

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Minutes
September 9, 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 September 9, 2021. The meeting convened at 8:30 AM with Provost Novobilski presiding.

Announcements: Christy Riddle announced that Student Success’s 24/7 Online Tutoring was available for almost all classes, both undergraduate and graduate level.

Agenda item	Comments/Discussion	Action taken	Responsible party
Approval of Minutes:	August 26, 2021	Approved with submitted edits.	
Informational Item:			
Cabinet Update	<p>Dr. Vicki Bingham provided an update from the President’s Cabinet meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilities Management Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campus-wide roofing project will begin this week. • An estimated \$2.4 million renovation to Foundation Hall is scheduled to begin in spring 2022. • The renovation/addition to the School of Nursing building is scheduled to begin in spring 2022, if bonds are sold. • The University may have approximately \$7.6 million in bond funds for projects next year. • The University has received approval to hire a developer for the golf course. - Athletics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The head coach of the golf team and the head coach of the men’s and women’s tennis teams resigned. Coach Kinnison will be trying to fill these positions. • Alcohol sales from the September 2nd football game made approximately \$3,000 with athletics receiving 25% of the total 		Vicki Bingham

	<p>sales.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pig Pickin’ will take place this weekend at Statesmen Park. All first responders will be recognized during the game. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COVID <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few on-campus cases overall have been reported. The dashboard is on the website, which is updated each Monday. - Academic Calendar Revision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The summer graduation date revision to the Academic Calendar, which was recommended by Academic Council, was approved. There was discussion to possibly remove the residence hall move-in date from future calendars. - Employee Life Insurance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employees have stated that there is a lack of life insurance options. The University could purchase a \$10,000 life insurance plan for all of its employees at a cost of \$5,207 per year. The source for this payment would come from the cafeteria plan funds not used by employees during the previous year. These unused funds are returned to the university and placed into the cafeteria plan account. Cabinet approval was obtained to create a designated fund for these unused cafeteria funds. The life insurance policies should be in place by November, but no later than January 1, 2022. - Enrollment Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment is down for the fall semester, with decrease in headcount of 6% and a decrease of 9% in full-time enrollment. • An enrollment task force has been formed to address the enrollment decrease and will begin meeting later this month. - Okra Bytes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Okra Bytes email has begun. Emails are distributed each day at 9 AM. It serves as a daily newsletter to students. Submissions may be submitted via the web. - The Chamber of Commerce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provost Novobilski has been meeting with the local Chamber of Commerce to discuss possible partnerships between the University and the community. 		
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Faculty Senate Update	Dr. Andrew Wegmann reported positively about the first coffee social with Provost Novobilski and other faculty in the Union. Provost Novobilski has plans to attend Faculty Senate on September 9 th . Future resolution topics include overload pay and the rotation of senators.		Andrew Wegmann
Action Items:			
Academic Standing Policy	Emily Dabney previously 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. Hayley Pinion was asked to retrieve previous Academic Council meeting minutes regarding changes to the Academic Standing policy, and Provost Novobilski asked Emily to prepare a recommendation to present at the next Academic Council meeting.		Emily Dabney
Deadline for Publishing Classes	Date by which classes should be published will be announced semester-by-semester. For the spring 2022 date, Dr. Ouida McAfee will include that date in the message emailed to faculty informing them that the class shells are now open. This email correspondence is usually sent out a few weeks before the new semester begins.		Edwin Craft
Discussion:			
Gertrude C. Ford Center for Teaching & Learning Advisory Committee	The Ford Center for Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee will provide advice and support to the Director of the Ford Center for Teaching and Learning, and serve as advocates for use of the Center to the faculty. The committee shall be composed of one representative from Academic Council, one department/division chair and five faculty, one from the three colleges, the RESSON, and the Library. Faculty representatives are appointed by the dean and the Academic Council representative and academic chair are appointed by the Provost. The Director of the Ford Center for Teaching and Learning shall serve as an ex-officio member of the committee. The Committee shall select its own Chairperson, but the chair can serve no more than two consecutive terms. Dr. Kane would also like a member of Student Success to serve on the Advisory Committee to help with collaborations. Currently, there are appointments open for the RESSON, COAS, COBA and Academic Council.		Jeff Slagell & Gray Kane
Adjourned:	9:42 AM		
Next Meeting:	Thursday, September 23, 2021 @ 8:30 AM		