

# ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes October 02, 2025

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

**Absent:** Joe Childs

**Guests:** April Mondy

**Call to order:** The Academic Council met in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room KWH, on October 2, 2025. The meeting convened at 8:30 a.m., with Associate Provost Jeffrey Leffler presiding.

Agenda item	Comments/Discussion	Action taken	Responsible party
<b>Approval of Agenda:</b>	Dr. Leffler began the meeting by asking for a motion to approve the agenda. The motion to approve the agenda was made by Dr. Merideth Van Namen, and Kristen Land seconded. All were in favor.	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Jeffrey Leffler</b>
<b>Approval of Minutes:</b>	The motion to approve minutes for Thursday, September 25 <sup>th</sup> was made by Dr. Merideth Van Namen and seconded by Peter Dean. All in favor.	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Jeffrey Leffler</b>
<b>Discussion Items</b>			

<b>Office of Academic Affairs Updates</b>	<p><b><u>Associate Provost, Dr. Jeffrey Leffler, provided the following updates:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Leffler shared that progress continues to address any enrollment barriers and that pathways are being developed to support this effort.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr. Griffin and Director of Academic Engagement, Kevin Entrekin, will continue to visit community colleges in the state this week and next to build partnerships and pathways further.</li> <li>○ Dr. Leffler is working with many local community colleges on the program level.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		<b>Jeffrey Leffler</b>
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<p><b>Faculty Senate</b></p>	<p><b><u>Faculty Senate President Peter Dean provided the following update:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty members reached out and requested the ability to ask President Ennis questions anonymously.</li> <li>• Peter Dean met with the President and stated that they will have that line set up at the next town hall set in the Spring.</li> </ul>		<p><b>Peter Dean</b></p>
<p><b>Action Items: New Business Policies and Forms</b></p>			
<p><b>Curriculum/ Course Actions</b></p>	<p><b>BAS –Revise Curriculum structure-listing of the BAS Business Administration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a request to revise the structure of the requirements for the Bachelor of Applied Science in Business Administration degree program. This revision would essentially modify the way the requirements are listed in the catalog and degree check sheets to streamline a "core" of courses that are required in all the concentrations and to clarify prerequisite courses that are needed for select concentrations.</li> <li>• The proposed revision includes the following:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Specifying a BAS in Business Administration "Business Core," which would consistently specify the set of required courses for all the BAS in Business Administration concentrations. These five courses are already required for each of the BAS-BA concentrations. This Business Core section would clarify which courses are required in every concentration and serve as the "foundation" of courses for each concentration. The five courses include: ACC 220; CIS 300; GBA 220; MGT 300; MKT 300</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The registrar will reach out to the department to help rebuild the change in Banner.</li> </ul> <p><b>A motion was made by Merideth Van Namen for the changes to be approved and was seconded by Peter Dean. All were in favor.</b></p> <p><b>BAS – Business Administration - General Business - Human Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The revised concentration includes the following:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Revise the concentration name from "General Business – Human Resources" to "Human Resources," removing General Business from the name.</li> <li>○ Specify the "Business Core" requirement (ACC 220; CIS 300; GBA 220; MGT 300; MKT 300). These courses are currently required but will be separated out as the business core.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Passed</b></p>	<p><b>Jeffrey Leffler</b></p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Specify the Career/Technical requirements as "up to 45 hours of career and technical credits" instead of a "Minimum of 45... ;" this update would reflect the correct BAS degree requirements.</li> <li>○ Remove the requirement for MGT 342.</li> </ul> <p><b>Merideth Van Namen motioned for the changes to be approved. Kristen Land seconded that motion. All were in favor.</b></p> <p><b>BAS – Business Administration – General Business – Management/Marketing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The revised concentration includes the following:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Revise the concentration name from "General Business - Marketing/Management" to "Marketing and Management," removing General Business from the name.</li> <li>○ Specify the "Business Core" requirement (ACC 220; CIS 300; GBA 220; MGT 300; MKT 300). These courses are currently required but will be separated out as the business core.</li> <li>○ Specify the Career/Technical requirements as "up to 45 hours of career and technical credits" instead of a "Minimum of 45... ;" this update would reflect the correct BAS degree requirements.</li> <li>○ Remove the requirement for FIN 310; MGT 327; MKT 321,358,388,475, and replace with seven "Management or Marketing Electives and two "Approved Business Elective"; the seven required courses being replaced with seven MGT/MKT electives and two Approved Business electives will decrease the number of required general elective courses. This change offers students greater flexibility to pursue courses that align with their desired career path. Having two approved business electives will allow students to take any prerequisites they may need for select management or marketing electives.</li> <li>○ Change the requirement of MKT 499 to "MGT 499 OR MKT 499;" this will provide students with the option to take the management or marketing capstone course.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Merideth Van Namen motioned for the changes to be approved. Kristen Land seconded that motion. All were in favor.</b></p> <p><b>BAS Business Administration – Entrepreneurship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This is a request to add a new BAS Business Administration concentration that aligns with the BBA in Entrepreneurship. The BAS Business Administration - Entrepreneurship concentration would allow students with technical degrees to</li> </ul>	<p><b>Passed</b></p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Specify the "Business Core" requirement (ACC 220; CIS 300; GBA 220; MGT 300; MKT 300). These courses are currently required but will be separated out as the business core.</li> <li>○ Specify the Career/Technical requirements as "up to 45 hours of career and technical credits" instead of a "Minimum of 45... ;" this update would reflect the correct BAS degree requirements.</li> <li>○ Delete the three individual tracks: Hospitality and Tourism Management, Hotel and Restaurant Management, and Culinary Arts Management; all courses will be offered under one concentration.</li> <li>○ Delete the following course requirements: FIN 310, MGT 327, MKT 321, MKT 388</li> <li>○ Add the following course requirements: ACC 320, GBA 204, MGT 200, MGT 342, MKT 328, MKT 525</li> <li>○ Add the requirement "CIS 351 OR MGT 471 OR MGT 495"</li> <li>○ Change the MGT 460 requirement to "MGT 460 OR MGT/MKT 370"</li> <li>○ Change the MKT 499 requirement to "MGT 499 OR MKT 499"</li> <li>● This cleaned up program tracks from three to one track under the name Hospitality Services Management.</li> </ul> <p><b>Merideth Van Namen motioned for the changes to be approved. Kristen Land seconded that motion. All were in favor.</b></p> <p><b>BAS – Integrated Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The BAS Business Administration - Integrated Business concentration would mimic the BBA in General Business in that BAS students could take any approved business elective to fulfill the major and concentration requirements. This request is for the following:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Add BAS Business Administration - Integrated Business as a concentration</li> <li>○ Specify the "Business Core" requirement (ACC 220; CIS 300; GBA 220; MGT 300; MKT 300)</li> <li>○ Specify the Career/Technical requirements as "up to 45 hours of career and technical credits."</li> <li>○ Require 30 hours of "Approved Business Electives."</li> </ul> </li> <li>● President Ennis specifically asked for this pathway so that students with a technical background who want to continue their education at the university would have a way to continue. This program appeals to students in technical programs at community</li> </ul>	<b>Passed</b>	
		<b>Passed</b>	

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	<p>colleges, providing them with a pathway to apply their technical credits toward earning a bachelor's degree from a four-year university.</p> <p><b>Provost Griffin motioned for the changes to be approved. Kristen Land seconded that motion. All were in favor.</b></p> <p><b>BAS – Logistics and Supply Chain Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This request is for the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Specify the "Business Core" requirement (ACC 220; CIS 300; GBA 220; MGT 300; MKT 300). These courses are currently required but will be separated out as the business core.</li><li>○ Specify the Career/Technical requirements as "up to 45 hours of career and technical credits" instead of a "Minimum of 45...;" this update would reflect the correct BAS degree requirements. Revise the requirements for MGT 471 and MGT 495 to "MGT 471 OR MGT 495"</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>Vicki Bingham motioned for the changes to be approved. Merideth Van Namen seconded that motion. All were in favor.</b></p> <p><b>Course Action Request – Commercial Aviation – Aerial Application Technology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This course was developed to serve as an elective in the Business Agriculture Concentration in BAS in Business Administration. Students will explore operational techniques, regulatory considerations, and the impact on efficiency and environmental sustainability.</li><li>• Discussion item – The course will be taught by an adjunct in the beginning.</li></ul> <p><b>Merideth Van Namen motioned for the changes to be approved. Heather Miller seconded that motion. All were in favor.</b></p> <p><b>Course Action Request - BAS - Management/Marketing – Agribusiness Industry Ecosystem</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This course was developed to complete the Business Agriculture Concentration in BAS in Business Administration. Students will analyze how environmental, economic, and social factors shape the global agribusiness landscape.</li><li>• Editing item- Starting Spring 2027 will be changed to Spring 2026.</li></ul>	<p><b>Passed</b></p> <p><b>Passed</b></p> <p><b>Passed</b></p>	
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	<p><b>Merideth Van Namen motioned for the changes to be approved. Heather Miller seconded that motion. All were in favor.</b></p> <p><b>Course Action Request – Management/Marketing – Strategic Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-requisites were reviewed, and the MGT 499 faculty found that FIN 300 is no longer necessary as a prerequisite. FIN 300 was removed to eliminate an unnecessary barrier for students.</li> </ul> <p><b>Tammy Prather motioned for the changes to be approved. Vicki Bingham seconded that motion. All were in favor.</b></p>	<b>Passed</b>	
<b>Policy Actions</b>	<p><b>Faculty Load and Compensation Policy (1<sup>st</sup> Reading):</b> <b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Jeffrey Leffler shared cleaned copy of the revised Faculty Load Guidelines.</li> <li>• The Guidelines now includes only the stated policy and the appendix was removed</li> </ul> <p><b>A motion was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham to approve the action and was seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All in Favor.</b></p>	<b>Passed</b>	<b>Jeffrey Leffler</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Heather Miller shared that the Gertrude C. Ford Center for Teaching and Learning has a book study on “Becoming Great Universities” later today.</li> <li>• Dr. Vicki Bingham shared that her team is currently working on updating the Nursing Master's program. These changes would lead to the program lasting 1 year instead of 2.</li> <li>• Fawn Ussery shared that the Archives will soon have the MS Delta Heritage Office joining them on the third floor.</li> <li>• Dr. Merideth Van Namen shared that the closing reception of the Wright Art Gallery exhibition would be at five this afternoon.</li> </ul>		<b>Leslie Griffin</b>
<b>Announcements:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spring 2026 Class Revisions are due October 10, 2025</li> <li>• Little Texas will be performing on October 9, 2025, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Bologna Performing Arts Center</li> <li>• Midterm – October 15, 2025</li> <li>• All midterm grades recorded by faculty – October 16, 2025, at noon.</li> <li>• Halloween Open House will be on October 31<sup>st</sup>, starting at 8:45 a.m.</li> </ul>		
<b>Adjourned:</b>	10:29 a.m.		

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<b>Next Meeting:</b>	November 6, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room	