

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Minutes

January 26, 2023

Present: Andrew Novobilski, Josh Armstrong, Vicki Bingham, Edwin Craft, Emily Dabney, James Gerald, Ellen Green, Leslie Griffin, Billy Moore, Christy Riddle, Jeff Slagell, Josie Welsh

Absent:

Guests: Chrisa Mansell, Director of Institutional Research & Planning; Merideth Van Namen, Chair of Teacher Education, Leadership & Research; Missy Hudson, Coordinator of International Student Services

Call to order: A regular meeting of the Academic Council was held in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room on January 26, 2023. The meeting convened at 8:32 AM with Provost Novobilski presiding.

Agenda item	Comments/Discussion	Action taken	Responsible party
Approval of Agenda	Motion to approve the agenda was made by Jeff Slagell and seconded by Josh Armstrong. Provost Novobilski made a request to amend the agenda to add a request to approve edits to the 2023-2024 academic calendar. All in favor.	Approved.	
Approval of Minutes	Motion to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2023 meeting was made by Jeff Slagell and seconded by Josh Armstrong. All in favor.	Approved.	
Informational Item:			
Cabinet Update	Dr. James Gerald attended Monday's Cabinet meeting for Dr. Griffin and provided an update from the last Cabinet meeting.		Leslie Griffin
Faculty Senate Update	Dr. Armstrong reported that Dr. Eddie Lovin attended the last Faculty Senate meeting. Recruitment and enrollment numbers were discussed including how faculty can be better utilized to help with recruitment.		Josh Armstrong
Institutional Effectiveness and Planning	<p>Dr. Welsh reminded everyone that Dr. Cuevas, the SACSCOC Vice President, will be on campus on February 21st and possibly the 22nd.</p> <p>The writing team recommended that smaller groups meet with Dr. Cuevas instead of a large body all at once. If any departments have meetings on February 21st that they'd like for Dr. Cuevas to join, they can let Dr. Welsh know so that she can add it to the campus visit agenda. Meetings may also take place on February 22nd.</p> <p>Friday working meetings for strategic planning have also been established.</p>		Josie Welsh
Opportunities for Continuous Improvement:			
Residence Hall Task Force	Dr. Edwin Craft shared that he has created a Residence Hall Task Force. Anyone who feels inclined to serve is welcome to do so.		

Action Items:		
Curriculum Items	<p>Curriculum & Course Action Requests – Master of Arts in Teaching in Special Education and corresponding Course Action Requests to delete SPED courses that are no longer needed for any degree program, and to add CSP 610 SPED Law and Research, CSP 611 Language and Literacy for Students with Diverse Needs, CSP 612 Literacy for Students with Disabilities, and CSP 613 Evidence-Based Practices for Students with Disabilities, UDL, and HLPs – Motion to approve creating a SPED track in the existing Master of Arts in Teaching and corresponding course action requests was made by Leslie Griffin, seconded by James Gerald. 11-approved; 0-nay; 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p> <p>Course Action Requests – CEL 312 & CRD 325. Motion to change the course title for CEL 312 to Integrating Reading and Writing Across the Curriculum, and update the description of CRD 325 and the title to Literacy in the Intermediate Grades was made by Leslie Griffin, seconded by Jeff Slagell. 11-approved; 0-nay; 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p> <p>Curriculum & Course Action Requests – Doctor of Education and corresponding Course Action Request to revise the prerequisites and corequisites for ELR 888. Motion to approve was made by Leslie Griffin, seconded by Jeff Slagell. 11-approved; 0-nay; 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p> <p>Curriculum Action Request – M.Ed. in Elementary Education. Motion to approve changes to the admissions requirements was made by Leslie Griffin and seconded by Jeff Slagell. 11-approved; 0-nay; 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p> <p>Curriculum Action Request – Ed.S. in Elementary Education. Motion to approve changes to the admissions requirements was made by Leslie Griffin and seconded by James Gerald. 11-approved; 0-nay; 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p> <p>Curriculum Action Request – Ed.S. in Curriculum & Instruction. Motion to approve changes to the admissions requirements was made by James Gerald and seconded by Leslie Griffin. 11-approved; 0-nay; 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p> <p>Curriculum Action Request – Ed.S. in Higher Education. Motion to</p>	Provost Novobilski

	approve changes to correct a catalog error was made by James Gerald and seconded by Leslie Griffin. 11-approved; 0-nay; 0-abstention. Motion carried.		
2023-2024 Academic Calendar	<p>Provost Novobilski presented a revised version of the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar. The revisions would allow for Spring 2023 semester to begin on January 15th, 2024 which is the Tuesday following the Martin Luther King holiday. This change is to support Delta State’s efforts to: a) provide those students enrolling in Delta State for the first time additional days to work with our support offices to complete all tasks associated with enrolling and b) to work with returning students that need a few extra days to plan how they will meet their financial obligations to do so without being purged.</p> <p>Motion to accept and approve changes to the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar was made by James Gerald and seconded by Edwin Craft. 11-approved; 0-nay; 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p>	Approved.	Provost Novobilski
Discussion:			
Duolingo	<p>Christy Riddle requested to add Duolingo as an additional option for English-language proficiency.</p> <p>When COVID first hit in Spring 2020, TOEFL/IELTS experienced vast testing center closures in most countries. It took time for TOEFL and IELTS to move forward with transitioning testing from face-to-face to online proctoring. During the downtime, schools began using Duolingo as an English-language proficiency option since Duolingo was already readily available to take online. DSU temporarily utilized Duolingo as well. In Spring 2021, DSU International Student Services examined the viability of allowing Duolingo as an approved option. However, at that time the investigation revealed that the majority of schools in our area were planning to discontinue the use of Duolingo due to the ineffectiveness of the test. As a result of this benchmarking, in Spring 2021, the decision was made to maintain the current English proficiency process.</p> <p>More recent benchmarking has shown that the schools in our region have continued to accept Duolingo, with more schools also adding Duolingo. To maintain competitiveness in attracting international students, we recommend that DSU begin accepting Duolingo for Fall 2023 admissions as one of the approved English proficiency testing options.</p> <p>The recommended minimum score is 110 and is based on the University of Mississippi’s Duolingo score requirement. UM has a strong ESL/languages</p>	Approved.	Christy Riddle

	<p>program but yet has a high Duolingo acceptance score. Since DSU does not have an ESL program for students with weak English skills to fall back into, it is proposed to accept 110 as DSU's score, with a score of 100 with additional remediation required during the student's first semester of enrollment.</p> <p>Motion to approve the request to add Duolingo as an additional option for English-Language proficiency was made by James Gerald and seconded by Jeff Slagell. 11-approved; 0-nay; 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p>		
Announcements:			
Adjourned:	10:21 AM		
Next Meeting:	Thursday, February 9, 2023, @ 8:30 AM.		