

# ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes April 9, 2026

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

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** Jon Westfall, SGA Representative Jordan Kloth, and SGA Representative Ryan Whaley

**Call to order:** The Academic Council met in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room KWH on April 9, 2026. The meeting convened at 8:30 AM, with Provost Leslie Griffin presiding.

Agenda item	Comments/Discussion	Action taken	Responsible party
<b>Approval of Agenda:</b>	Dr. Griffin 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 which was seconded by Dr. Vicki Bingham. All were in favor.	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Leslie Griffin</b>
<b>Approval of Minutes:</b>	The motion to approve minutes for Thursday, April 2 <sup>nd</sup> was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham and seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All in favor.	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Leslie Griffin</b>
<b>Discussion Items</b>			

<b>Provost's Updates</b>	<p><b><u>Provost, Dr. Leslie Griffin, provided the following updates:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provost Griffin opened the meeting by recognizing Peter Dean for his service as Faculty Senate President and welcoming Dr. Jon Westfall back into the role.</li> <li>• The provost invited senators from the Student Government Association (Jordan Kloth and Ryan Whaley) to present a proposal to provide students with clearer expectations of courses prior to enrollment, including expanded course descriptions and examples of course activities. The Registrar is investigating the functional feasibility and asked the student leaders to send screenshots to indicate the location in Banner they desire to see the expanded description. SGA will table this request for now and Provost Griffin will plan to attend the first meeting of</li> </ul>		<b>Leslie Griffin</b>
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	<p>SGA in the new academic year at which time the proposal will be brought forward again. In the meantime, Academic Affairs will continue to conduct research regarding how this may be accomplished and reach on to the incoming SGA president to promote continuity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provost Griffin provided a budget update, noting that the coming weeks will involve extensive discussions and decision-making related to institutional budget requests.</li> <li>• An update was shared regarding an establishment of norms for Academic Council regarding work expectations and pacing, emphasizing a transition from rapid, mandated changes over the past two and a half years toward a more sustainable pace focused on refining and strengthening existing initiatives.</li> <li>• Feedback was requested on the current Academic Council meeting space, including consideration of alternative spaces that better support technology needs and overall meeting effectiveness.</li> <li>• Drs. Westfall and Leffler recently met to review and strengthen processes within UCC. This will include ongoing dialogue about UCC requirements, evaluating how items are reviewed before reaching Academic Council to reduce the need for extended discussion, and considering improvements to the technology systems that support this work rather than relying on current manual or fragmented processes.</li> <li>• It was also recommended that Academic Council meeting minutes be reviewed and revised to ensure wording clearly reflects formal actions and aligns with expected standards for documentation and decision-making.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Faculty Senate</b></p>	<p><b>Faculty Senate President, Peter Dean, provided the following update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter Dean reported that the Faculty Senate would have its last meeting of the academic year today.</li> <li>• The meeting consists of two conjoined meetings with one meeting concluding the 2025-2026 year and the next beginning the new cycle with Dr. Jon Westfall taking over as faculty senate president. Peter Dean will stay on in a senator role.</li> <li>• Dr. Westfall plans to welcome new senators and continue the work that had previously been charged in the areas of a faculty handbook and faculty recognition. He will also share priorities including better regular reporting from various units to faculty senate such as the Office of Admissions and the Student Success Center. He has also set a goal to encourage higher level engagement of faculty with the</li> </ul>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Peter Dean</b></p>

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	<p>faculty senate's meetings and initiatives.</p>		
<p><b>Action Items: New Business Policies and Forms</b></p>			
<p><b>Curriculum/Course Actions</b></p>	<p><b><u>Curriculum/Course Actions: Accelerated LPN-BSN Revisions and NUR 418</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Vicki Bingham presented revisions to the new LPN-BSN pathway and NUR 418 as a bundle.</li> <li>• In discussion, Dr. Childs asked if there had been any discussion regarding potential overlap of course content in the Healthcare Administration program. Dr. Bingham indicated there had not been as the content was specific to nursing practice. The two plan to have further discussions to identify possible synergy between the programs.</li> <li>• Proposed actions include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Approval of red-lined changes to the undergraduate catalog to increase the credit hours for NUR 418 from 3 to 6 within the program</b></li> <li>○ <b>Approval of red-lined changes to the undergraduate catalog to adjust the course sequencing.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Approval of red-lined changes to the undergraduate catalog to revise the validation credits from 18 to 15.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Approval of red-lined changes to the undergraduate catalog to remove all references to “LVN” or “Vocational” within the curriculum.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Approval of red-lined changes to the undergraduate catalog to change the course description for NUR 418.</b></li> </ul> </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>	<p><b>Passed</b></p>	<p><b>Jeffrey Leffler</b></p>

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	<p><b><u>Curriculum Action: Accelerated LPN-BSN Fall Admissions</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Vicki Bingham shared a proposal to add a fall admission cycle to the Accelerated LPN-BSN pathway</li> <li>• Discussion included that recent virtual interest meetings have demonstrated a much larger demand for the new pathway than originally expected thus necessitating an additional entry point beginning in Fall 2027.</li> <li>• Provost Griffin complimented the level of work achieved by Dr. Bingham’s team.</li> <li>• Proposed actions include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>The creation of one additional admission cycle each fall to begin in the Fall term of 2027.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Red-lined revisions to the Undergraduate Catalog to revise previously approved course descriptions for NUR 318, NUR 322, NUR 328, NUR 330, NUR 406, NUR 412, NUR 418, and NUR 422 to reflect the new course sequencing.</b></li> </ul> </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>	<p><b>Passed</b></p>	<p><b>Jeffrey Leffler</b></p>
<p><b>Policy Actions:</b></p>	<p><b><u>None</u></b></p>		<p><b>Jeffrey Leffler</b></p>
<p><b>Discussion</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Provost Griffin</b> shared that we need to develop a system to ensure that we are seeking input from the various offices and departments that are impacted by our actions to make sure we have considered all impacts. She emphasized that this is seeking guidance and not permission. We will evaluate how our forms may be changed to capture this guidance.</li> <li>• <b>Fawn Ussery</b> shared that the Academic Showcase was today on the first floor of the library with 14 presentations.</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Griffin</b> also shared that she had asked and that Dr. Merideth Van Namen had agreed to take the responsibility of organizing some professional development opportunities.</li> <li>• <b>Tammy Prather</b> shared that we need to decide as to when Degree Works goes live and CAPP is turned off. She asked anyone who notices any issues with Degree</li> </ul>		<p><b>Leslie Griffin</b></p>

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	<p>Works to let her know.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Vicki Bingham</b> thanked Dr. Jon Westfall and the UCC for taking actions over the Easter weekend related to revisions to the Accelerated LPN-BSN pathway.</li> <li>• <b>Heather Miller</b> shared about an upcoming reception to honor faculty involved in extensive curriculum work over the last year as well as faculty who have completed the ACUE training. A tentative date of April 30<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm was set.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Announcements:</b></p>	<p>Final Exams   May 4-7, 2026            Graduate Commencement   May 7, 2026   4:00 PM, Bologna Performing Arts Center            COBA Commencement   May 8, 2026   9:00 AM, Bologna Performing Arts Center            CEAH Commencement   May 8, 2026   11:00 AM, Bologna Performing Arts Center            CNHS Commencement   May 8, 2026   2:00 PM, Bologna Performing Arts Center            Final Grades Due   May 11, 2026   Noon</p>		
<p><b>Adjourned:</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9:42 a.m.</p>		
<p><b>Next Meeting:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next Meeting Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026, 8:30 am in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room</li> <li>• Upcoming Meeting Date: Thursday, May 7, 2026, 8:30 am in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room</li> </ul>		