

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes December 4, 2025

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

Absent: Peter Dean

Guests: Dr. Joe Bentley, Dr. Syed Raza, Dr. Addie Herrod, Dr. Thales Barbosa, Dr. Amanda Trent

Call to order: The Academic Council met in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room KWH on December 4, 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, November 6 th made by Dr. Vicki Bingham and seconded by Tammy Prather. All in favor. The motion to approve minutes for the Special Called Meeting November 13 th was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham and seconded by Tammy Prather. 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 shared that she would be scheduling some meetings individually and 		Leslie Griffin

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	<p>in small groups to provide relevant updates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She shared that she has attended some IHL meetings this month that have focused on the development of a new funding formula. Additionally, a financial literacy resource has been shared that will be distributed to Deans for consideration. • The community college visits are coming to a close with visits to East Central Community College and Southwest Community College this week. Dates will be set for MOU signings and recruitment events. 		
Faculty Senate	No update provided.		Peter Dean
Action Items: New Business Policies and Forms			
Curriculum/ Course Actions	<p><u>Curriculum Action: B.S. Criminal Justice and Criminology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Merideth Van Namen shared a proposed curriculum action to revise the B.S. in Criminal Justice and Criminology within the School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to revise B.S. in Criminal Justice and Criminology to create a new interdisciplinary Forensic Science concentration. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Meridith Van Namen and was seconded by Dr. Vicki Bingham. All in Favor</p>	Passed	Jeffrey Leffler
	<p><u>Curriculum Action: B.A.S. Business Administration, B.B.A. Marketing, and B.B.A. Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Joe Childs shared a package of proposed curriculum actions to provide 	Passed	Jeffrey Leffler

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	<p>programs in an online delivery format.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IHL Appendix 10 to offer the B.A.S. Business Administration by distance learning. ○ IHL Appendix 10 to offer the B.B.A. Marketing by distance learning. ○ IHL Appendix 10 to offer the B.B.A. Management by distance learning. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Joe Childs to approve the actions and was seconded by Dr. Vicki Bingham. All in Favor</p>		
	<p><u>Curriculum Action: M.B.A. New Aviation Management Concentration</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Joe Childs shared a proposed curriculum action to create a new Aviation Management concentration within the Master of Business Administration program. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to create new concentration in Aviation Management. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Joe Childs to approve the actions and was seconded by Dr. Vicki Bingham. All in Favor</p>	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>
	<p><u>Curriculum/Course Actions: M.B.A. New Leading AI-Driven Transformation and Impact Concentration</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Syed Raza shared a proposed curriculum action and related course actions to create a new Leading AI-Driven Transformation and Impact concentration within the Master of Business administration program. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to create the new concentration ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to create LAI 601 ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to create LAI 602 ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to create LAI 603 ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to create LAI 604 <p>A motion was made by Dr. Joe Childs to approve the actions and was seconded by Dr. Vicki Bingham. All in Favor</p>	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>

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	<p><u>Course Action: CIS 375</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Glendscene Williams shared a proposed course action for CIS 375. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to change the prerequisite for CIS 375 from CIS 361 to CIS 205. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Joe Childs to approve the actions and was seconded by Fawn Ussery. All in Favor</p>	Passed	Jeffrey Leffler
	<p><u>Curriculum/Course Actions: B.S. Environmental Science General and Wildlife Management Concentrations and PHY</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Joe Bentley shared a proposed curriculum action to revise the General and Wildlife Management concentrations within the Environmental Science program. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to change the required Chemistry course from CHE 215/216 to CHE 319/321. ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to remove PHY 314 as a required course from the General and Wildlife Management concentrations ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to remove the “recommended preparation” statement for BIO 414 <p>A motion was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham to approve the actions and was seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All in Favor</p>	Passed	Jeffrey Leffler
	<p><u>Curriculum Action: B.S. Biology Concentration Name Change</u></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Joe Bentley shared a proposed curriculum action to revise name of the Premedical concentration. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to change the name of the Premedical concentration to Pre-Professional. ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to revise mentions of Premedical areas such as medical technology and pre-dental to the new pre-professional language. 	Passed	Jeffrey Leffler

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	<p>A motion was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham to approve the actions and was seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All in Favor</p>		
	<p><u>Curriculum Action: B.S. HPER</u> Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Thales Barbosa shared a proposed curriculum action to revise HPER concentration in Sport and Movement Studies. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to add PER 386. ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to add the requirement of one credit out of any PER 100-level activity course. ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to move HSE 445 from major elective to special degree requirement. ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to move FCS 215 from special degree requirement to major elective. ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to remove the requirement of one credit out of PER 171, 173, or 175. ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to remove the requirement of PER 365. ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to delete PER 434 from the program of study. <p>A motion was made by Kristen Land to approve the actions and was seconded by Dr. Vicki Bingham. All in Favor</p>		
	<p><u>Course Actions: PER 300, 323, 455, 464</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Thales Barbosa presented a set of proposed course actions for PER 300, 323, 455, and 464 to better align course titles and descriptions with the recently approved new name for the Division. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to change the name and description of PER 300. ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to change the name of PER 323. ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to change the name and description of PER 455. 	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to change the name of PER 464. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Jeffrey Leffer to approve the actions and was seconded by Kristen Land pending Dr. Barbosa providing rational to Dr. Leffler for how the content changes in the course. All in Favor</p>		
	<p><u>Course Actions: PER 380, 386, 391, 486, and 499</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Thales Barbosa presented a set of proposed course actions for PER 380, 386, 391, 486, and 499 to better align course titles and descriptions with the recently approved new name for the Division. ● Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to change the name and description of PER 380. ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to change the name and description of PER 386. ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to change the name and description of PER 391. ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to change the name and description of PER 486. ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to change the name and description of PER 499. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Jeffrey Leffer to approve the actions and was seconded by Dr. Joe Childs. All in Favor</p>	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>
	<p><u>Course Action: PER 383</u></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Thales Barbosa presented a proposal for the deletion of PER 383. ● Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to delete PER 383. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Jeffrey Leffer to approve the actions and was seconded by Fawn Ussery. All in Favor</p>	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>

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	<p><u>Course Action: PER 685</u> Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Thales Barbosa presented a course action to revise PER 685. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to revise the name and description of PER 685. <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>
	<p><u>Course Action: SWO 300</u> Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Addie Herrod presented a course action to revise SWO 300. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to revise the name and description of SWO 300. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham to approve the actions and was seconded by Fawn Ussery. All in Favor</p>	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>
	<p><u>Course Actions: NUR 314 and 320</u> Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Addie Herrod presented a package of course actions to revise NUR 314 and 320. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to revise the method of delivery for NUR 314 and 320. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham to approve the actions and was seconded by Fawn Ussery. All in Favor</p>	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>
	<p><u>Course Action: NUR 411</u> Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Addie Herrod presented a course action to create NUR 411 as a new course to provide senior level undergraduate nursing students who have previously completed a prior internship to apply those skills in an additional experience. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to create NUR 411. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham to approve the actions and was seconded by Tammy Prather. All in Favor</p>	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>

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	<p><u>Course Action: NUR 687</u> Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Addie Herrod presented a course action to revise NUR 687. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Graduate Catalog to revise the course description for NUR 687 and remove the prerequisite. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham to approve the actions and was seconded by Tammy Prather. All in Favor</p>	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>
	<p><u>Curriculum Action: BSN</u> Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Addie Herrod proposed a curriculum action for the BSN in Nursing to revise the special degree requirement for mathematics. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to remove mathematics (statistics) as a special degree requirement and to replace a general elective from BIO 329, COM 202, HSE 244, MAT 115, MAT 300, PSY 310, PSY 331, SHS 360, SWO 101, or SWO 309. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham to approve the action and was seconded by Tammy Prather. All in Favor</p>		
	<p><u>Curriculum/Course Actions: LPN to BSN Pathway</u> Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Addie Herrod and Dr. Amanda Trent proposed a package of curriculum and course actions for an Accelerated LPN to BSN Program pathway that is designed to provide curriculum efficiency, strengthen clinical integration, and enhance flexibility for licensed practical nurses (LPNs) advancing to the baccalaureate level. This would be the first pathway of its kind at a public institution in Mississippi. A donor has already expressed interest in creating a scholarship to support the new pathway. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to create the LPN to BSN pathway. ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to create NUR 328. ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to create NUR 322. ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to create NUR 330. ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to create NUR 318. 	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to create NUR 412. ○ Red-lined changes to the Undergraduate Catalog to create NUR 422. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham to approve the action and was seconded by Dr. Joe Childs. All in Favor</p>		
	<p><u>Course Action: CED 630</u> Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Addie Herrod presented a proposed course action for CED 630. ● Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A new course fee amount of \$197. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham to approve the action and was seconded by Tammy Prather. All in Favor.</p>	Passed	Jeffrey Leffler
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tammy Prather reported on logistical plans for the upcoming commencement ceremony. 		Leslie Griffin
Announcements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DSU Vocal Collective is collecting donations for their Spring Lincoln Center performance ● Three Dog Night Bologna Performing Arts Center Friday, December 5 7:30 pm ● Toy Drive for Bolivar County Foster Families December 3 – 19 ● Staff Christmas Breakfast Wednesday, December 17 8:30 – 9:30 am (Tentative) ● Faculty & Staff Christmas Reception Tuesday, December 9 5:00 pm President’s Home ● Fall 2025 Commencement Friday, December 12 10:00 am Walter Sillers Coliseum ● Golden Circle C/O 1975 Induction Ceremony & Reception December 12 12:00 pm Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni –Foundation House ● Winter Holidays for Staff December 24, 2025 – January 2, 2026 		
Adjourned:	11:25 a.m.		
Next Meeting:	January 8, 2026, at 8:30 am in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room		

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