

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Minutes

August 12, 2021

Present: Andrew Novobilski, Vicki Bingham, Edwin Craft, Emily Dabney, Ellen Green, Leslie Griffin, Beverly Moon, Billy Moore, Christy Riddle, Jeff Slagell, Andrew Wegmann

Absent:

Guests: James Forte, Director of Alumni Affairs and Annual Fund; Amanda Robinson, Assistant Director of Alumni Affairs

Call to order: A regular meeting of the Academic Council was held in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room on August 12, 2021. The meeting convened at 8:31 AM with Provost Novobilski presiding.

Announcements: Convocation for the 2021-2022 academic year will be held in the BPAC on August 12th at 3:00 PM.

Agenda item	Comments/Discussion	Action taken	Responsible party
Approval of Minutes:	July 22, 2021	Approved.	
Guest Speaker: James Forte	<p>James Forte, the Director of Alumni Affairs and Annual Fund, was invited to be a guest speaker. He shared important dates with Academic Council: Pig Pickin’ on September 10th and 11th; Voices from the Sit-In film screening on October 4th; Fall Board of Directors Meeting on October 29th; Homecoming on October 29th and 30th which will include an Alumni Awards Gala/Golden Circle Induction, a Veteran’s Breakfast, Homecoming Parade and an Aviation Alumni Reunion; Go Green Weekend on April 9th and 10th.</p> <p>Mr. Forte discussed the main channels that the Alumni Association uses for communication. On the 2nd Friday of each month, the alumni newsletter “Statesmen Scoop” is distributed electronically. To have items published in the newsletter, information should be submitted by the first Friday of each month. The Alumni Spotlight is shared electronically on the 4th Friday of each month with its deadline being the second Friday of each month. The Alumni and Friends magazine is published each fall and spring in both digital and print format. For the fall edition, any additions to the magazine should be submitted by March and for the spring edition, additions should be submitted by November. The DSU Alumni Connect is an app to keep alumni informed and engaged. Over 900 alumni have logged into the app thus far.</p> <p>Mr. Forte also explained the mission of the Alumni Board, which is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perpetuate the memories of the university life; - Provide a medium through which interest in Delta State 		

	<p>University may be promoted;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assist in establishing alumni chapters; - Bind the alumni into a united fellowship working together for the advancement of the University; - Serve as a link between the University and its alumni; - Act as a service organization for former Delta State students. 		
Informational Item:			
Cabinet Update	<p>Dr. Vicki Bingham provided an update from the President’s last two Cabinet meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilities Management Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevator project is nearing completion with the Roberts-Laforge library at 95% complete and Broom Hall is complete. The Union is currently being updated. • Residence Halls: Fugler-Hammett, Lawler-Harkins and Brumby-Castle are complete; Cain-Tatum is at 95% completion; Foundation Hall will be renovated soon. - Athletics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletics staff has been working to increase revenues by engaging corporate sponsors, pushing ticket sales and gaining Statesmen Club memberships. • Alcohol sales of beer and wine at specific athletic events has been approved. The sales will be monitored by trained Sodexo employees. - COVID-19 Protocols <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks are now mandatory indoors for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people on-campus along with social distancing. Everyone is being encouraged to get vaccinated as it is estimated that ¾ of the students who return to campus this fall will be unvaccinated. Protocols may be revised as needed. • The food court in the Union and the cafeteria will be open to the public, as well as the Fitness Center and other campus services, but everyone must follow campus protocols and wear a mask. - Office Names <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office names are often used interchangeable on campus, so changes were proposed to solidify names in hopes to clearly state what each office does: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Office of Undergraduate Admissions 		Vicki Bingham

- Office of Financial Aid
- Office of Career Services
- Office of Student Life
- Office of Health and Counseling Services
- Revised Scholarship Guidelines for FY22
 - Effective with Fall 2021 enrollees:
 - GPA requirement of 3.0 during FY21, then revisit for FY22 for consideration to return to a GPA requirement of 3.25
 - Scholarship eligibility/maintenance – change from 15 CR to 12 CR (full-time) per semester to University and Foundation scholarships unless Foundation scholarships state otherwise.
 - Effective with Fall 2022 enrollees:
 - Change from recommending FAFSA completion to requiring FAFSA completion to receive a University and/or Foundation scholarship.
 - Delete the requirement for students to submit essays, resumes or video requirements for PTK and Academic Excellence
 - Change amounts and length of time for leadership scholarships such as Boys/Girls Delegate, Boys/Girls Governor or Nation, Eagle Scout, Gold Award, Governor’s School Delegates
 - Orders of Aid: Federal, State, External, Foundation, University, Persons/Federal Loans.
 - Determine “need-based” scholarship eligibility
 - Approve the use of ACT Superscore for scholarships
 - Use of “Legal Sex”, “Gender Designation” and “Personal Pronoun” for application and scholarships
 - Use of Banner fields for Student Activities
- IT Services
 - The University is transferring its Information Technology Services to in-house from Ellucian effective October 1, 2021. Dr. Edwin Craft has developed a plan to hire 19 employees to fulfill the services. Six positions have been filled thus far.
- Radio Station License
 - The signal for the University’s radio station was strengthened

	and can now reach a 30-mile radius.		
Action Items:			
Cross-Listing	After the Deans shared the feedback they received from their department chairs, Dr. Novobilski asked Edwin, Emily and Hayley to begin work on a procedure for cross-listing. This item will be brought back for discussion in September. During the discussion, it was determined that all schedule changes should be approved by Deans before being submitted to Hayley for updates.		Edwin Craft
Discussion:			
COVID-19 and Fall Semester	The University will return to “normal” as much as possible during the fall semester but masks will be required of all faculty, staff, students and campus visitors whether vaccinated or unvaccinated. Supplies of masks will be available in each building. If students feel they need reasonable accommodations, they must reach out to the Office of Health and Counseling Services. Dr. Novobilski will be speaking at the Chair Leadership meeting in September and hopes to clear up any confusion about returning to normal in the fall semester.		Andrew Novobilski
Adjourned:	10:26 AM		
Next Meeting:	Thursday, August 26, 2021 @ 8:30 AM		