

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY
September 6, 2023

The Academic Council met at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 via Teams videoconferencing technology, with Professor Kimberly Winkle, presiding.

The following members of the council were present:

Dr. Thomas Payne	Dr. Jennifer Mabry
Dr. Kumar Yelamarthi	Dr. Matt Langford
Dr. Jeff Roberts	Ms. Megan Atkinson
Dr. Jennifer Shank	Dr. Troy Smith
Dr. Mike Gotcher	Dr. Linda Null
Dr. Lisa Zagumny	Ms. April Crockett
Dr. Darron Smith	Dr. Brenda Wilson
Dr. Lee Ann Shipley	Dr. Mustafa Rajabali
Dr. Dennis Fennewald	Dr. Krystal Kennedy
Dr. Brian O'Connor	Dr. Lenly Weathers
Dr. Sean Alley	Ms. Claire Myers
Dr. Hyewon Park	Ms. Lindsey Taylor
Dr. Melissa Comer	Mr. Eli Anderson
Dr. Christy Killman	
Dr. Scott Christen	
Dr. Ann Manginelli	

Others present were:

Dr. Sharon Huo	Dr. Kent Dollar
Dr. Bedelia Russell	Dr. Barbara Jared
Dr. Mark Stephens	
Dr. Julie Baker	
Ms. Karen Lykins	

The following members of the council were absent:

Dr. Mark Creter
Dr. Stephen Canfield
Dr. Syed Rafay Hasan
Dr. Christopher Reames
Dr. Amber Spears
Ms. Reece Edwards

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Minutes from the May 10, 2023 Meeting

Whitson-Hester School of Nursing Admission Change: Reference letters for Post-Grad Certificate

Whitson-Hester School of Nursing Fast Track Admission to MSN

Policy 221 Substantive Change (First Reading)

Policy 224 Academic Actions Notification (First Reading)

Policy 225 New Academic Programs (First Reading)

Policy 226 Academic Program Modifications (First Reading)

Policy 227 New Academic Units (First Reading)

Policy 259 General Education (First Reading)

Policy 261 Academic Credit from Other Institutions (First Reading)

Policy 217 Student Academic Misconduct (Informational Item)

Such Other Matters

Adjournment

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes from the May 10, 2023 Meeting

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

Whitson-Hester School of Nursing Admission Change: Reference letters for Post-Grad Certificate

Dr Barbara Jared stated the WHSON failed to request reference letters for those applying to the Post-Graduate Certificates in Nursing. These students hold a previous MSN and clinical practice and we request both academic and professional references to better ascertain preparation for the certificate program. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Whitson-Hester School of Nursing Fast Track Admission to MSN

Dr Barbara Jared stated the WHSON plans to decrease the time of initial application to full admission by decreasing the number of documents required for admission for WHSON graduates with a minimum of 3.2. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Darron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Policy 221 Substantive Change (First Reading)

Dr. Sharon Huo stated a significant modification or expansion of the nature and scope of an accredited institution. Substantive change includes high-impact, high-risk changes, and changes that can impact the quality of educational programs and services.

Policy 224 Academic Actions Notification (First Reading)

Dr. Sharon Huo stated this policy establishes an approval process for submitting required notifications of Tennessee Tech's academic actions to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) in order to maintain the state's Academic Program Inventory (API).

Policy 225 New Academic Programs (First Reading)

Dr. Sharon Huo stated upon determination by THEC that a proposed academic program will be supported for approval by the THEC Commission, the Provost's Office will submit the NAPP to the Board of Trustees for approval. After Board approval, the Provost's office will submit the record of Board approval and a request to THEC Executive Director that the proposed program be placed on the earliest possible Commission agenda for final approval.

Policy 226 Academic Program Modifications (First Reading)

Dr. Sharon Huo stated the Provost's Office will submit the approved APM proposal and a TTU Internal Cover Form with appropriate signatures to THEC for review and approval. The Provost's Office will present the APM to the Tennessee Tech Board of Trustees as an information item.

Policy 227 New Academic Units (First Reading)

Dr. Sharon Huo stated after the Board's approval, the Provost's Office will submit the institutional- and Board-approved request for a new Academic Unit (including all required materials as outlined in the New Academic Units Checklist and an Internal Cover Form) in writing to the THEC Executive Director for review and approval, in accordance with THEC Policy A1.3.

Policy 259 General Education (First Reading)

Dr. Sharon Huo stated TBR community college students who do not complete the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or Associate of Science in Teaching but who, in the discretion of Tennessee Tech, complete a subject category as defined in section III.B above will have satisfied the Tennessee Tech general education requirement for that category.

Policy 261 Academic Credit from Other Institutions (First Reading)

Dr. Sharon Huo stated an applicant or student must submit to Tennessee Tech an official transcript showing all post-secondary coursework taken at any institution of higher education. Failure to submit official transcripts of all previous work, as well as any falsification of the records, may result in the denial / revocation of admission and dismissal of the student.

Policy 217 Student Academic Misconduct (Informational Item)

Dr. Kent Dollar stated any action or attempted action that may result in creating an unfair academic advantage for oneself or an unfair academic advantage or disadvantage for any other member or members of the academic community. This includes a wide variety of behaviors such as cheating, plagiarism, creating unapproved content using generative artificial intelligence (AI), altering academic documents or transcripts, gaining access to materials before they are intended to be available, and helping a friend to gain an unfair academic advantage.

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 4:00 p.m.

Amy McCoy, Recorder

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

APPROVAL October 4, 2023