

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY
November 9, 2022

The Academic Council met at 3:35 p.m. on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 via Teams videoconferencing technology, with Professor Kimberly Winkle, Chairperson, presiding.

The following members of the council were present:

Dr. Thomas Payne	Dr. Christopher Reames
Dr. Kumar Yelamarthi	Ms. Stephanie Adams
Dr. Jeff Roberts	Dr. Troy Smith
Dr. Lisa Zagumny	Dr. Linda Null
Dr. Darron Smith	Ms. April Crockett
Dr. Lee Ann Shipley	Dr. Brian O'Connor
Dr. Dennis Fennewald	Dr. Katherine Hermann-Turner
Dr. Troy Brachey	Dr. Jennifer Meadows
Dr. Lori Maxwell	Dr. Lenly Weathers
Dr. Hyewon Park	Mr. James Rankin
Dr. Melissa Comer	Ms. Mariam Abbas
Dr. Christy Killman	Mr. Jacob Cherry

Others present were:

Dr. Bedelia Russell
Dr. Mark Stephens
Dr. Carl Pinkert
Dr. Steven Sharp
Dr. William Eberle
Dr. Jerry Gannod

The following members of the council were absent:

Dr. Jennifer Shank
Dr. Mike Gotcher
Dr. Sean Alley
Dr. Stephen Canfield
Dr. Syed Rafay Hasan
Prof. Drew Sisk
Dr. Russell Witcher
Dr. Ann Manginelli
Dr. Emily Lee
Dr. Matt Langford
Dr. Amber Spears
Ms. Lindsey Taylor

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Minutes from the October 5, 2022 Meeting

TTU Policy 735 Financial Conflict of Interest in Research – **(Informational Only)**

TTU Policy 271 General Graduate Degree Requirements

~~TTU Policy 247 (International Health Insurance)~~

Proposed Activities and Goals Planning Document – **(Informational Only)**

Department of Computer Science Graduate Course Catalog Changes

Department of Curriculum and Instruction Addition of New Concentration – Early Childhood Ed, Integrated Birth-K

Department of Environmental Science Addition of New Concentrations – Biology, Chemistry, Natural Resources (from options)

Department of Environmental Science Addition of New Concentration – Sustainability

Department of Environmental Science Name Change of Existing Concentration – Environmental Leadership, Communication & Policy

Such other Matters

Adjournment

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes from the October 5, 2022 Meeting

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Lenly Weathers SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

TTU Policy 735 Financial Conflict of Interest in Research (Informational Only)

Dr. Carl Pinkert requested to waive approval procedure for Tennessee Tech Policy 735, Financial Conflict of Interest in Research. The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for Tennessee Technological University (“University”) to comply with regulations issued by external sponsors of research including federal government agencies, requiring universities that apply for research funding to ensure that the objectivity of research will not be biased by any interest of an Investigator responsible for the Research conflict-of-interest policies established by external sponsors of research.

TTU Policy 271 General Graduate Degree Requirements

Dr. Mark Stephens stated revisions include editorial revisions to streamline and clarify the language to align with SACSCOC standards; as well as modifying the validation process for coursework that has expired under graduation time limits. The proposed revisions have received all necessary university approval. After much discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Christy Killman SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

~~TTU Policy 247 (International Health Insurance)~~

This item was removed from the agenda.

Proposed Activities and Goals Planning Document – (Informational Only)

Dr. Jerry Gannod stated the following contains a proposed Activities and Goals Planning Document meant to replace the current Agreement on Responsibilities Planning Document. Some of the key changes proposed are the following: Alignment with the schedule for evaluation and annual activity reporting. Currently, the AOR is used to specify an academic year schedule whereas the annual activity report (AAR) and annual evaluation align on a calendar year. The new Activities and Goals Planning (AGP) form aligns with the other documents on the calendar year.

Department of Computer Science Graduate Course Catalog Changes

Dr. William Eberle stated the GRE score is used almost exclusively by the CS department for the verbal and writing scores. The department has decided that if an applicant has graduated from a U.S.-based institution, then the student's verbal skills are probably sufficient. After minimal discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Christy Killman SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Department of Curriculum and Instruction Addition of New Concentration – Early Childhood Ed, Integrated Birth-K

Dr. Lisa Zagumny stated this new concentration will meet the criteria for Tennessee's new Integrated Birth-K licensure pathway, the program of study will focus primarily on the youngest children ages Birth-K. This undergraduate concentration provides more options for our early childhood education majors who can now choose between concentrations in PreK-3 (licensure), Birth-K (licensure), and Practitioner (non-licensure). After minimal discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Department of Environmental Science Addition of New Concentrations – Biology, Chemistry, Natural Resources (from options)

Dr. Steven Sharp stated options do not show up as distinct curricula in Degree Works, nor does the system allow for appropriate specialization to appear on transcripts. Elevating Biology, Chemistry and Natural Resources from options to concentrations will increase the visibility of the curriculum so that it is easily recognizable by prospective students and professionals, creating a stronger brand identity. It will also make it easier for students to access program information and take a more significant role in their progress through the curriculum. After minimal discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Department of Environmental Science Addition of New Concentration – Sustainability

Dr. Steven Sharp stated there is an increasing demand for graduates with a broad understanding of environmental sustainability concepts, as well as local and global sustainability issues and initiatives. This concentration focuses on important sustainability issues related to societal concerns regarding water, climate, food, ethics, etc. This differs in many ways from traditional environmental science concepts, which typically focus more on biological and chemical environmental concerns and how they affect ecosystems and human health. After minimal

discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Department of Environmental Science Name Change of Existing Concentration – Environmental Leadership, Communication & Policy

Dr. Steven Sharp stated The ESS Society, Culture and Communication Concentration currently has three options available: Communication & Media, Leadership & Environmental Management, and Social Science & Policy. Historically, we have had very few students in any given option, students have often moved from one option to another during their time at TTU, and sometimes couldn't recall the option they were in. We are eliminating the choice of options, but keeping the essential elements of each with a new title that reflects the focal areas: Environmental Leadership, Communication and Policy. After minimal discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Such other Matters

There were no such other matters.

Adjournment

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

APPROVAL February 1, 2023

Amy McCoy, Recorder

Documents on file with the minutes:
All documents presented at the meeting