

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Minutes

September 24, 2020

Present: Charles McAdams, Vicki Bingham, Edwin Craft, Emily Dabney, Ellen Green, Leslie Griffin, Beverly Moon, Billy Moore, Christy Riddle, Jeff Slagell, Jon Westfall

Absent:

Guests:

Call to order: A meeting of the Academic Council was held via Zoom on September 24, 2020. The meeting convened at 8:30 AM with Provost McAdams presiding.

Announcements:

| Agenda item | Comments/Discussion | Action taken | Responsible party |
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| Approval of Minutes: | August 27, 2020 | Approved. | |
| Informational Item: | | | |
| CARES Funds | CARES funds are available to help with COVID-19-related expenses. While much has already been allocated, there is still funding available. If there are other COVID-19-related expenses or if anyone has other ideas/suggestions due to the pandemic, please let the Provost know. However, there is a quick deadline pushing for the funds to be used by the end of November 2020, and items must be purchased and received by the deadline, so the Provost asks that estimates/requests be sent to him by Friday, September 25 th or Monday, September 28 th . | | |
| Staying Connected | The Provost emphasized the importance of staying connected to students and employees that are working remotely so that they don't feel isolated or abandoned. | | |
| Tutor.com | Tutor.com began this fall on campus and many students are using it already. Tutor.com connects students with expert online tutors. Students also have access to writing review, educational tools, and study resources. Students can access the service from any internet-ready device. | | |
| Action Items: | | | |
| Faculty Development Proposals | <p>Bryce-Griffis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Motion to accept and approve the recommendations of the Faculty Research Committee was made and seconded. 10-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried. <p>Kent & Janice Wyatt Faculty Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Motion to accept and approve the recommendations of the Faculty | Approved. | |

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| | Research Committee was made and seconded. 10-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried. | | |
| Division/Department-Specific Guide for Tenure/Promotion Portfolios | <p>Faculty Senate recommended to add the parenthetical “(all ranked faculty)” stating “For Sections 2.-4., the division/department (all ranked faculty) will provide specific examples associated with expectations for documentation at the respective 2-, 4-, and 6-year reviews.</p> <p>Motion to approve the revision was made and seconded. 10-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p> <p>Provost McAdams will revise the document with the approved revision and send to the Deans for departmental distribution.</p> | Approved. | |
| Final Exam Times for Online Classes | For final exams of face-to-face courses that are now being taught online, the final exam time will take place at the original meeting time. | | Emily Dabney |
| Spring 2021 Academic Calendar | <p>Universities in Mississippi and across the southeast are revising their Spring 2021 academic calendar and eliminating Spring Break in order to remove the possibility of students returning to campus after being exposed to the Coronavirus from people outside the DSU community. It is being recommended to eliminate Spring Break 2021 and end the spring semester one week earlier.</p> <p>January 11 Night Classes Begin January 12 Day Classes Begin March 29 Early Registration for Fall 2021 Begins April 23 Last day of class April 26-29 Final Examinations April 30 Spring Commencement (likely virtual)</p> <p>Motion to approve the revision to the Spring 2021 Academic Calendar was made and seconded. 10-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p> | Approved. | |
| Proposed Revisions to the General Education Program Catalog Copy | <p>To clarify the General Education competencies and expectations of students, a proposed revision was submitted for the undergraduate catalog being published in June 2021. No change to the actual General Education requirements was made; the edit will help students understand the expectations and meet their General Education requirements.</p> <p>Motion to approve General Education revision to the undergraduate catalog was made and seconded. 10-approved, 0-nay, 0-abstention. Motion carried.</p> | Approved. | |
| Discussion: | | | |
| Adjourned: | 9:34 AM | | |
| Next Meeting: | Thursday, October 8, 2020 @ 8:30 AM | | |