

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes March 6, 2025

Present: Leslie Griffin, Nora Gough-Davis (via phone), Tomeka Harbin, Vicki Bingham, Fawn Ussery, Merideth Van Namen, Arlene Cash (via phone), Jeffrey Leffler, Registrar Representative

Absent: Kristen Land

Guests: Edwin Craft, Addie Herrod, Thales Barbosa, Arlene Cash (via phone), Joe Bentley, Kelvin Davis, Mikhail Collins, Jeremy Ricks, Mary Bess Pannel (via phone)

Call to order: The Academic Council met in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room on March 6, 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. Vicki Bingham motioned to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Dr. Tomeka Harbin. All were in favor.	Approved	Leslie Griffin
Approval of Minutes:	The motion to approve minutes for Thursday, February 13, 2025, was made by Dr. Tomeka Harbin and seconded by Dr. Vicki Bingham. All in favor.	Approved	Leslie Griffin
Informational Items:			

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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"> • CollegeVine AI System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Currently recruiting interviews regarding the AI system. • Taking Care of Business (TCOB) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11th to discuss TCOB Days. ○ TCOB will be seven days and a new format is under consideration with a full day program versus two half-day programs on the same day. The goal is to facilitate a more personalized connection for the students. ○ Members of UC expressed some concerns regarding the new format and having enough faculty to support the advisement component. The Aviation program has had the most demand in past events so advisement for that and other high demand programs will need to be considered in the schedule. The registrar's office will also provide support for the events. • Admitted students will be on campus Sunday-Monday, April 13-14, and will have the opportunity to visit two demonstration class meetings on Monday. Deans and chairs should consider what class meetings are ideal for these incoming students to visit. 		<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"> • Course fees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provided an overview of a spreadsheet that will be used to consider if existing course fees should be adjusted or deleted. The goal is to ensure that course fees are used for their intended purpose within a timeline that will benefit the students paying the fees. The gray part of the spreadsheet will be populated by the VP of Finance and Administration's office with the white columns to be completed to provide needed information. Requests for new course fees should continue to use the form. ○ A memo will be sent next week with instructions to complete the spreadsheet which will be due at the end of March. ○ Dr. Craft additionally introduced staff members from his office including Jeremy Ricks, Comptroller; Kelvin Davis, Associate VP of Finance and Administration; and Mikhail Collins, Director of Accounting. 		<p>Edwin Craft</p>

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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"> • Dr. Griffin introduced Jeff Leffler, the new Associate Provost for Academic Affairs to the group. • HB 1434 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The bill that was 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 died in committee. It is expected that a similar bill will be presented in the 2026 legislative session. • March will be a busy month with many important tasks and deadlines. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Griffin plans to have a one-on-one meeting with each direct report to work on the budget. ○ We will be moving into the next phase of using the Faculty Load and Compensation (FLAC) software which will require a significant investment of time. • Dr. Griffin is seeking guidance from departments regarding visits with faculty groups by the President and Provost. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The visits will occur over the course of the remainder of the spring semester based on the President’s availability. ○ Deans should consider what groupings of program faculty would be ideal and send good times to meet with each group to inform the scheduling of the visits. ○ The desire is for the visits to be casual in nature versus a structured forum so faculty will hopefully feel free to ask their questions. 		Leslie Griffin
Faculty Senate	<p><u>Dr. Nora Gough-Davis provided the following updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee is currently looking at tenure and promotion process recommendations • A syllabus policy for artificial intelligence (AI) has been discussed, but there has been no resolution. Faculty have expressed a need for more professional development on generative AI. Dr. Griffin added that an AI Advisory Committee has been formed and will meet on Friday, March 7th. A suggestion was made for the faculty to work through that committee to express their needs. • A resolution is in development in response to concerns about students not having access to books as they should. This is a recent development, and more information will be shared at the next meeting. 		Nora Gough-Davis

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An ad hoc committee will be formed to update the bylaws and constitution for the faculty senate. 		
Action Items: New Business Policies and Forms			
	<p><u>Course Action: Revise BIO 329:</u></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Joe Bentley explained that the course description is incomplete and does not match the characteristics of the course listed in Banner. Current description references HSE 329 which has not been taught in many years and indicates the course is a lecture/lab for four hours. The course has traditionally been taught as a three-hour lecture. Health and health-related schools require an upper-level course in medical terminology, necessitating that the description in the catalog be accurate. <p>Motion to revise BIO 329 was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham and seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>9- approved, 0-nay, 0- abstentions. Motion carried.</i></p>	Approved	Vicki Bingham
	<p><u>Curriculum Action: Revise Environmental Science (Agribusiness Concentration):</u></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Joe Bentley explained that an academic map had never been created for the concentration initially designed by the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Business. Adjunct faculty would teach BIO 340 – Entomology and BIO 416 – Soil Science and Biology which also would fulfill elective requirements for Biology majors (General Concentration) and Environmental Science (General Concentration and Wildlife Management Concentration). This action includes: 	Approved	Vicki Bingham

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	<p>Increase the major hours from 61 to 72.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revise the catalog description to include the correct Agri-Business Concentration (57 hours) to include Biology (28 hours) – BIO 123, 309, 319, 328, 340, 404, 416, 470; Chemistry (8 hours) – CHE 215, 216, 434; Business (15 hours) – ACC 220, ACC 320, FIN 300, GBA 220, MGT 300; Geospatial Technology (6 hours) – GIS 310 and REM 202. ○ Add academic map to the university website. <p>Dr. Vicki Bingham motioned to approve the above-mentioned changes to the Environmental Science (Agri-Business Concentration) degree program, 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 Action: Revise PER 611:</u></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Thales Barbosa explained that there was a review of the curriculum and determination that some courses had names and descriptions centered around physical education, a program that has been deleted. The proposed course title and description better align with current program offerings. • This action includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revise the title for PER 611 to: Current Literature and Trends in Sport and Human Performance. ○ Revise the course description for PER 611 to: PER 611. CURRENT LITERATURE AND TRENDS IN SPORT AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE. Literature in the field of sports, exercise, fitness, physical education, and human performance, including all major periodicals and books, special emphasis on new trends, concepts, and direction of the profession. This course may be cross-listed (combined) with other sections of the same course or with another course with similar enough content to warrant combination. 3 (S) <p>Dr. Thales Barbosa motioned to approve the above-mentioned changes to PER 611, which Dr. Tomeka Harbin seconded.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>9- approved, 0-nay, 0- abstentions. Motion carried.</i></p>	Approved	Vicki Bingham

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	<p><u>Course Action: Revise PER 680:</u> Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Thales Barbosa explained that there was a review of the curriculum and determination that some courses had names and descriptions centered around physical education, a program that has been deleted. The proposed course title and description better align with current program offerings. • This action includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revise the title for PER 680 to: Advanced Tests and Measurements in Sport and Human Performance. ○ Revise the course description for PER 680 to: PER 680. ADVANCED TESTS AND MEASUREMENT IN SPORT AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE. This course will focus on the core concepts related to measurement and evaluation in the field of sport and human performance. The course will involve testing, testing programs, validity, reliability, objectivity, and utilization of tests and measurements in research in sport and human performance. This course may be cross-listed (combined) with other sections of the same course or with another course with similar enough content to warrant combination. 3 (S) <p>Dr. Thales Barbosa motioned to approve the above-mentioned changes to PER 680, which Fawn Ussery seconded.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>9- approved, 0-nay, 0- abstentions. Motion carried.</i></p>	Approved	
	<p><u>Curriculum Action: Curriculum change for PER 600</u> Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Thales Barbosa explained that the course was needed to assist students in writing the literature review in the appropriate format. • Dr. Van Namen pointed out that the form needed to be adjusted to indicate that the action would replace one course, ELR 605 – Method of Educational Research and Statistics with PER 600 – Introduction to Research in Sport and Human Performance. • The document will be returned to the curriculum committee for review and correction. 	Tabled	Vicki Bingham

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	<p><u>Curriculum Action: Revise Master of Science in Sport and Human Performance</u></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Thales Barbosa explained that this program which admits graduate students needs to provide an opportunity for six credit hours of face-to-face instruction (such as hybrid) to ensure compliance with F-visa requirements for international students.• This action would allow for two sections for each of the following courses to be cross-listed each semester as both hybrid and online: HSE 636, PER 561, PER 566, PER 571. This action is necessary so international students can be served in the hybrid sections to meet the F-visa requirements, while other students may participate in online sections with equivalent online/remote assignments.• Sections with low enrollment may also be stacked in addition to the cross-listing.• A course action for HSE 636 will be necessary next. <p>Dr. Thales Barbosa motioned to approve the revision of the method of instruction as mentioned above for HSE 636, PER 561, PER 566, and PER 571, which Fawn Ussery seconded.</p> <p><i>9- approved, 0-nay, 0- abstentions. Motion carried.</i></p>	Approved	Vicki Bingham
	<p><u>Curriculum Action: Rename Bachelor of Science in Family and Child Studies</u></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Van Namen shared that this had been approved previously <p>No action necessary.</p>		

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	<p><u>Curriculum/Course Action: Delete Four Core EdS Counselor Education Course Offerings</u></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Addie Herrod presented that due to the phase out of the Educational Specialist degree in school counseling, it is necessary to delete four courses that are no longer needed including CED 717, CED 735, CED 758, and CED 790/890 from the catalog. <p>Dr. Addie Herrod motioned to approve to delete CED 717, CED 735, CED 758, and CED 790/890, which Dr. Tomeka Harbin seconded.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>9- approved, 0-nay, 0- abstentions. Motion carried.</i></p>	Approved	Vicki Bingham
	<p><u>Curriculum Action: Change Frequency of Course Offerings in the MEd Counselor</u></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Addie Herrod presented a desire of the program faculty to pivot to a fall only admission for the program. Committee members expressed concern regarding deleting an opportunity to enroll students should fall enrollment targets are not met. Dr. Mary Bess Pannel called in to address concerns and she expounded on the impacts of operating multiple cohorts including the need for more adjuncts, smaller course sizes when the Clinical Mental Health and School Counseling tracks split and maintaining CACREP compliance in the field experience courses. Committee members continue to express concerns regarding meeting faculty course loads and the overall financial impact of this change. Dr. Griffin suggested for the Associate Provost, Dr. Jeff Leffler, to work with the dean, chair, and program faculty to consider all implications and this meeting is to be scheduled before the next AC meeting. 	Tabled	Vicki Bingham
	<p><u>Curriculum Action: Delete PHY 115 and Replace with PHY 110</u></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Addie Herrod explained that there has not been an instructor for PHY 115 in many years. The recommendation is to delete PY115 and replace it with PHY 110 in the Speech and Hearing program. <p>Dr. Addie Herrod motioned to approve the above-mentioned changes which Fawn Ussery seconded.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>9- approved, 0-nay, 0- abstentions. Motion carried.</i></p>	Approved	Vicki Bingham

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	<p><u>Kent and Janice Wyatt Faculty Development Proposals</u></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Leslie Griffin presented the proposals from the following faculty for the committee's consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nina Baghai-Riding ○ Mari Micci Shannon ○ Christie Sledge ○ Zinaida Taran ○ Lisa Cooley ○ Cameron Montgomery ○ Jug-Won Shin • Verification was made to ensure that conference attendance was related to an accepted presentation. <p>Dr. Vicki Bingham motioned to approve the proposals which Dr. Merideth Van Namen seconded.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>9- approved, 0-nay, 0- abstentions. Motion carried.</i></p>	Approved	Leslie Griffin
	<p><u>Curriculum Action: Honors</u></p> <p>This item will be deferred to the next AC meeting.</p>	Tabled	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee discussed evaluating proposal policies and developing a revised timeline with key deadlines. This will be discussed further in the next meeting. 		
Announcements:	None		

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Adjourned:	11:38 a.m.		
Next Meeting:	March 20, 2025, at 8:30 am in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room		