

# ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes April 24, 2025

**Present:** Leslie Griffin, Nora Gough-Davis, Tomeka Harbin, Vicki Bingham, Fawn Ussery, Merideth Van Namen, Kristen Land, Tammy Prather, Jeffrey Leffler  
**Absent:** Edwin Craft

**Guests:** None

**Call to order:** The Academic Council met in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room on April 24, 2025. The meeting convened at 8:30 AM, with Provost Leslie Griffin presiding.

Agenda item	Comments/Discussion	Action taken	Responsible party
Approval of Agenda:	The motion to approve the agenda was made by Dr. Tomeka Harbin which was seconded by Kristen Land. All were in favor.	Approved	Leslie Griffin
Approval of Minutes:	The motion to approve minutes for Thursday, April 10, 2025, was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham and seconded by Fawn Ussery. All in favor.	Approved	Leslie Griffin
Discussion Items			

Provost's Updates	<p><b><u>Provost, Dr. Leslie Griffin, provided the following updates:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Griffin shared that she is considering restructuring the Academic Council composition. Dr. Edwin Craft was added to the Council when he was in the IT Director role. He will be removed and invited as a guest when needed in his role of Vice President for Finance.</li> <li>• Dr. Griffin is also considering forming a Chair's Council and adding the Chair of that Council to the Academic Council to add a representative from that perspective to the meetings.</li> </ul>		Leslie Griffin
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The process has been initiated to make an offer for the Dean of the College of Education, Arts, and Humanities position and the search for the Dean of the College of Business and Aviation is ongoing. Filling critical positions in the College of Business and Aviation including the Chair of Aviation is a priority.</li> <li>HB 1193 was approved by the Governor on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The bill prohibits certain actions related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in public schools and higher education institutions. Dr. Griffin is working with others in the CAO group through discussion to better understand the bill and will wait for final word from the IHL on how best to provide guidance. It is important that all read HB 1193 in order to be prepared for future discussions relevant to curricula ula and programming. The budget process is nearly complete. All position requests must be confirmed immediately.</li> </ul>		
Student Success	<p><b><u>Student Success Center Director Kristen Land provided the following update:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kristen Land shared a document that her team along with the Registrar developed to provide the procedure for handling students required to take remedial coursework during their first year. The group discussed the procedure of not allowing students to withdraw from these remedial courses. Ms. Land was advised to either revise the document to remove the “policy” language and/or to bring back to a future meeting for consideration a red-lined copy of the Undergraduate Catalog to establish the policy outlined in the procedural document.</li> </ul>		Kristen Land
<b>Action Items: New Business Policies and Forms</b>			
Curriculum Action	<p><b><u>Curriculum Action: Delete DEI Minor:</u></b></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Jeffrey Leffler shared that Dr. Charles Westmoreland led a committee to consider restructuring the DEI minor to align with recent changes in federal and state statute. The minor had low participation with only four students all on track to complete within the next two semesters. The committee decided the best course of action was to delete the minor.</li> <li>Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to remove the minor.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>A motion was made by Dr. Merideth Van Namen to approve the action to delete the</b></p>	Approved	Jeffrey Leffler

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	<b>DEI certificate and was seconded by Dr. Vicki Bingham. All in Favor</b>		
<b>Curriculum/ Course Actions</b>	<p><b><u>Course/Curriculum Action: MAS-GIT Program and GIS 691, 692, and 693:</u></b></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Tomeka Harbin shared that Drs. Glendscene Williams, Youngquin Zhang, and Jeffrey Leffler had a series of meetings to address concerns about financial aid, military assistance, and student extended timeline for completion of the degree program due to the varied credit hour composition of the three capstone courses including GIS 691 (1 CH), GIS 692 (2 CH), and GIS 693 (3 CH). The proposal is to combine the content of these three courses into two three-hour courses to alleviate these challenges.</li> <li>• Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Red-lined changes to the MAS-GIT Program section of the catalog</b></li> <li>○ <b>Revise GIS 691</b> to combine the content from GIS 691 and GIS 692 into one three-hour course entitled Capstone I.</li> <li>○ <b>Delete GIS 692.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Revise GIS 693</b> to GIS 692 and change the name to Capstone II.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>A motion was made by Dr. Tomeka Harbin to approve the actions and was seconded by Dr. Vicki Bingham. All in Favor</b></p>		<b>Jeffrey Leffler</b>
<b>Announcements:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fawn Ussery announced that the library will be open from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm on the Saturday before finals. She also shared that Smithsonian researchers had recently been working in the Archives on campus and had invited C.T. Salazar to participate in a Rural Leaders Summit they are hosting in May.</li> <li>• Dr. Merideth Van Namen shared that the Tenure and Promotion Committee had been working on revisions of the Tenure and Promotion document. The policy changes are to be presented to the Faculty Senate in May with the goal of approval this year.</li> <li>• Dr. Griffin emphasized that summer leave must be planned to ensure availability during essential planning periods.</li> </ul>		

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<b>Adjourned:</b>	11:22 a.m.		
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	May 8, 2025, at 8:30 am in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room		