

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**Minutes**

**August 26, 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:** Dr. Gray Kane, Director of the Gertrude C. Ford Center for Teaching and Learning

**Call to order:** A regular meeting of the Academic Council was held in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room on August 26, 2021. The meeting convened at 8:32 AM with Provost Novobilski presiding.

**Announcements:** The Community College Curriculum Alignment meeting is scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup>. There are options to attend virtually or in person.

Constitution Day is scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Agenda item	Comments/Discussion	Action taken	Responsible party
Approval of Minutes:	August 12, 2021	<b>Approved.</b>	
<b>Informational Item:</b>			
Cabinet Update	<p>Dr. Vicki Bingham provided an update from the President’s Cabinet meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilities Management Projects                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elevator projects should be completed by October.</li> <li>• The parking lot behind Fugler-Hammett is being repaired.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Athletics                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alcohol sales will begin on September 2<sup>nd</sup> at the football game against Bethel University.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Convocation                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance in-person was good and 300 people watched via livestream.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Student Life                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fall semester is off to a great start with good attendance during Welcome Week events.</li> <li>• Dr. Eddie Lovin is planning to review registration and New Student Orientation practices.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- COVID                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is imperative that students are familiar with the University’s COVID protocols. There have been relatively low positive cases amongst students since the semester started.</li> <li>• The University is planning for student and employee</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		Vicki Bingham

	<p>incentives for those that upload their proof of vaccination. Incentives range from gift cards to stores and restaurants, AirPods, Ipads, and cash prizes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overall enrollment is lower than at this time last year. There are 92 international students enrolled at this time.</li> <li>- SGA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After SGA met, they relayed some concerns to the President’s Cabinet, such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students feel that electives in majors are not clearly specified and curriculum check sheets do not always match the academic maps.</li> <li>2. Advisors don’t always reply in a timely manner.</li> <li>3. Course workload seems to have increased since returning from online instruction to face-to-face instruction.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<b>Action Items:</b>			
ACUE Discussion	Dr. Gray Kane discussed the new micro-credential being offered this semester, which will help any faculty member receive the full benefits of effective teaching. The course is made up of 7-8 modules which can be completed in one semester. In the future, faculty will hopefully be recognized for completing the ACUE training.		Gray Kane
Academic Calendar	<p>It was brought to the attention of Academic Council that the University awarded summer degrees listing the Summer Graduation date as July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The Academic Calendar currently states that the Summer Graduate date is July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021. It was requested that the Academic Calendar be edited to reflect the Summer Graduate dates as July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, as well as update the Summer Graduation dates for 2022 from July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. The modification to the Academic Calendar, if approved, must be submitted to SACSCOC by our SACS liaison.</p> <p><b>Motion to update the dates on the Academic Calendar to reflect the Summer Graduation date as July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 was made and seconded. 10-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</b></p>		Emily Dabney, Beverly Moon
<b>Discussion:</b>			
Academic Standing Policy	Emily Dabney discovered a difference in what has been published in the Academic Standing policy and catalog for the required GPA for good standing for freshmen and sophomores. The university’s database is set up in alignment with the requirements in the catalog, therefore, it was proposed to change the policy to match the requirements published in the catalog. Provost		Emily Dabney

	Novobilski asked everyone to review the policy and catalog, and this item will be discussed at the next Academic Council meeting.	
Mississippi Prison Education Opportunities	The Mississippi Humanities Council, Mississippi's Public Universities, the Mississippi Community College Board and the Woodward Hines Education Foundation will be holding a meeting to discuss opportunities to expand quality post-secondary education programs for students in prison. The meeting is scheduled virtually on Friday, September 17 <sup>th</sup> at 8:45 AM. Dr. Charles Westmoreland and Dr. Andrew Wegmann have volunteered to be the points-of-contact for this program.	
Process for Hiring Staff Positions	Open staff positions are advertised on the University's Human Resources website. To extend the search beyond the University's website to other hiring sites, the hiring department is responsible for those expenses.	
DSU Center/Institute Removal	Casey Prestwood of IHL distributed a list of centers/institutes that will have the center/institute distinction removed unless they are deemed an actual center. Provost Novobilski would like to schedule a meeting with directors/deans over the centers/institutes on the list to determine the importance of being a center/institute.	
Adjunct Persistence	Provost Novobilski discussed showing adjuncts their importance to the University and wants to make sure that adjuncts are provided with the tools they need to be productive and successful.	
<b>Adjourned:</b>	10:34 AM	
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	Thursday, September 9, 2021 @ 8:30 AM	