

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes April 10, 2025

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

Absent: Jeffrey Leffler

Guests: Eddie Lovin, Arlene Cash, Kendra Whitehead

Call to order: The Academic Council met in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room on April 10, 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 Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All were in favor.	Approved	Leslie Griffin
Approval of Minutes:	The motion to approve minutes with recommended edits for Thursday, April 10, 2025, was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham and seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All in favor.	Approved	Leslie Griffin
Discussion Items			
Student Affairs Updates:	<p><u>Dr. Eddie Lovin, Vice President for the Office of Student Affairs, presented a proposed change to the university policy/guidelines regarding Latin Honors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal seeks to adjust the requirement for honors by lowering the required 60 hours to 30-45 in pursuit of fairness and a more transfer friendly environment. The proposed adjustments will be made in comparison to other in-state/out-of-state institutions. • Dr. Edwin Craft suggested requesting data analysis of transferable hours. • SGA passed the proposal as a recommendation with a 10 to 1 vote. • Dr. Lovin was asked to redline the proposed changes, and they will be submitted at a future meeting for approval. 		

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Enrollment Management Updates:	<p><u>Dr. Arlene Cash provided the following updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraged graduate student registration strategic plan to boost graduate student admissions • Reiterated the value of the student/faculty relationship toward a positive academic outcome • Delta Days was canceled due to lack of registration • Slate is operating at 98%; Encouraged Deans to appoint a Slate Liaison from each department to work with Carley Brown, Assistant Director of Admission/Enrollment Management • April 17th will complete Arlene Cash’s service to the university. Dr. Griffin and the Academic Council thanked her for service and insight 		Arlene Cash
Provost’s Updates	<p><u>Provost, Dr. Leslie Griffin provided the following updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dean’s search for the College of Education, Arts, and Humanities is complete. Evaluations are due April 10, 2025, by 1:00 pm. Interviews with candidates search for the College of Business and Aviation will take place April 11 and 14th. • Provost is finalizing the budget for Academic Affairs. To do so, she has met with all direct reports to discuss all departmental needs. • Communications and Marketing Director, Tim Nicholson, is working with Academic Affairs to develop a marketing campaign to promote summer school enrollment. • Provost stressed the importance of adhering to academic/university deadlines in order to shape a culture of fairness and accountability. • A \$500,000 Hearin Grant Award was received, which will fund scholarships to students across all colleges for the next three years. 		Leslie Griffin

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Faculty Senate Updates	<p><u>Faculty Senate, President Nora Gough-Davis provided the following updates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Gough-Davis announced that new senators have been elected, and they will attend their first meeting today, April 10th. She will send a full list of the newly elected senators at a later date. Dr. Gough-Davis also reminded the Academic Council that this will be her last meeting serving as 2024-25 Faculty Senate President. She stated she has enjoyed her time of service. She also reminded the Academic Council that the new 2025-2026 Faculty Senate President elect is Mr. Peter Dean. He will begin his term April 11, 2025. The Faculty Senate will also vote to change By-Laws and Constitution at the first meeting. She thanked the Academic Council for the opportunity to serve. 		Nora Gough-Davis
Action Items: New Business Policies and Forms			
Curriculum Action	<p>The Academic Calendar for 2026-2027 has been completed. Dr. Leffler sought edits or corrections from a variety of university constituents.</p> <p>A motion was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham to approve the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar and was seconded by Dr. Fawn Ussery. All in Favor</p>	Approved	Jeffrey Leffler
Announcements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fawn Ussery announced Academic Research Showcase will take place on the west-side, second floor of the union from 12-5 today. Judging will take place from 12-1 for 18 participants. Dr. Griffin encouraged the importance of participation. • Ms. Ussery also announced the loss of the Magnolia database due to DEI constraints and recent federal and state policies. • Dr. Craft suggested that the Academic Council review House Bill 1193. • Dr. Craft also stated that there will be a required reporting mechanism for auditing purposes to ensure university compliance. • OIT is conducting a scan to recognize words that may be flagged on the university website and related materials. • Dr. Griffin emphasized that summer leave must be planned to ensure availability during essential planning periods. • The Deans meeting immediately follows the Academic Council meeting today. • Budget will close for additional edits by 5 pm, Friday, April 11, 2025. 		

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Adjourned:	9:41 a.m.		
Next Meeting:	April 24, 2025, at 8:30 am in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room		