

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes July 30, 2025

Present: Leslie Griffin, Peter Dean, Joe Childs, Vicki Bingham, Fawn Ussery, Merideth Van Namen, Kristen Land, Tammy Prather, Jeffrey Leffler, Heather Miller

Absent: None

Guests: Curtis Coleman

Call to order: The Academic Council met in the President's Conference Room KWH on July 30, 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 25; Tuesday, July 8; Sunday, July 13; and Monday, July 30, 2025; was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham and seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All in favor.	Approved	Leslie Griffin
Discussion Items			

Guest Speaker	<u>Vice President for Enrollment Management, Dr. Curtis Coleman, provided the following updates:</u> Dr. Coleman provided some general enrollment updates. He shared the his office continues to work on undergraduate admissions barriers. Participation in Taking Care of Business has increased and graduate admissions are currently up as are readmitted students. He thanked everyone for their contributions to work on getting students enrolled in a timely manner after admission.		
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Provost's Updates	<u>Provost, Dr. Leslie Griffin, provided the following updates:</u> • Dr. Griffin shared that as of 7/20/25 there is a temporary restraining order for parts of HB 1193. • She also shared that she has created an updated meeting schedule. We will have one Academic Council meeting per month but asked that everyone keep the additional previously scheduled meeting on hold in the event it is needed. • She asked that everyone work to make sure any documents brought to Academic Council are in final draft form. Any documents that are not in final draft form will be sent back for edits before consideration. • She asked everyone to begin thinking about what a centralized advisement system would look like at Delta State. Considerations should be program by program, but integrated into an overall system. • Now that the academic catalogs are approved work will begin to set up Degree Works. It will take four to six weeks to scribe the programs, followed by and assessment of the system, development of a maintenance plan. The goal is to have it up by December. • First Year Seminar instructors are needed. Everyone is encouraged to participate and to think about who could teach. • She is hopeful that we will hire a new IREP Director soon. • Three proposals have been received for study abroad including trips to Costa Rica, Cuba, and Japan. Decisions will be made soon as to which proposals to move forward.		Leslie Griffin
Faculty Senate	<u>Faculty Senate President Peter Dean provided the following update:</u> • An idea was presented to Faculty Senate for Delta State to collaborate with the Cleveland Public School District, Bayou Academy, and Presbyterian Day School to align calendars as much as possible so constituents across the entities have better aligned holidays, etc.		Peter Dean
Action Items: New Business Policies and Forms			

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New Business	Tenure and Promotion Documents (2nd Reading): Discussion: • Dr. Jeffrey Leffler shared that committee had completed revisions to the tenure and promotion documents. • Proposed actions include: ○ Second reading of red-lined changes to the Faculty Tenure Policy. ○ Second reading of red-lined changes to the Faculty Promotion Policy. ○ Second reading of red-lined changes to the Faculty Tenure – Library Services Policy. ○ Second reading of red-lined changes to the Faculty Promotion – Library Services Policy. A motion was made by Peter Dean to approve the action and was seconded by Dr. Vicki Bingham. All in Favor	Passed	Jeffrey Leffler
	Second Reading of the Unit/Division Chair Policy: Discussion: • Dr. Jeffrey Leffler shared a red-lined copy of changes to the Unit/Division Chair Policy. • Proposed actions include: ○ Second reading of red-lined changes to the Unit/Division Chair Policy. This action was tabled because the preview document in Teams had corrupted and no longer reflected all edit. The document will be corrected and brought forth at a future meeting.	Tabled	Jeffrey Leffler
	First Reading of the Undergraduate Admissions Requirements Policy: Discussion: • Kristen Land shared a red-lined copy of changes to the Undergraduate Admissions Requirements Policy. • Proposed actions include: ○ First reading of red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Admissions Requirements Policy. A motion was made by Kristen Land to approve the action and was seconded by Fawn Ussery. All in Favor	Passed	
Announcements:	• Fawn Ussery was recognized for going above and beyond in making space in the Library for Student Success and Academic Advising to move into spaces. • Dr. Leffler shared that a group is working on a new interdisciplinary Agribusiness concentration within the Bachelor of Applied Science program in business. • Heather Miller shared information related to Gear Up data, Faculty Development Day plans, and getting trainings		

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	scheduled through the Gertrude C. Ford CTL. • Dr. Bingham shared that the Speech and Hearing program is planning to move to a Hy-flex format in the fall, the HPER program is planning for a name change, the nursing faculty are considering an LPN to BSN track, and everyone is moving back into the newly renovated nursing building. • Dr. Van Namen shared that Ewing is looking nice after recent efforts related to the Elevate conference that was hosted there. Her college has several recruiting events scheduled and the curriculum committee for the Ed.D. program plans to meet soon to make some revisions. The elementary faculty are also planning to implement a Hy-flex delivery in the fall.		
Adjourned:	10:46 a.m.		
Next Meeting:	August 14, 2025, at 8:30 am in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room		