was made and seconded. 9-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p>	Approved.	Mike Smith

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Math & Sciences</i> - Course Revision – MAT 252 Calculus II. The co-requisites are being revised from MAT 210 and 305 to no co-requisites. Prerequisite of MAT 251 will remain the same. <p>Motion to approve deletion of co-requisites for MAT 252 Calculus II was made and seconded. 9-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p>	Approved.	Dr. Tanya McKinney
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Math & Sciences</i> - Course Revisions – MAT 405 History of Mathematics; MAT 411 Geometry; MAT 415 Discrete Mathematics & Graph Theory; MAT 425/426 Modern Algebra I/II; MAT 442 Linear Algebra; MAT 443 Number Theory. Prerequisites are being changed from requiring both MAT 251 and 305 to only requiring MAT 305 as a pre-requisite. <p>Motion to approve revisions to prerequisites for MAT 405, 411, 415, 425/426, 442, and 443 was made and seconded. 9-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Course Revisions – BIO 426 Reproduction, BIO 428 Endocrinology, and BIO 465 Pathophysiology. Change pre-requisites from BIO 331 or equivalent to BIO 300. <p>Motion to approve revisions to prerequisites for BIO 426, 428, and 465 was made and seconded. 9-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p>	Approved.	Dr. Tanya McKinney
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Math & Sciences</i> - Curriculum & Course Revision – MAT 485 Introduction to Teaching Secondary Mathematics. The amount of time working on the course is greater than originally planned, therefore the request is to increase the credit hours from 1 to 3. 	Will be considered once a syllabus indicating justification for increase is submitted.	Dr. Tanya McKinney
Discussion:			
Spring 2021 Commencement Plans	<p>Due to the decline of COVID-19 infections and resulting hospitalizations in Mississippi, Governor Tate Reeves issued Executive Order 1549 which increases the capacity inside indoor arenas to 50% capacity. In light of this, the University is considering changing the spring 2021 commencement from virtual to a face-to-face format. New guidelines will be developed to facilitate a F2F Commencement and keep safety protocols in place. <u>Initial</u> and <u>preliminary</u> guidelines include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Masks and social distancing protocols will be required. DSU will need a supply of masks for guests who did not bring a mask. Special masks will be provided to graduates. 2. Thermal temperature scanners will be used to scan all entering the building. Employees should screen as normal. 3. Two ceremonies: 10:00 am and 2:00 pm 4. Graduates will process with piano accompaniment. 		

5. Commencement Order of Service will be displayed electronically and program will be available for download online after the event.
6. Platform party consists of three people: President LaForge, Provost McAdams and Dean Moon.
7. There will be three lecterns w/microphones: stage right-Provost; center-President; stage left-Dean Moon
8. National Anthem is sung from the stage floor with a separate microphone.
9. Graduates are issued **3 tickets** each.
10. Graduates are seated – socially distanced facing the stage.
11. Faculty representatives sit behind graduates, socially distanced. Faculty representatives are limited to:
 - COAS – 6
 - COBA – 2
 - COEHS – 2
 - NUR – 2
12. Seating for deans behind the faculty
13. President provides a brief Commencement Address
14. There will be no honorary degree recipient
15. Emeriti faculty and staff and Kossman and Nowell Award recipients will be announced, but awards presented separately by appointment.
16. President presents a diploma cover to each student with NO handshaking **OR** students pick up their diploma cover from a table with President behind the table.
17. Photographer takes a photo of graduation receiving diploma cover with the student slowing down, but not stopping – in the same manner done previously when the Provost presented the diploma cover.
18. Graduates leave the building after exiting the stage. Graduate’s guests exit the arena when their graduate leaves the stage.
19. Graduate students will wear their hoods during the ceremony.
20. As Commencement is on a Friday, university staff will be used to assist with the event.
21. Edwin and Jon will assume responsibility for ticket control at the event and investigate a technological solution to paper tickets.
22. The event will require a significant security presence.

The Provost will secure support from EC and Cabinet before a final decision is announced.

Adjourned:	10:28 AM		
Next Meeting:	Thursday, March 25, 2021 @ 8:30 AM		