

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY
November 13, 2024

The Academic Council met at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 via Teams videoconferencing technology, with Professor Kimberly Winkle, presiding.

The following members of the council were present:

Dr. Thomas Payne	Dr. Ann Manginelli
Dr. Kumar Yelamarthi	Dr. Jennifer Mabry
Dr. Jennifer Shank	Dr. Matt Langford
Dr. Mike Gotcher	Ms. Megan Atkinson
Dr. Darron Smith	Dr. Amy Hill
Dr. Lee Ann Shipley	Dr. Linda Null
Dr. Dennis Fennewald	Ms. Ka Grimes
Dr. Mark Creter	Dr. Mustafa Rajabali
Dr. Brian O'Connor	Dr. Krystal Kennedy
Dr. Yi Peng	Mr. Harrison Simpson
Dr. Hyewon Park	Ms. Kathryn Dye
Dr. Melissa Comer	Ms. Kashaina Nucum
Dr. Alfred Kalyanapu	
Dr. Syed Rafay Hasan	
Dr. Kexin Xu	
Professor Joshua Field	
Dr. Scott Christen	

Others present were:

Dr. Julie Baker
Dr. Sharon Huo
Dr. Bedelia Russell
Dr. Colin Hill
Dr. Charmian Leong
Mr. Neal Hunt
Professor Sharon Holderman
Dr. Dennis Tennant
Dr. Hayden Mattingly
Dr. James Baier
Dr. Kent Dollar
Dr. Matt Langford

The following members of the council were absent:

Dr. Daren Snider
Dr. Lisa Zagumny
Dr. Christy Killman
Dr. Brenda Wilson
Dr. Lenly Weathers
Dr. Amber Spears
Ms. Cheyenne Bare

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Approval of the Agenda
Approval of Minutes from the October 9, 2024 meeting
New Policy 791 - Research Security Framework **(Second Reading)**
Addition of two New Concentrations- School of Environmental Studies
Admission Requirement Change- Whitson-Hester School of Nursing
Certificate Change- School of Professional Studies
Add a New Concentration- School of Professional Studies
New Minor, Appalachian Studies- History
New Concentration, B.S. Live Audio Engineering- Music
Concentration Deletion- Agriculture
New Policy 216 – Student Academic Integrity **(Second Reading)**
Such Other Matters
Adjournment

Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Mike Gotcher MOVED approval and Dr. Scott Christen SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes from the October 9, 2024 Meeting

Dr. Mike Gotcher MOVED approval and Dr. Scott Christen SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

New Policy 791 - Research Security Framework (Second Reading)

Dr. Charmian Leong stated Tennessee Tech recognizes that open scientific collaboration between scholars from all over the world is one of the cornerstones of innovation and technological advancement. However, the research community faces a rising threat from foreign governments and entities that seek to exploit and undermine the United States' research and intellectual capital. While Tennessee Tech strongly supports and encourages collaborative research, we also recognize the necessity of having safeguards in place to protect intellectual properties and our research enterprise from undue foreign influences. After much discussion Dr. Mike Gotcher MOVED approval and Dr. Scott Christen SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Addition of two New Concentrations- School of Environmental Studies

Dr. Hayden Mattingly stated we developed the new concentrations as a response to student demand, both in industry and those currently in undergraduate degree programs. The new concentrations have been reviewed and approved in draft form by our PSM Industrial Advisory Board at our most recent board meeting in January 2024. After little discussion Dr. Mike Gotcher MOVED approval and Dr. Scott Christen SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Admission Requirement Change- Whitson-Hester School of Nursing

Dr. Matt Langford stated letters of recommendation can be very difficult to obtain which can delay a student application being reviewed. We are recommending that the three letters of recommendation be removed from the MSN application process and require the students to add three professional references to their CV. After little discussion Dr. Mike Gotcher MOVED approval and Dr. Scott Christen SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Certificate Change- School of Professional Studies

Dr. Dennis Tennant stated the reduction will better meet the needs of the workplace and help TTU recruit and be more competitive. After little discussion Dr. Mike Gotcher MOVED approval and Dr. Scott Christen SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Add a New Concentration- School of Professional Studies

Dr. Dennis Tennant stated the concentration in Integrated Leadership allows students to stack certificates to fulfill the requirements for the Masters of Professional Studies (MPS) degree. This degree will enhance any degree field (Agriculture, Business, Education, Nursing, Criminal Justice, Religious Studies, Business, History, etc.). The demand in the workforce for stackable credentials has continued to grow over the last five years and this degree will answer that demand. After little discussion Dr. Mike Gotcher MOVED approval and Dr. Scott Christen SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

New Minor, Appalachian Studies- History

Dr. Kent Dollar stated students pursuing this minor will develop a broad understanding of the Appalachian geographical and cultural region, particularly Central and Southern Appalachia. While the minor may appeal most to humanities majors, available coursework might also make it attractive to biology, fish and wildlife, and environmental studies majors. After little discussion Dr. Mike Gotcher MOVED approval and Dr. Scott Christen SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

New Concentration, B.S. Live Audio Engineering- Music

Dr. Colin Hill stated the proposed concentration is designed to train audio engineers for careers in the live performance industry—which includes but is not limited to: sound for touring artists, sound for stage and theatrical productions, sound for large houses of worship, sound for large outdoor orchestral and operatic events, sound for the marching arts, and sound for large civic and community events. After little discussion Dr. Mike Gotcher MOVED approval and Dr. Scott Christen SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Concentration Deletion- Agriculture

Dr. James Baier stated terminating the Turfgrass Management concentration is necessary to establish an inclusive and cohesive Horticulture, Landscape, and Turfgrass Management (HL TM) concentration. If approved, the new HL TM concentration will be promoted for incoming students beginning Fall 2025. Students currently in the Turfgrass Management concentration will not be affected by the termination as the effective date is December 15, 2030. After little discussion Dr. Mike Gotcher MOVED approval and Dr. Scott Christen SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

New Policy 216 – Student Academic Integrity (Second Reading)

Dr. Julie Baker requested that Policy 217 Student Academic Misconduct be archived and replaced with the new Policy 216 Student Academic Integrity. Academic integrity is at the foundation of the educational process. Maintaining high standards of academic integrity is critical to the reputation of Tennessee Tech, its students, faculty, alumni, and the employers of Tennessee Tech graduates. All students have the right to due process as described in this policy when suspected of an Academic Integrity Violation.

Friendly Amendment to the proposal of Policy 216, Student Academic Integrity, Article IV, Section Q, Subsection 1.b by striking the current text and replacing to read: The four Student Committee Members are appointed annually by the President of the University, selected from a list of names submitted by the President of the Student Government Association. All Student Committee Members must be from different colleges. If a Student Committee Member is involved in the events leading to the appeal hearing, he/she cannot attend the appeal hearing as a Committee Member.

After much discussion Dr. Mike Gotcher MOVED approval and Dr. Scott Christen SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Such other Matters

There were no such other matters.

Adjournment

Dr. Mike Gotcher MOVED approval and Dr. Scott Christen SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Amy McCoy, Recorder

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