

# ACADEMIC COUNCIL

## Minutes

**September 23, 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; John Alvarez, Interim Chair of the Department of Health, Physical Education & Recreation; Merideth Van Namen, Chair of Teacher Education, Leadership & Research; Brittany Davis-Green, Director of Communications & Marketing

**Call to order:** A regular meeting of the Academic Council was held in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room on September 23, 2021. The meeting convened at 8:32 AM with Provost Novobilski presiding.

**Announcements:** The Office of Information Technology will be operated in-house by October 1<sup>st</sup>. A new help desk option with AI-backed technology will be available beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>.

A come-and-go exhibit for National Hispanic Heritage Month will take place in Kethley 235 and will be open for the next two weeks. Everyone is invited to attend.

Agenda item	Comments/Discussion	Action taken	Responsible party
Approval of Minutes:	September 9, 2021	<b>Approved with submitted edits.</b>	
<b>Guest Speaker: Brittany Davis-Green</b>	Brittany Davis-Green, the Director of Communications and Marketing, was invited to be a guest speaker. She shared that the Communications and Marketing team is gearing up to do much more marketing for the University. The team welcomes guidance and feedback from administration, faculty and staff to better serve the University and its marketing needs.		
<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>• Diversity, Equity, &amp; Inclusion Plans – 1) “Voices from the Sit-In” is scheduled for Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm at the Bologna Performing Arts Center; 2) Revision of the Ethnic Studies minor will be brought forward soon to AC; 3) utilizing social media to increase publicity of various events.</li> <li>• Financial Assistance – General policy revised – first read completed – had a second read and vote via email since Cabinet did not meet this past Monday – will report vote and outcome at</li> </ul>		Vicki Bingham

	<p>next AC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Statements added about any student who receives financial aid (federal, state, institutional, or foundation) must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the academic year in which they desire to receive aid.</li> <li>● Enrollment Update – day 15 (9/07/2021) - UG &amp; Graduate (unduplicated headcount with dual credit) – 2,762 [a decrease of 249 total students from Fall 2020 ]; UG &amp; Graduate (unduplicated headcount without dual credit) – 2, 502; [a decrease of 164 total students from Fall 2020]; the decrease was from the headcount in undergraduate [down 259], as graduate increased [up 10]; these headcounts equate into approximately 9.5-10% decrease in credit hours attempted when compared to Fall 2020; approximately 665 students were reported as living in the residence halls</li> </ul>		
Faculty Senate Update	Dr. Andrew Wegmann reported that Faculty Senate will be meeting more often in an effort to address things on a quicker basis. Upcoming Faculty Senate discussions include a faculty morale survey as well as a discussion on curriculum processes.		Andrew Wegmann
<b>Action Items:</b>			
Committee Organization	<p>Provost Novobilski proposed adding the director of the Gertrude C. Ford Center for Teaching and Learning as an Academic Council member.</p> <p><b>Motion to add the director of the CTL as a non-voting member of Academic Council was made and seconded. 10-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</b></p>	<b>Approved.</b>	Andy Novobilski
Faculty Development Recommendations	<p>Bryce-Griffis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Tabled. Motion for the Provost to review recommendations and line-item veto as needed, and forward those recommendations to Academic Council members for an electronic vote was made and seconded. 10-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</b></li> </ul> <p>Kent &amp; Janice Wyatt Faculty Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Motion to accept and approve the KJW Faculty Development</b></li> </ul>		Edwin Craft

	<p><b>recommendations from the Faculty Research Committee with Research funds added was made and seconded. 10-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</b></p>		
<p>M.Ed. Deletions – HPER &amp; SPED</p>	<p>M.Ed. in HPER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Master of Education in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation has diminished in demand and enrollment. In the past five years, the program has had five or fewer students enrolled. The Master of Education at one time was the only path to “AA” certification. The State of Mississippi now allows the Master of Science degree as a path to a non-specific “AA” certification. There is no longer incentive to complete the Master of Education instead of the Master of Science. The Master of Science in Sport and Human Performance has grown as it is a more versatile option for students with three areas of concentration leading to the decreased demand for the Master of Education program.</li> <li>- <b>Motion for the deletion of M.Ed. in HPER was made and seconded. 10-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</b></li> </ul> <p>M.Ed. in Special Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Though there remains a teacher shortage in this area, the pathways for meeting the special education requirements have changed and will continue to change, in effect reducing the demand for the M.Ed. With the reinstatement of the endorsement and minor in special education for undergraduate students along with the ability to add a SPED license to an existing teaching license through the Praxis II examination, there is not a demand for a separate Master’s degree in Special Education. Furthermore, upon the final recommendations for alternate route programming from the Mississippi Department of Education, the unit will begin implementing a Special Education track for those seeking an initial teaching license in SPED through DSU’s Master of Arts in Teaching program. Despite the deletion of the M.Ed. in Special Education, the institution will still be able to meet its mission of meeting the demands of the profession. No other academic programs will be affected until a separate special education track for the Master of Arts in Teaching is developed, approved, and implemented in the future.</li> <li>- <b>Motion for the deletion of M.Ed. in Special Education was</b></li> </ul>		

	<b>made and seconded. 10-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</b>		
<b>Discussion:</b>			
<b>Adjourned:</b>	10:33 AM		
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	Thursday, October 14, 2021 @ 8:30 AM		