

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes November 6, 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: Dr. Joe Bentley, Dr. Charles Westmoreland, Anjanette Powers, Dr. Addie Herrod, Dr. Jana Donahoe, and Dr. Richard Tremmel

Call to order: The Academic Council met in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room KWH on November 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. Griffin began the meeting by asking for a motion to approve the 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, October 2nd was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham and seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All in favor. The motion to approve minutes for the Special Called Meeting October 22 nd was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham and seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All in favor.	Approved	Leslie Griffin
Discussion Items			

Guest Speaker	None		
Provost's Updates	<p><u>Provost, Dr. Leslie Griffin, provided the following updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Griffin expressed the need to advise each student in a timely manner. 		Leslie Griffin

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes November 6, 2025

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She asked that direct reports review their goals that were set and get any that may no longer be relevant clarified. • The community college visits are ongoing with 12 meetings with community college leaders conducted thus far and the remaining three meetings in development. These partnerships are important as the state’s agenda is workforce focused. • The provost encouraged anyone with an idea to put together a two-page white paper so the concept can be communicated and vetted. • Everyone is encouraged to present at conferences when attending and to nominate faculty for awards. Delta State has a lot of good things to share with others and that are worthy of recognition. • The provost appreciates everyone’s work on curriculum. This work is important to get our catalogs published earlier and to facilitate Degree Works implementation to improve processes for our students. • The Provost will be attending the CAEL conference in Memphis next week to learn more about experiential learning credit opportunities that may be developed at DSU. • She asked everyone to start working on budgets now so decisions can be made about what needs to prioritize for the next fiscal year. 		
Faculty Senate	<p><u>Faculty Senate President Peter Dean provided the following update:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty Senate Executive Council will be meeting later in the afternoon. • Dr. Jon Westfall will be representing faculty senate at the University Faculty Senate Association of Mississippi Meeting next week in Oxford, MS. • Plans are in the works for a virtual meeting of all faculty senates in the state to promote unity. • A request has been made by a student representative for midterm evaluations of courses. 		Peter Dean
Action Items: New Business Policies and Forms			

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes November 6, 2025

<p>Curriculum/ Course Actions</p>	<p><u>Curriculum Action: BS in Environmental Science Agribusiness Concentration:</u> Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Joe Bentley shared a proposed curriculum action to revise the BS in Environmental Science Agribusiness Concentration within the Division of Mathematics & Sciences. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to revise BS in Environmental Science Agribusiness Concentration <p>A motion was made by Dr. Jeffrey Leffler and was seconded by Dr. Joe Childs. All in Favor</p>	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>
	<p><u>Curriculum Action: Art Minor, Music Minor, Philosophy Minor, Spanish Minor</u> Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Charles Westmoreland shared proposed curriculum actions to address the Art, Music, Philosophy, and Spanish minors. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to revise the Art minor ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to revise the Music minor ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to remove the Philosophy minor ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to remove the Spanish minor <p>A motion was made by Dr. Jeffrey Leffler to approve the actions and was seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All in Favor</p>	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>
	<p><u>Curriculum Action: M.S. Criminal Justice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Charles Westmoreland shared a proposed curriculum action to reduce the number of hours in the M.S. Criminal Justice. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to reduce the number of hours from 36 to 30 by reducing electives. 	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes November 6, 2025

	<p>A motion was made by Dr. Jeffrey Leffler to approve the actions and was seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All in Favor</p>		
	<p><u>Course Action: ENG 101, 104</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Charles Westmoreland shared proposed course actions for ENG 101 and 104. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to remove the corequisite requirement for ENG 101 ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to remove ENG 104 <p>Tabled</p>	<p>Tabled</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>
	<p><u>Course Action: SOC 600</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Charles Westmoreland shared a proposed course action for SOC 600. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to add SOC 575 as a prerequisite <p>A motion was made by Dr. Jeffrey Leffler to approve the actions and was seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All in Favor</p>	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>
	<p><u>Course Action: MUS 150, 310 AND 311</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anjanette Powers shared proposed course actions for MUS 150, 310, and 311. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to add MUS 100 or consent of instructor pending a posing score on music theory placement exam as a prerequisite for MUS 150 ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to revise the course description for MUS 310 ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to revise the course description for MUS 311 <p>A motion was made by Dr. Jeffrey Leffler to approve the actions and was seconded</p>	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes November 6, 2025

	<p>by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All in Favor</p>		
	<p><u>Curriculum/ Course Action: M.Ed. Elementary Education and CEL/CUR 640, 641, 642 and 643</u> Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anjanette Powers shared a proposed curriculum action and related course actions to adjust the admission requirements to the M.Ed. Elementary Education and create a new elective track designed to lead to a gifted education endorsement on the Mississippi teacher’s license. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to remove the testing requirements for admission. ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to revise the required courses and elective options within the program. ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to create CEL/CUR 640 as a new course. ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to create CEL/CUR 641 as a new course. ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to create CEL/CUR 642 as a new course. ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to create CEL/CUR 643 as a new course. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Jeffrey Leffler to approve the actions and was seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All in Favor</p>	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>
	<p><u>Course Action: CED 604</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Addie Herrod presented a proposed course action for CED 604. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to change the name and description of CED 604 to embed telemental health counseling content <p>A motion was made by Dr. Jeffrey Leffer to approve the actions and was seconded by Dr. Vicki Bingham. All in Favor</p>	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes November 6, 2025

	<p><u>Curriculum/Course Action: SWO CAST Certificate, SWO CAST Minor, SWO 401/501, SWO 412/512</u></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Jana Donahoe presented proposed revisions SWO CAST Certificate, SWO CAST Minor, SWO 401/501, and SWO 412/512. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to add a graduate-level certificate of completion in Child Advocacy studies ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to add a Child Advocacy Studies Training (CAST) minor ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to add SWO 501 as a graduate-level equivalency to the already existing SWO 401 in the Undergraduate Catalog ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to add SWO 512 as a graduate-level equivalency to the already existing SWO 412 in the Undergraduate Catalog <p>A motion was made by Dr. Jeffrey Leffer to approve the actions and was seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All in Favor</p>	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>
	<p><u>Curriculum Action: BBA Business Administration Business Agriculture Concentration, BAS Business Administration Business Agriculture Concentration</u></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Joe Childs proposed curriculum actions to revise the BBA Business Administration Agribusiness concentration and to create a Business Agriculture concentration within the BAS Business Administrations • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to revise the Agribusiness concentration in the BBA Business Administration to be renamed Business Agriculture and to revise the required courses ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to revise the BAS Business Administration to add the Business Agriculture concentration <p>A motion was made by Dr. Joe Child to approve the action and was seconded by Dr. Vicki Bingham. All in Favor</p>	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes November 6, 2025

	<p><u>Course Action: HCA 470:</u> Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Joe Childs presented a proposed course action for HCA 470. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to change the course name and description <p>A motion was made by Dr. Joe Child to approve the action and was seconded by Dr. Vicki Bingham. All in Favor.</p>	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>
	<p><u>Curriculum Action: BA PSY:</u> Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Merideth Van Namen presented a proposed curriculum action for the BA in Psychology. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to remove the PHI 201 requirement in the general education curriculum. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Merideth Van Namen to approve the action and was seconded by Dr. Vicki Bingham. All in Favor.</p>	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>
	<p><u>Curriculum/Course Action: Ed.D. Professional Studies and Ed.S. Educational Administration and Supervision and ELR 702, 789, 804 and AED 725, 780:</u> Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Meredith Van Namen presented a proposed curriculum action and related course actions. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to reduce the total number of hours from 102 to 90 by removing one track three-hour elective, removing CUR 820/833, removing CUR 812, and changing dissertation hours from 12 to nine. ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to add a fourth track, Advanced Studies, to provide more flexibility in applying previous coursework from additional disciplines to the program. ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to revise ELR 702 to become ELR 803 to address placement in the progression of the program. ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to revise ELR 789 to change the 	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes November 6, 2025

	<p>title to Qualitative Research Design and the course description to focus on qualitative research design.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to revise ELR 804 to become ELR 788 to address the timing of the course in the program and to change the name to Quantitative Research Design and the course description to focus on quantitative research design. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Merideth Van Namen to approve the action and was seconded by Dr. Vicki Bingham. All in Favor.</p>		
	<p><u>Curriculum Action: DMI Entertainment Industry Entrepreneurship Concentration</u></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Richard Tremmel presented a proposed curriculum action to revise the Delta Music Institute’s Entertainment Industry Entrepreneurship concentration. ● Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to change the name of the concentration to Music Business. ○ Discussion including questions regarding how this would impact the ACBSP accreditation. An email from ACBSP indicated there would be no consequences to the name change. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Joe Childs to approve the action and was seconded by Dr. Meredith Van Namen. All in Favor.</p>	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>
	<p><u>Curriculum/Course Action: DMI Live Entertainment Technology Concentration</u></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Richard Tremmel shared a proposed curriculum action and related course actions to create a new concentration in the Delta Music Institute curriculum. ● Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to add a Live Entertainment Industry concentration to the Entertainment Industry Studies degree program. ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to create DMI 312 – Concert Lighting I ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to create DMI 412 - ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to create DMI 414 	<p>Tabled</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes November 6, 2025

	<p><u>Tabled</u></p>		
	<p><u>Course Action: DMI 305, 306</u> Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Richard Tremmel presented course actions for DMI 305 and 306. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog for DMI 305 to change from variable to two credit hours. ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog for DMI 306 to change from variable to two credit hours. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Joe Childs to approve the action and was seconded by Dr. Vicki Bingham. All in Favor.</p>	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>
<p>Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Van Namen shared that her college continues to focus on curricular revisions and has been involved in one to two recruiting events per week. Dr. Amy Baldwin will be providing the Kent Wyatt Lecture on December 4th at 1:30 p.m. in the Jacob Conference Center. • Heather Miller reported that she had been working on some grant deadlines and that the Gertrude C. Ford CTL had upcoming sessions on Advanced Excel, Faculty Wellbeing, and Accessibility Services. • Fawn Ussery reported that she has been working on a site license for Academic Writer which can provide APA writing support. She has also been working on updating the Library Services video for Canvas. • Dr. Bingham reported that the Counselor Education program received continued accreditation and Dr. Maria Weber was recently honored as the MTSA Outstanding Higher Education Science Teacher for 2025. The Robert E. Smith School of Nursing and Health will have their white coat and pinning ceremonies on December 11th. • Tammy Prather reported that she had been working with the Degree Works consultant and a test group had been identified. Graduation will be December 12th with one ceremony at 10:00 a.m. 		<p>Leslie Griffin</p>
<p>Announcements:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centennial Celebration will be held on November 10th beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the Bologna Performing Arts Center • Thanksgiving Holidays are November 24-28 		

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes November 6, 2025

Adjourned:	11:19 a.m.	
Next Meeting:	December 4, 2025, at 8:30 am in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room	