

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Minutes

January 23, 2025

Present: Leslie Griffin, Merideth Van Namen, Nora Gough-Davis, Valarie Morgan, Kristen Land, Tomeka Harbin, Vicki Bingham, Fawn Ussery

Absent: Edwin Craft

Guests: Dan Ennis (President), Arlene Cash (VP of Enrollment Management)

Call to order: A meeting of the Academic Council was held in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room on January 23, 2025. The meeting convened at 8:30 AM with Provost Leslie Griffin presiding.

Agenda item	Comments/Discussion	Action taken	Responsible party
Approval of Agenda:	Motion to approve agenda was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham and seconded by Dr. Tomeka Harbin. All in favor.	Approved	Valarie Morgan
Approval of Minutes:	Motion to approve minutes for Thursday, January 9, 2024, was made by made by Dr. Vicki Bingham and seconded by Dr. Tomeka Harbin. All in favor.	Approved	Valarie Morgan
Informational Items:			
Guest Speaker: President Ennis	<p><u>President Ennis provided the following details related to the Tenure and Promotion Audit:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MS State Auditor, Mr. Shad White, has noted three primary target areas related to higher education: degrees that do not lead to sufficient employment, DEI initiatives, and the return on investment for tenured faculty Mr. White has asked for a T&P report on years 2018-2025 using designated metrics Deans are asked to begin locating and organizing data and to identify any gaps in information A data management system, such as Parchment, might become necessary in the future <p><u>President Ennis provided the following additional updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% of the necessary funds to renovate Ward Hall have been secured There is a chance the bill to close three MS institutions will be refiled So far there are no proposed changes to the funding formula; DSU benefits from the current formula 		

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VP of Enrollment Management Updates:	<p><u>Mrs. Arlene Cash provided the following updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slate has launched and the application is open to students • Slate will be used to facilitate regular and consistent communication with students • Deans, chairs, and faculty are being asked to write notes to students; the list of students will be provided to the provost for dissemination <p><u>Dr. Leslie Griffin provided the following updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The QEP launch party will be held today at 2:00 p.m. in the Student Union • There are a number of ongoing searches to fill vacant positions 		Arlene Cash & Leslie Griffin
Faculty Senate Updates:	<p><u>Dr. Nora Gough-Davis provided the following updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issue of stacking has been raised again by a senator • Work is slated to begin revisions to the constitution and bylaws of the senate • The number of senators per division is being evaluated to reflect the new academic structure 		Nora Gough-Davis

Action Items:	None.		
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Discussion:	None.	
Announcements:	None	
Adjourned:	9:26 a.m.	
Next Meeting:	February 13, 2025, at 8:30 am in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room	

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