

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Minutes

October 26, 2023

Present: Vicki Bingham, Edwin Craft, Emily Dabney, James Gerald, Ellen Green, Tomeka Harbin, David Hebert, Chris Jurgenson, Merideth Van Namen, Josie Welsh

Absent: Leslie Griffin, Kristen Land, Joi Phillips

Guests: Tanya McKinney, Fawn Ussery (for Joi Phillips)

Call to order: A regular meeting of the Academic Council was held in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room on October 26, 2023. The meeting convened at 8:30 AM with Acting Interim Provost Vicki Bingham 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 Ellen Green. All in favor.	Approved.	
Approval of Minutes	Motion to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2023, meeting was made by Tomeka Harbin and seconded by Chris Jurgenson. All in favor.	Approved.	
Guest Speaker: Tanya McKinney	Dr. Tanya McKinney provided an update on the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), which will focus on belongingness. She will be reaching out to different campus groups to share more about how to increase a sense of belongingness across campus and hopes to have more to share with Academic Council in December or January. In the meantime, departments can contact Dr. McKinney to schedule times where she can attend meetings to provide more information about the QEP.		
Informational Item:			
President's Update	President Ennis stated that cost-saving measures should be the focus of the next few weeks and asked the deans to help with this by eliminating adjunct/overloads from the spring 2024 schedule where possible. All future requests for faculty overloads must be approved by the President.		Dan Ennis
Provost's Update	Acting Interim Provost Bingham provided the following updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dr. Bingham stated that she will still be in her regular office in the School of Nursing but will come to Academic Affairs as needed. She can be reached at her regular phone extension, via email, or through Hayley or Cheryl.- Some students have requested to take their exams early or via a different format so that they do not have to come back to campus after Thanksgiving break, but the testing policy will be followed as it is currently written. All students must take their exams how they are		Vicki Bingham

	regularly scheduled.		
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"> - Chris Jurgenson joined the University Faculty Senate Association of Mississippi. - Faculty Senate may soon begin drafting a Parental Leave Policy. - Andrew Wegmann's work on the Faculty Handbook is still in progress. - Planning a first reading on faculty overload practices. - Chris Jurgenson will be meeting with the faculty of the Ole Miss Center for Teaching and Learning on Monday. 		Christopher Jurgenson
Institutional Effectiveness and Planning Update	Josie Welsh provided the following IEP updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focused report is due to Cabinet on January 15th. - January until April will be spent preparing for the on-campus visit. 		
Opportunities for Continuous Improvement:			
Action Items:			
OLD BUSINESS: Conclusion from Task Force for Committee on Committees	This topic will be revisited in June 2024, but some items to consider moving forward regarding the creation of a Committee on Committees would be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The limited number of tenured professors to serve - There currently isn't a requirement to serve on a committee - Ad Hoc Issues - Training for junior faculty without overwhelming them - Equity - Relation to collegiality - Relation to annual performance - Committee expectations - Credit for college-specific committees 		Josie Welsh
OLD BUSINESS: Course Evaluations Follow-Up	Chris Jurgenson reported that Dr. Andrea Kunze is working on the formation of an Ad Hoc Course Evaluation Committee. Key responsibilities of committee members will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define the mission and purpose of the evaluation committee - Review and potentially revise university policies related to evaluations and incentives - Collaborate to develop innovative course and instructor evaluation processes and forms - Create a universal evaluation form tailored for different course modalities - Align existing evaluation items with the new form 	Approved.	Josie Welsh; Chris Jurgenson

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance (or outline plans for) the online system for form selection and submission - Pilot the evaluation system with faculty and students - Establish a schedule for course evaluation releases - Update syllabus templates to include evaluation expectations <p>Dr. Kunze is hoping to have the committee formed by the end of next week and to meet at least twice before the end of this semester.</p>		
Discussion:			
Latin Honors for C2C	The topic was discussed regarding the awarding of Latin Honors to C2C students considering the Grade Forgiveness Policy and having former grades of F forgiven as a student of the C2C program. Emily Dabney will draft a policy addressing this and Chris Jurgenson will bring the draft to Faculty Senate for input before the draft comes to Academic Council for further review. This topic will be discussed further in December.		
Announcements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Bingham said she will be sending out an email to deans with several upcoming due dates. • Dr. Craft reminded everyone to be mindful of timelines when items need to go before ULC and/or Cabinet. 		
Adjourned:	10:34 AM		
Next Meeting:	Thursday, November 9, 2023, @ 8:30 AM.		