

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes March 27, 2025

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

Absent: None

Guests: Etosha Johnson, Thales Barbosa, Arlene Cash, Heather Miller, Don Allan Mitchell, Jennifer Knudsen, Kathy Koehler

Call to order: The Academic Council met in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room on March 27, 2025. The meeting convened at 8:30 AM, with Provost Leslie Griffin presiding.

Agenda item	Comments/Discussion	Action taken	Responsible party
Approval of Agenda:	Dr. Tomeka Harbin motioned to approve the agenda, 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, March 6, 2025, was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham and seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All in favor.	Approved	Leslie Griffin
Informational Items:			
Enrollment Management Updates:	<p><u>Dr. Arlene Cash provided the following updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delta Days were scheduled for April 13 and 14. • A decision was made to focus on the “Day in the Life of a DSU Student” activities on the 14th with activities on the 13th cancelled. • A Delta 100 luncheon is scheduled for the 14th to celebrate seating the 100th class of DSU. 		Arlene Cash

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<p>Office of Admissions Updates:</p>	<p><u>Dr. Etosha Johnson, Assistant Director for Graduate Admissions, provided the following updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An evaluation of enrollment incentives at some private institutions in the state has been conducted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some institutions are providing tuition discounts to encourage enrollment in graduate programs, particularly those targeted at teacher education. ○ Others give course credit for things like National Board Certification. ○ Academic Council members are asked to consider what types of things we might do to remain competitive. <p>The Graduate Viewbook and an invitation to the Spring Open House for prospective graduate students to be held Tuesday, April 15th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 pm in the Kent Wyatt Atrium were shared.</p>		<p>Etosha Johnson</p>
<p>Provost's Updates</p>	<p><u>Provost, Dr. Leslie Griffin provided the following updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Griffin introduced Tammy Prather, the new Registrar, to the group. • Dr. Griffin invited Heather Miller from Institutional Grants to share that the Hearin Foundation awarded a grant to DSU to provide scholarships to students. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Three grants were submitted to the foundation, and the Delta State Fellows proposal was selected for funding. ○ The award is \$500,000 over four years (\$125,000 per year) and will provide scholarships to 150-200 students per year and involves a simple application process for the students. ○ The scholarships are to be targeted to increase enrollment in both undergraduate and graduate programs. ○ Deans will work with Dr. Leffler to develop a strategy to target programs that have the greatest potential to experience increased enrollment by utilizing the scholarships. • March continues to be a busy month including many important tasks and deadlines. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Completing the FY26 budget is a top priority with a due date of March 31st. ○ Dr. Griffin has reviewed all faculty evaluations and has some concerns about consistency across the evaluations. Dr. Leffler will be working with the Deans and Chairs to provide some professional development to help 		<p>Leslie Griffin</p>

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	<p>faculty better leverage the process for continuous improvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Griffin would additionally like for the Academic Council to consider ways to incentivize faculty with enhanced professional development opportunities and recognition for exceptional accomplishments. 		
<p>Action Items: New Business Policies and Forms</p>			
	<p><u>Course/Curriculum Action: Revised General Education Curriculum for Honors Program Students and Associated Courses - FYS 103, ENG 200/201, HON 102, HON 290, HON 299, HON 399, HON 499, and HON 492:</u></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Don Allan Mitchell explained that discussion with students about challenges they experience as well as conversations with community colleges, chairs, faculty. These discussions led to work with the General Education Committee to develop a series of proposed actions to better serve honors students in completing their general education requirements. ● Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Honors Program section of the catalog ○ Deletion of FYS 103, a course designed specifically for honors students due to the need for more flexibility in their schedule and to better serve transfer students. These students will instead participate in the regular first year seminar course that all the other students take. ○ Revise ENG 200/201 to remove the minimum ACT 26 Composite and remove the Fall rotation. ○ Revise HON 102 to remove the FYS 103 prerequisite and increase the credit hours to three hours. Also, removing Fall and Spring as a designation for course rotation. ○ Revise HON 290 to remove the FYS 103 prerequisite and the Fall and Spring rotation. ○ Revise HON 299 to convert from a zero-credit hour course to a one-credit hour course and change the course description. The course will now have a normal grading mode. To make honor course contracts more rigorous, this course will feature clearly defined assessments to hold both students and instructors accountable for the quality of the honors contract experience. 	<p>Approved</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revise HON 399 to convert from a zero-credit hour course to a one-credit hour course and change the course description. The course will now have a normal grading mode. To make honor course contracts more rigorous, this course will feature clearly defined assessments to hold both students and instructors accountable for the quality of the honors contract experience. ○ Revise HON 499 to convert from a zero-credit hour course to a one-credit hour course and change the course description. The course will now have a normal grading mode. This revised course will provide honors students with a culminating academic experience that previous honors program students lacked. ○ Revise HON 492 to remove “subject to approval by the Dean of Graduate and Honors Studies” from the course description as this position was eliminated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Van Namen had questions about the proposal and suggested that providing a cover page including a chart for future curriculum actions with associated course actions would be helpful. Dr. Griffin asked her to provide examples of summary charts that may be used for consideration of the UCC and AC. ● Dr. Bingham questioned how advisement would be handled for honors students and expressed the need for an updated packet for advisors. ● Dr. Griffin directed Dr. Mitchell to include the minutes from the General Education Committee with the proposal for documentation. ● A question was asked about the signature lines on the approvals when a curriculum action comes from a committee and has crosscutting impacts. Dr. Griffin suggested that a sponsoring Dean from the college of the individual bringing the proposed action sign on the Division Chair line and the additional deans sign on the dean line. <p>Motion for the curriculum action to revise the general education curriculum for Honors Program students and associated course actions for FYS 103, ENG 200/201, HON 102, HON 290, HON 299, HON 399, HON 499, and HON 492 was made by Dr. Don Allan Mitchell and seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>9- approved, 0-nay, 0- abstentions. Motion carried.</i></p>		
	<p><u>Course/Curriculum Action: Revision of the BS HPER Program and General Education Curriculum with Addition of New Associated Course – PER 185:</u></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Thales Barbosa presented that there were discussions between the Chair and Faculty regarding high enrollment in course sections and unnecessary complications in the 	<p>Approved</p>	<p>Vicki Bingham</p>

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	<p>registration process since offering a Pickleball section under the course PER 186 – Recreational Games. The Division of HPER currently offers PER 186-01 - Recreational Games and PER 186-02 – Intro to Pickleball, being considered two sections of a single course. Each of the sections has high enrollment (more than 15 each semester), needs dedicated Instructors, and different weekly schedules. Creating a separate course for Intro to Pickleball would facilitate the registration process by avoiding duplicate records and the need for an override.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This action includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New course, PER 185 – Introduction to Pickleball for one credit hour with normal grading mode, lecture/lab method of instruction, and face to face method of delivery to address concerns regarding high enrollment in PER 186. ○ Establish a course fee of \$20 per semester for PER 185. ○ Revision of the BS HPER program to include PER 185 as an elective course to fulfill major requirement in the concentration in Sports Management. ○ Addition of PER 185 to the General Education Curriculum. <p>Dr. Thales Barbosa motioned to approve the above-mentioned changes to the Bachelor of Science in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (Sports Management Concentration) degree program and General Education Curriculum as well as the addition of PER 185, which Dr. Tomeka Harbin seconded.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>9- approved, 0-nay, 0- abstentions. Motion carried.</i></p>		
	<p><u>Course/Curriculum Action: Revise the Master of Science in Sport and Human Performance and Addition/Deletion of Associated Courses – ELR 605, PER 600:</u></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Thales Barbosa explained that the graduate committee recommends creating and adopting PER 600 – Introduction to Research in Sport and Human Performance as a core requirement, replacing ELR 605 – Methods of Educational Research and Statistics. This decision is based on evaluations of course curricula, student feedback, and research assignment outcomes. The new course is essential to fill a gap not addressed by other courses, which focus on applied aspects of sport and human development but lack emphasis on research skills. • This action includes: 	<p>Approved</p>	<p>Vicki Bingham</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Create a new course, PER 600 – Introduction to Research in Sport and Human Performance for three credit hours with normal grading mode, lecture as method of instruction, and online, Internet, or Web as the method of delivery. ○ Delete ELR 605 – Methods of Educational Research and Statistics from the Master of Science in Sport and Human Performance program of study (course remains active in the catalog for other purposes). ○ Add new course, PER 600 – Introduction to Research in Sport and Human Performance to the Master of Science in Sport and Human Performance program of study. <p>Dr. Thales Barbosa motioned to approve the above-mentioned addition of PER 600 as a new course and changes to the MS in Sport and Human Performance, which Dr. Vicki Bingham seconded.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>9- approved, 0-nay, 0- abstentions. Motion carried.</i></p>		
	<p><u>Course Action: Revise HSE 636:</u> Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Thales Barbosa explained that there was a need to redesign HSE 636 – Advanced Physiology of Exercise for online asynchronous and hybrid methods of instruction and offer two sections as an elective course for Human Performance students. The goal is to combine the benefits of face-to-face activities with the flexibility of online instruction and to promote the enrollment and retention of international students who must follow face-to-face education requirements. ● This action includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revise HSE 636 to include a statement about cross-listing (combining) with other sections of the same course or with another course of similar content to be added to the course description. <p>Dr. Thales Barbosa motioned to approve the above-mentioned changes to HSE 636, which Dr. Tomeka Harbin seconded.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>9- approved, 0-nay, 0- abstentions. Motion carried.</i></p>	<p>Approved</p>	<p>Vicki Bingham</p>

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	<p><u>Curriculum/Course Action: Delete CED 716 – Introduction to Counseling for Teachers:</u> Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Bingham explained that due to the phase out of the Educational Specialist degree in elementary education, the request is to delete/remove CED 716 – Introduction to Counseling for Teachers course. The last group of students on teach-out plans will take the course during the summer of 2025. <p>Dr. Vicki Bingham motioned to approve the deletion of CED 716, which Dr. Tomeka Harbin seconded.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>9- approved, 0-nay, 0- abstentions. Motion carried.</i></p>	<p>Approved</p>	<p>Vicki Bingham</p>
<p>Discussion:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Knudsen, representing the General Education Committee, presented some proposed changes in the wording in the catalog to remove the word “understanding” to develop more measurable learning outcomes. This started with mathematics and work continues with English and science. The proposed changes will be submitted as a curriculum action at a future meeting for approval. • The academic calendar has been distributed for review to key stakeholders across campus. Everyone is to let Dr. Leffler know of any necessary edits. The group discussed the potential of moving to a digital platform. Dr. Leffler and Tammy Prather will look into this with a two-year process likely before full implementation. • The academic catalog for 2025-2026 must be completed soon. Dr. Leffler will work with everyone to remove outdated information and to ensure edits reflect recent curriculum and course actions. 		

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Announcements:	None	
Adjourned:	10:28 a.m.	
Next Meeting:	April 10, 2025, at 8:30 am in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room	