

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes February 13, 2025

Present: Leslie Griffin, Nora Gough-Davis (via Zoom), Kristen Land, Tomeka Harbin, Vicki Bingham, Fawn Ussery

Absent: Merideth Van Namen, Registrar Representative

Guests: Arlene Cash, Edwin Craft, Heather Miller, Charles Westmoreland, Addie Herrod, Thales Barbosa

Call to order: The Academic Council met in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room on February 13, 2025. The meeting convened at 8:30 AM, with Provost Leslie Griffin presiding.

| Agenda item | Comments/Discussion | Action taken | Responsible party |
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| Approval of Agenda: | Dr. Vicki Bingham motioned to approve the agenda with an amendment added, which was seconded by Dr. Tomeka Harbin. All were in favor. Motion to add an amendment to the Agenda. The amendment states that Dr. Edwin Craft was added to the Informational Items update. The motion was made by Nora Gough-Davis and seconded by Kristen Land. All in favor. | Approved | Leslie Griffin |
| Approval of Minutes: | The motion to approve minutes for Thursday, January 9, 2025, was made by Dr. Tomeka Harbin and seconded by Dr. Vicki Bingham. All in favor. | Approved | Leslie Griffin |
| Informational Items: | | | |
| Office of Institutional Grants Updates: | <p><u>Director Dr. Heather Miller provided the following updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new position has been filled by Sean Buckelew. • He will be a resource for research and development for new grants. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Heather will continue to focus on the current grants. • Sean will reach out to faculty to find new interests, looking for complex grants with high impact. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ He is remote, working through Teams, but can be on campus when needed. • He will be creating a newsletter with grant information and also as a way to celebrate faculty and programs conducting research and obtaining grants on campus. | | Heather Miller |

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| <p>Enrollment Management Updates:</p> | <p><u>Dr. Arlene Cash provided the following updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Last year, attendance was 400-500. This year, there were a few issues with some of the buses, so we are expecting around 350 students to attend. ○ The office has identified issues from the previous Senior Day. Leaders will be double-checking majors, which means the numbers given to the faculty will fluctuate once they are on campus. ○ The office wants feedback from attending faculty. They are responding to previous feedback and are beefing up on-campus programming and activities. The end goal is to connect the students with the DSU campus. ○ The office will be continuing to offer Saturday visits and tours. Someone will try to reach out to faculty in advance if they would like to come speak with the potential student or even meet over Teams. • CollegeVine AI System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AI character that will talk to potential students through email, paper, and phone calls at all times of day. ○ We will manage this system and it will only tell the students what we tell it. ○ Information obtained from the students will go directly into Slate ○ Errors can be corrected overnight or immediately in regards to the type of issue ○ Its information will be built, pulled from our websites, and more, so changes and updates will be automatic ○ A student contest will be held to vote on the AI's name. | | <p>Arlene Cash</p> |
| <p>VP of Finance and Administration Updates:</p> | <p><u>Dr. Edwin Craft provided the following updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An email has been sent out concerning budget information. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provided the requested information to help delay any budget freeze. The office is constantly looking at lines for any potential overspending. Per their policy, the President has to send a letter to IHL to ask for permission to overspend before we can. ○ Reply about what you plan to spend or save for the rest of the year, and include what you plan to spend using your credit card. ○ In Argos, Chart 1 is the budget in real-time. Chart F is your foundation account. • Zero-based budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The office is working on reporting so that we can accurately report the organizational changes and that the actual expenses are being attached to the | | <p>Edwin Craft</p> |

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| | <p>correct budgets after the realignment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kelvin Davis will meet with deans and chairs so that we can confirm that the lines are correct. ○ Look at commodities and travel budgets to see if they match the new department numbers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contracts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Per their policy, a contract above \$25,000 requires an outside review. Below \$25,000, the contract requires an internal review; however, that reviewer can not be Dr. Craft. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A new policy is now being implemented so that every contractual agreement or service contract must include a pre-contract checklist and be submitted to a contract employee in Finance. (someone is being hired for this position) ▪ The contract employee will review the checklist to make sure we meet all law requirements. ▪ Next week, all employees with access to ContractSafe will receive training. If they do not attend, they will lose access. ▪ A Post-contract checklist will also be required. This checklist ensures that services are delivered and validated. ● Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DSU finalized terms with the insurance company so that reroofing from the hail damage can begin. ○ 5.3 million updates on the coliseum is out for bid- this will be a two-year project. ○ A 2 million extension of Statesman Boulevard is still ongoing ○ 6 million for the update on Ward Hall was provided. This is half of the money needed for the project. ○ \$400,000 will be spent on refinishing Foundation Hall's floors. ○ If you see digging around campus, 2 million is being used to replace wastewater and stormwater piping. ○ The water tower will be completely redone, and a maintenance contract will be created for it. Bids are out for this project. ○ DSU is still finalizing a 10-year contract with the Bolivar County School District. More information will be available in April. | | |
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| Provost's Updates | <p><u>Provost, Dr. Leslie Griffin provided the following updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB 1434 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Provost will keep everyone updated as the Bill moves. It is proposed to create an “Aeronautics, Geospatial, Engineering, Nursing, and Technical Skills” high school for grades 9-12 at Delta State University, Mississippi Valley State University, and Alcorn State University. She is happy to talk with the Faculty Senate about any concerns. ○ This is driven by the legislature. ○ Delta State has asked to remove Engineering and limit the school to juniors and seniors. ○ Bailey is a potential location • Work will be continued on reviewing the Tenure Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Faculty Senate sees it as too strenuous. ○ We need to be leadership-focused; how can we help those with promise? | | Leslie Griffin |
| Faculty Senate | <p><u>Dr. Nora Gough-Davis provided the following updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting is this afternoon, February 13, 2025 • They voted on restricting with 29 senators. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The chair of elections will reach out next month. ○ New format: 1 representative to every 9 faculty members instead of 1 representative to every 15 members ○ Participation can be low at times, and there are concerns about morale. ○ What can we do to make a meaningful difference to our faculty? ○ Regarding the overload and stacking concerns, we need to wait until next year so that improvements can affect and end this issue. | | Nora Gough-Davis |
| Action Items: New Business Policies and Forms | | | |

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| | <p><u>Course Action: Delete PER 465/475, Add PER 499:</u> Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Thales Barbosa explained that collapsing two of the internships into one would benefit the number of students. • Instructors would visit each new internship location and then monitor them as they continue. • There is no lab fee, but there needs to be an avenue to cover travel. • Every internship needs to set and justify a cap of students. <p>Motion to delete PER 465, PER 475, and add PER 499 was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham and seconded by Dr. Tomeka Harbin.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>6- approved, 0-nay, 0- abstentions. Motion carried.</i></p> <p><u>Course Actions for PER 611 and PER 680 were removed from the discussion because the Curriculum Committee had not yet fully processed them.</u></p> | Approved | Vicki Bingham |
| | <p><u>Curriculum Action: Streamline the Criminal Justice and Criminology degree program:</u> Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Charles Westmoreland explained the need to streamline the program to match the reality with staffing and become more transfer-friendly. The changes will enable the courses to be more manageable and true advertising • This action includes: Reduce the major hours from 72 to 45-48. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eliminate the requirement of the following courses: CRJ 414 (Race, Crime, and the Law-3 hours), CRJ 431 (Gender, Law, and Crime-3 hours), PSC 442 (Civil Rights Law, 3 hours), CIS 235 (Microcomputer Applications II, 3 hours), and ENG 250 (Workplace Writing, 3 hours). ○ Add the following courses as required for the Criminal Justice and Criminology core: CRJ 210 (Organization and Philosophy of Corrections, 3 hours), CRJ 410 (Applied Criminal Investigation, 3 hours), CRJ 426 (Victimology, 3 hours), CRJ 434 (Global Terrorism 3 hours), CRJ 475 (Family Violence, 3 hours), HIS 312 (The Civil Rights Movement, 3 hours), and SOC 456 (Race, Class, and Gender, 3 hours). ○ Eliminate the Social Justice and Criminal Justice concentrations. ○ Require 15 hours of upper-level electives in the social sciences and history. | Approved | Merideth Van Namen |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase the general elective requirement to 17-20 hours. <p>Dr. Charles Westmoreland motioned to approve the above-mentioned changes to the Criminal Justice and Criminology degree program, which Dr. Vicki Bingham seconded.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>6- approved, 0-nay, 0- abstentions. Motion carried.</i></p> | | |
| | <p><u>Curriculum Action: Revise the Criminal Justice minor:</u></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Charles Westmoreland explained that this motion would not change the total number of hours but would get rid of older courses that had not been offered in ten years. • This action includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Remove the required courses, CRJ 404 (Criminal Law, 3 hours) and 406 (Criminal Procedure, 3 hours). ○ Require CRJ 410 (Applied Criminal Investigation, 3 hours) and 455 (Ethics in Social Justice and Criminology, 3 hours). <p>Dr. Charles Westmoreland motioned to approve the above-mentioned changes to the Criminal Justice and Criminology minor, which Dr. Tomeka Harbin seconded.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>6- approved, 0-nay, 0- abstentions. Motion carried.</i></p> | Approved | Merideth Van Namen |
| | <p><u>Curriculum Action: Curriculum sequence change for the NUR 687</u></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Addie Herrod explained that the instructors noticed that students were not where they needed to be in preparation for the course project, which was spread out over two semesters. • To complete the course requirements without compromising the project, it is proposed that the course be divided into three semesters, each with 1 credit hour. The prerequisite NUR 606 will also be removed. <p>Dr. Addie Herrod motioned to approve the sequence change to NUR 687, which Dr. Tomeka Harbin seconded.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>6- approved, 0-nay, 0- abstentions. Motion carried.</i></p> | Approved | Vicki Bingham |

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| | <p><u>Curriculum Action: Curriculum sequence change for the NUR 640</u></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Addie Herrod explained that since all full-time students must take this course in the fall semester, it should be moved to a fall semester for the part-time program of study, too. This will ensure adequate enrollment in the course and continued timely progression toward graduation. <p>Dr. Addie Herrod motioned to approve the sequence change to NUR 640, which Dr. Tomeka Harbin seconded.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>6- approved, 0-nay, 0- abstentions. Motion carried.</i></p> | Approved | Vicki Bingham |
| | <p><u>Curriculum Action: Deletion of the Environmental Sciences Geospatial Technologies Concentration</u></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Vicki Bingham explained that there has not been any student in this concentration for the last five years. <p>Dr. Vicki Bingham motioned to delete the concentration, which Mrs. Kristen Land seconded.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>6- approved, 0-nay, 0- abstentions. Motion carried.</i></p> | Approved | Vicki Bingham |
| Discussion: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reminder Kent and Janice Wyatt Faculty Development Fund requests will be due soon. Ripples of Hope book event at 5:00 pm in the Archives on February 19th. Meet the Press event on February 24th Academic Research Showcase information will go out this week. | | |
| Announcements: | None | | |
| Adjourned: | 10:38 a.m. | | |
| Next Meeting: | February 27, 2025, at 8:30 am in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room | | |