

# ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes June 25, 2025

**Present:** Leslie Griffin, Peter Dean, Joe Childs, Vicki Bingham, Fawn Ussery, Merideth Van Namen, Kristen Land, Tammy Prather, Jeffrey Leffler  
**Absent:** None

**Guests:** None

**Call to order:** The Academic Council met in the President's Conference Room KWH on June 25, 2025. The meeting convened at 7:30 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. Vicki Bingham which was seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All were in favor.	Approved	Leslie Griffin
Approval of Minutes:	The motion to approve minutes for Thursday, June 12, 2025, was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham and seconded by Fawn Ussery. All in favor.	Approved	Leslie Griffin
Discussion Items			

Provost's Updates	<p><b><u>Provost, Dr. Leslie Griffin, provided the following updates:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Griffin shared that HB 1193 is in effect, though there is pending litigation.</li> <li>• Dr. Griffin also shared that she is convening a task force to study faculty compensation and low enrollment courses. The Deans have identified members of the task force who have been invited to participate and she is hopeful we can come to some reasonable solutions.</li> <li>• A calendar for the Academic Council, Dean's meetings, etc. is being developed for the rest of the year and will be distributed soon.</li> </ul>		Leslie Griffin
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heather Miller is assuming the director position for the Gertrude C. Ford Center for Teaching and Learning. This will be a split position with her maintaining responsibilities for Institutional Grants.</li> <li>• Two people were interviewed for the Director of Academic Engagement and Strategic Initiatives position. Dr. Griffin is awaiting the committee's recommendation.</li> <li>• The Student Success Center and academic advisors will be moving to the library. The goal is to think about student success as serving all students.</li> </ul>		
Faculty Senate	<p><b><u>Faculty Senate President Peter Dean provided the following update:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty Senate is behind on posting their meeting minutes to the website. Efforts are underway to gather the missing approved minutes and upload them to the website.</li> </ul>		Peter Dean
<b>Action Items: New Business Policies and Forms</b>			
<b>Old Business</b>	<p><b>Second Reading of the 2025-2026 Undergraduate Catalog:</b></p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Jeffrey Leffler shared that Deans, Chairs, and Administrative Unit Directors had worked on revisions to the 2025-2026 Undergraduate Catalog to reflect course and curriculum actions over the past year and to update informational components of the catalog. Academic Council has been provided with access to the red-lined document for review.</li> <li>• Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Second reading of red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>This item was tabled to allow for further necessary edits. Dr. Leffler will make the final edits and distribute a clean document for second reading and final approval at a future date.</b></p>	<b>Tabled</b>	Jeffrey Leffler

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	<p><b>Second Reading of the 2025-2026 Graduate Catalog:</b>  <b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Jeffrey Leffler shared that Deans, Chairs, and Administrative Unit Directors had worked on revisions to the 2025-2026 Graduate Catalog to reflect course and curriculum actions over the past year and to update informational components of the catalog. Academic Council has been provided with access to the red-lined document for review.</li> <li>• Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Second reading of red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>This item was tabled to allow for further necessary edits. Dr. Leffler will make the final edits and distribute a clean document for second reading and final approval at a future date.</b></p>	<b>Tabled</b>	<b>Jeffrey Leffler</b>
<b>New Business</b>	<p><b>First Reading of the Unit/Division Chair Policy:</b>  <b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Jeffrey Leffler shared a red-lined copy of changes to the Unit/Division Chair Policy.</li> <li>• Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>First reading of red-lined changes to the Unit/Division Chair Policy.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>A motion was made by Dr. Jeffrey Leffler to approve the action and was seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All in Favor</b></p>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Jeffrey Leffler</b>
<b>Announcements:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Vicki Bingham shared that the Robert E. Smith School of Nursing is likely moving back into the building next week.</li> <li>• Fawn Ussery shared that the permanent art collection was moving to the Archives building today and that the library has started a process to weed underutilized collections.</li> <li>• Dr. Merideth Van Namen shared that she had met with chairs in the College of Education, Arts, and Humanities yesterday. She suggested that the Assessment Committee revisit the timeline for program assessments based on their feedback.</li> </ul>		

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<b>Adjourned:</b>	9:01 a.m.		
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	July 25, 2025, at 8:30 am in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room		