

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Minutes

October 12, 2023

Present: Edwin Craft, Emily Dabney, James Gerald, Ellen Green (via phone), Leslie Griffin, Tomeka Harbin, David Hebert, Chris Jurgenson, Kristen Land, Merideth Van Namen

Absent: Vicki Bingham, Joi Phillips, Josie Welsh

Guests:

Call to order: A regular meeting of the Academic Council was held in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room on October 12, 2023. The meeting convened at 8:04 AM with Leslie Griffin presiding.

Agenda item	Comments/Discussion	Action taken	Responsible party
Approval of Agenda	Motion to approve the agenda was made by James Gerald and seconded by Chris Jurgenson. All in favor.	Approved.	
Approval of Minutes	Motion to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2023, meeting with suggested edits was made by Emily Dabney and seconded by Tomeka Harbin. All in favor. Motion to approve the minutes of the electronic voting was made by Chris Jurgenson and seconded by Merideth Van Namen. All in favor.	Approved.	
Informational Item:			
Provost's Update	Interim Provost Griffin provided the following updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many policies are currently being reviewed. Edwin Craft added that the university has chosen the policy software "Policy Stat" for managing policies. It keeps up with workflows, provides tracking, notifies which users need to review policies throughout the year, and more. The goal is to have the software available by November and policies migrated over by February. - Focus on SACSCOC will be even more deliberate in the coming weeks and months in preparation for the spring visit. When the Off-site Team Report arrives in November, the university will know more about what areas need more focus. 		Leslie Griffin
Cabinet Update	Ellen Green provided updates from the most recent Cabinet meetings.		Ellen Green
Faculty Senate Update	Chris Jurgenson provided the following Faculty Senate updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The regularly scheduled meeting would have been today but has been rescheduled due to fall break. 		Christopher Jurgenson

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chris Jurgenson contacted Josh Eyler and Robert Cummings at the Center for Teaching and Learning at Ole Miss regarding the evaluation policy for classes. Conversations about class evaluations will continue in Faculty Senate. - Candidates have been chosen to serve on the Faculty Grievance and Faculty Evaluation Appeal committees. Chris Jurgenson is still looking for faculty to serve on the Tenure & Promotion Appeal committee, for which only full professors are eligible. - Work for the Tenure and Promotion guidelines continues, but Faculty Senate still needs departmental guidelines to continue their work. 		
Institutional Effectiveness and Planning Update	<p>Leslie Griffin shared an update from Josie Welsh:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft of the QEP – end of October, then presented to larger QEP group in early November - Lunch and Learn dates were sent out. Those attending should bring their data, reports, other faculty members, and anything needed to get the work completed. 		
Opportunities for Continuous Improvement:			
Action Items:			
OLD BUSINESS: Course Evaluations Follow-up	Tabled to October 26 th Academic Council meeting.		
NEW BUSINESS: Academic Standing Policy	Emily Dabney presented a draft of the Academic Standing policy with proposed changes from 2021 plus a few additional edits. General edits were recommended, and it was suggested to clarify the steps for readmission. The draft will be brought back to the October 26 th Academic Council meeting for a second reading.		Emily Dabney
NEW BUSINESS: Readmission Policy for Students Called to Active Duty	<p>Delta State University was one of four hundred other schools randomly chosen for a Department of Defense audit. The university is required to have a policy for students called to active duty. Emily Dabney presented a draft of the “Readmission for Military Service Members” policy. Minor edits to the policy were recommended and a motion to suspend the need of a second reading of the policy was made by Emily Dabney and seconded by Merideth Van Namen. 8-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p> <p>Motion to approve the policy with suggested edits was made by Emily Dabney and seconded by Tomeka Harbin. 8-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p>	Approved.	Emily Dabney
NEW BUSINESS: Custom Regalia for Graduates	A representative from the regalia company had reached out to the Registrar’s office to present samples of custom regalia for graduates. Emily Dabney presented the samples for the custom bachelor and master gowns, as well as		Emily Dabney

	two options for the doctoral gowns. An updated pricing sheet was also provided, which included very minimal changes to the costs. Questions arose about the traditions for robes, and Emily Dabney agreed to check with the regalia company about other options that would follow traditional regalia guidelines. If approved, the custom regalia would be worn beginning in the spring of 2024, so this topic will be discussed further in November.		
Discussion:			
Announcements:			
Adjourned:	9:34 AM		
Next Meeting:	Thursday, October 26, 2023, @ 8:30 AM.		