

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Minutes

February 1, 2024

Present: Vicki Bingham, Edwin Craft, James Gerald, Ellen Green, Leslie Griffin, David Hebert, Chris Jurgenson, Kristen Land, Joi Phillips, Fawn Ussery, Merideth Van Namen, Josie Welsh

Absent: Tomeka Harbin

Guests: Lisa Cooley for Tomeka Harbin

Call to order: A meeting of the Academic Council was held in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room on February 1, 2024. The meeting convened at 8:31 AM with Interim Provost Leslie Griffin presiding.

| Agenda item | Comments/Discussion | Action taken | Responsible party |
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| Approval of Agenda | Motion to approve the agenda was made by Chris Jurgenson and seconded by Merideth Van Namen. All in favor. | Approved. | |
| Approval of Minutes | Motion to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2024, meeting was made by Chris Jurgenson and seconded by Vicki Bingham. All in favor. | Approved. | |
| Informational Item: | | | |
| Provost's Update | Interim Provost Griffin provided the following updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cabinet has not met since the last AC meeting, so no update from Cabinet.- The ULC meeting this week was standard.- Town Hall occurred this week.- A lot of hard committee work is currently taking place with everyone doubling down to complete the necessary work. If the Interim Provost can assist to help make the tasks less stressful, please let her know.- Would like to emphasize positive news on campus and is brainstorming ideas about creating an Academic Affairs newsletter to highlight the great things happening around campus plus events. Please let Academic Affairs know about information that could be added to the newsletter.- The inauguration service project will take place in Rolling Fork. Participation is encouraged. | | Leslie Griffin |
| Faculty Senate Update | Chris Jurgenson provided the following Faculty Senate updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Faculty Senate has not met since the last Academic Council meeting.- Plans to meet with Faculty Senate's Executive Committee today.- Pushing for progress on evaluations and hopes to have something finalized soon.- Chris Jurgenson will transition off as Faculty Senate President on April 11th. | | Christopher Jurgenson |

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| <p>Institutional Effectiveness and Planning Update</p> | <p>Josie Welsh provided updates on SACSOC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Today’s update focused on assessment (Academic, Academic Support Services, Administrative, General Education). - David Hebert recently hosted a Chair’s training which discussed operational definitions and course evaluations for online and face-to-face courses. Moving forward, David Hebert would like to compare our institution to other organizations and institutions to compare methods. - The University has a “culture of compliance” when it should have a “culture of assessment.” The standard of assessment should be focused on goals and using data to see if and how goals were reached, then understanding where improvement is needed. - Will be opening the criteria for 8.2b (General Education Assessment) for anyone who wants to learn more about it. Reviewing it may help everyone to better understand assessments. - When thinking about General Education, it is best to look at competencies instead of courses. Data with a nice sample size should be gathered, but outcomes should be reviewed at least every four years. - The acronym “DRS FUDI” was introduced, which stands for Documented; Reasonable; Systematic; Faculty; Use; Data; Implementation. | | <p>Josie Welsh</p> |
| <p>Opportunities for Continuous Improvement:</p> | | | |
| <p>Action Items:</p> | | | |
| <p>OLD BUSINESS: Faculty Overload Pay Update</p> | <p>Chris Jurgenson, Vicki Bingham, and Merideth Van Namen had been leading the work on this and had a policy ready to distribute for review. However, there is uncertainty regarding the reference of “8 to 10 minimum per class” and more research based on that is needed before approving a policy update.</p> | | |
| <p>OLD BUSINESS: Curriculum Items</p> | <p>Course Action Requests – Military Science/Commercial Aviation Courses. Motion to bundle the two MSC Course Action requests was made by James Gerald and seconded by Ellen Green. All in favor. Motion to approve the course action requests to create the MSC courses for our ROTC students was made by Lisa Cooley and seconded by James Gerald. 11-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p> <p>Course Action Request – Deletion of CRD 102 and 103. Motion to approve the deletion of CRD 102/103 was made by Merideth Van Namen and seconded by Kristen Land. 11-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p> | <p>Approved.</p> | |

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| | <p>Curriculum & Course Action Request – Deletion of Fashion Merchandising concentration within FCS and corresponding courses. Motion to bundle the two FCS curriculum/course action requests was made by James Gerald and seconded by Kristen Land. All in favor. Motion to approve the request to delete the Fashion Merchandising concentration within FCS and corresponding courses was made by Merideth Van Namen and seconded by Chris Jurgenson. 11-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p> | | |
| <p>Discussion:</p> | | | |
| <p>DEC Meeting Update</p> | <p>The Distance Education Committee has met, and Anna Macedonia is leading the effort to update the Distance Education policy. The changes being discussed regarding distance education include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distance Education Integrity Report - The need for an overview of online courses. Faculty serving on the DEC could provide a first-level look but would need adequate training, but a training model is needed. Incentive ideas for faculty to serve in this capacity could include a stipend or possibly covering the cost of attending a conference that focuses on online teaching. Ideally, a contracted course designer could be hired. - A red-lined/revised version of the Distance Education policy will come before Academic Council on February 8th. | | |
| <p>Distance Education Integrity Report</p> | <p>David Hebert presented the Distance Education Integrity Report which lists faculty that are teaching online this semester and contains information about whether they have completed the necessary training to instruct online. The report was ran the first day of classes this semester and deans/chairs were notified of the faculty that had not completed the training. Another report will be run again to see which of the faculty have since completed the training and if training is still needed, the faculty member’s dean and chair will again be notified. When deans and/or chairs are notified that training is still needed for a faculty member, then a conversation should take place between the dean/chair/faculty member. If anyone would like to review the report, it will be available in the FCTL Teams folder.</p> <p>Motion to accept the report as presented was made by James Gerald and seconded by Ellen Green. 11-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p> <p>James Gerald recommended Canvas training for face-to-face courses as well as online courses moving forward.</p> | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hours for Full-time Graduate Status • Graduate Hour Limitations per Semester • Summer Session Terms - Graduate | <p>James Gerald presented a recommendation of considering six hours as full-time for graduate programs. Some of the concerns for this included 1) graduate students must be in a minimum of 6 hours to be eligible for federal financial aid, therefore, departments would need to be very careful when advising to ensure students are in the correct classes for their degree, 2) Under the new financial value transparency program, schools are required to disclose loan debt levels for each program. Since some graduate students already take out the maximum loan amount of \$20,500 per year, extending their time of enrollment may cause the student to incur more loan debt, and 3) Some schools define summer enrollment as half of their fall/spring hours, so changing to 3 hours would cause issues with minimum enrollment for federal loan eligibility remaining at 6 hours. Plus, changing hours may impact summer enrollment. If a student uses all their loan amount in the fall and spring, their only loan option would be a credit-</p> | | |

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| | based loan, and not all students may qualify and some of those loans are excluded from federal repayment plans. James Gerald was asked to discuss the possible implications with the Graduate Council and bring it back before Academic Council later. | | |
| Announcements: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Marilyn Read if you are interested in being a judge for the science fair that is being held on February 14th. • QEP rollout will take place on February 14th from 12-3 PM in the Union. • Honor Choir is scheduled for February 10th at 2 PM in the BPAC. • Hayley Murrell has accepted the position of Athletics Business Administrator for Delta State Athletics and will be transitioning to that position on February 12th. | | |
| Adjourned: | 10:21 AM | | |
| Next Meeting: | Thursday, February 8, 2024, @ 8:30 AM. | | |