

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL

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The Spring 2020 meeting was held on 25 February, and several topics were discussed. Some minor revisions of the ULC procedures were proposed and adopted; the main changes involved updating the title of the Director of Library Services to Dean of the Library and Learning Assistance, revising the committee purpose statement, and updating the committee membership to include the increase in the number of colleges from eight to nine. More budget discussion then followed, much of it related to recent cuts in database access due to continuing budget challenges.

Teacher Education Committee

During the 2019-2020 Academic Year, the Teacher Education Committee met two times: November 7, 2019; March 5, 2020. Meetings scheduled for September 5, 2019 and January 30, 2020 were cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. An electronic vote was conducted via e-mail on March 13, 2020. Dr. Jeremy Wendt was unanimously appointed as Chairperson of the Committee for 2019-2020.

University Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee met four times during the 2019-2020 academic year: September 26, October 31, February 13, and March 26. In addition to the approval of 68 curriculum changes.

University Research Advisory Committee

During the past academic year, the URAC has acted on the following items. Request to URAC and Building Research Capacity at TTU.

Faculty Research Committee

The Committee made the following changes to the Faculty Research Committee Procedures: Revised the member make-up of the Committee to correspond with what is listed in the handbook. The Committee held faculty workshop in conjunction with a Russell.

The following committees did not meet 2019-20: Committee on Commencement, Convocations, and Academic Ceremonies, and Faculty Development Steering Committee

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Christy Killman SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Addition of Minors in Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Jeremy Wendt stated that Curriculum and Instruction is proposing the addition of minors in specific licensure areas to enhance candidate marketability and career pathways. Endorsements and courses in specific, transcript able subject areas increase opportunities for employment and professional careers. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Christy Killman SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

EXPW New Concentration, Physical Education Practitioner

Dr. Christy Killman stated this is a request for consideration in the Exercise Science department a new concentration named Physical Education Practitioner. This will be a track for students who are interested in teaching physical education but for whatever reason cannot complete at the undergraduate level in a timely manner.

e. Termination of Biology Concentration

Currently, four concentrations exist within the Biology B.S. Degree (Biology, Cellular Biology, Environmental Biology, and Health Sciences Biology). Four options exist within the Biology Concentration (Botany, Marine Biology, Microbiology, and Zoology). We are proposing that these options be elevated to the level of concentration. Consequently, the Biology Concentration is no longer needed and should be terminated.

Biology, Change in Admission Requirements

Dr. Chris Brown stated most of our recently admitted M.S. students met both GPA and GRE requirements; however, two groups of students occasionally failed to meet one of the requirements. Our revised guidelines will provide students greater flexibility in providing evidence that they will be successful in the M.S. program. Dr. Chris Brown MOVED approval and Dr. Troy Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Honors, New Minor

Dr. Rita Barnes stated offering a minor will encourage students of high potential to stay actively involved in challenging academic options that will better prepare them for their professional careers through a program of high-impact practices fostering research, creative problem-solving, service leadership, and civic engagement. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Troy Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Business, Credit Hour Change 60 to 30 hours

Julie Galloway stated -
College of Business and its faculty, staff, and resources, while providing a structured timeline in which to select their degree-granting major. Dr. Holly Stretz MOVED approval and Dr. Lisa Zagumny SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Decision Sciences and Management, Concentration to Major, BIT

Dr. Thomas Timmerman stated the BIT Concentration at Tennessee Tech supplies the workforce with skilled employees who perform a variety of important functions. The need for these employees is increasing nationwide and within Tennessee. Changing this concentration to a major will increase the visibility of the program and help us better meet the needs of the workforce. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Cristy Killman SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Economics, Finance & Marketing, Program Change, BSBA in Economics

Dr. Wesley Pech stated this change in CIP code fits nicely with the new univers statement that calls for a STEM-infused institution. Students will be more technologically adept with the emphasis on data analysis and also, with the increased use of mathematics, more analytically capable. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Mark Melichar SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Business Teach-Out Plan

Kate Nicewicz stated the College of Business at Tennessee Tech is replacing concentration offerings with industry-specific graduate certificate tracks. Concentrations to be removed include: HR Management, Management Information Systems, International Business, and Finance. Dr. Thomas Payne MOVED approval and Dr. Lisa Zagumny SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Interdisciplinary Studies, MPS Fast-Track

Dr. Mike Gotcher stated the MPS Fast-track program will allow eligible undergraduates to enroll for up to (6) hours of graduate courses prior to formal admission to the MPS. The courses taken during the students junior/senior year can be used to satisfy both undergraduate and graduate degree requirements. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Holly Stretz SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Department of Communication, New Concentrations, Corporate Communication and Strategic Communication

Dr. Mike Gotcher stated these concentrations comp program by giving students coursework in corporate communication and media and strategic communication. This will prepare students to take leadership roles in a variety of organizational settings, both for a profit and non-profit. Dr. Mike Gotcher MOVED approval and Dr. Lisa Zagumny SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Manufacturing and Engineering Technology, Suspension of PSM Degree in Manufacturing Sustainability

Dr. Jessica Oswald stated in Spring of 2018, the Manufacturing Sustainability concentration was moved to the College of Engineering with some curriculum changes. Despite these modifications, lack of student interest and enrollment has persisted. During Fall 2019, the MET faculty met and approved suspension of this concentration for the time being. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Mike Gotcher SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Computer Science, Graduate Course Catalog Changes

Dr. Jerry Gannod stated through our program assessment, we identified a need to include CSC 6910 to cover a potential gap in research exposure for our MS students. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Mike Gotcher SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Revisions to Policy 102

Dr. Huo explained that minor revisions were made to clarify the makeup of the Academic Council roster. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Douglas Airhart SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Academic Council Procedures

Twenty-six faculty members, two elected from each of the following: College of Agriculture and Human Ecology, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business, College of Education, College of Engineering, College of Fine Arts, College of Interdisciplinary Studies, School of Nursing and the Library. Eight members shall be elected at large from the University faculty. Dr.

Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Douglas Airhart SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Tenure Checklist and Narrative

Dr. Linda Null stated each year during the tenure-track process, a faculty member will submit a Tenure Progress Narrative along with the Faculty Tenure Cover Sheet (AT1). Whereas the

toward tenure, the narrative will provide a more detailed qualitative description that expands on items listed under the four categories on which faculty are evaluated: teaching, research/scholarship/creative activity, service/outreach, and advisement. Dr. Holly Stretz MOVED approval and Dr. Lori Maxwell SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Report from the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee announced that they wished to nominate Dr. Lori Maxwell to serve as Academic Council Chair for the 2020-21 Academic Year and thanked Dr. Linda Null for service as Chair. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Douglas Airhart SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Such Other Matters

Academic Council stated they would like to thank Dr. Linda Null and Elizabeth Sofia for their service.

Adjourn

Dr. Holly Stretz MOVED approval and Dr. Lisa Zagumny SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

APPROVED September 16, 2020

Elizabeth Sofia, Recorder

Documents on file with the minutes:

All documents presented at the meeting

