

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY
November 12, 2014

The Academic Council met at 3:35pm on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 in Derryberry Hall Room 200 with Dr. Steve Isbell, Chairperson, presiding.

The following members of the Council were present:

Dr. Bobby Hodum	Dr. Brian O'Connor
Dr. Liz Mullens	Dr. David Larimore
Dr. Ken Wiant	Dr. Jim Raymondo
Dr. Doug Bates	Dr. Janet Isbell
Dr. Elizabeth Propes	Dr. Corinne Darvennes
Dr. Steve Isbell	Dr. Daniel Badoe
Dr. Michael Phillips	Dr. Linda Null
Dr. Doug Talbert	Dr. Wali Kharif
Dr. Tammy Boles	Mr. William Gabelman
Prof. Barbara Jared	Mr. Daniel Williamson
Prof. Susan Piras	Ms. Kaitlin Townsend

Others present were Dr. Steve Frye. The following members were absent:

Dr. Roy Loutzenheiser	Dr. Jordana Navarro
Dr. Paul Semmes	Dr. Ismet Anitsal
Dr. Jennifer Shank	Dr. Martha Howard
Dr. Melissa Geist	Dr. Charles Carnal
Dr. Lee Ann Shipley	Mr. Daniel Tribble
Dr. Janice Branson	

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Approved the agenda

Approved the minutes of the October 15, 2014 meeting

Approved academic calendar policy

Approved honorary degree policy

Approved academic freedom and responsibility policy

Approved academic faculty roles and responsibilities policy

Approved appointment and evaluation of academic deans

Approved appointment and evaluation of chairpersons

Deferred faculty evaluation of university administrators policy to a subcommittee

Approved faculty voluntary separation policy

Approved distance education policy

PROCEEDINGS

Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Darvennes MOVED approval of the agenda and Dr. Kharif SECONDED. The agenda was APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes of the October 15, 2014 Meeting

Dr. Mullens MOVED approval of the minutes and Dr. Darvennes SECONDED. The minutes were APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of Academic Calendar Policy

Dr. Hodum stated that TBR does give the universities flexibility with the academic calendar. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance and direction for the planning of courses and events. Dr. Hodum MOVED approval and Dr. Kharif SECONDED. The policy was APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of Honorary Degrees Policy

Dr. Hodum stated the current practice for some time has been that a committee which is part of the Committee on Commencements, Convocations, and Academic Ceremonies reviews requests for honorary degrees. This is the formal policy. Dr. Hodum MOVED approval and Dr. Talbert SECONDED. The policy was APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of Policy on Academic Freedom and Responsibility

Dr. Propes stated that a subcommittee of Dr. Null, Dr. Janet Isbell, and herself reviewed the policy with the TBR policy and TTU's current online policy in the Faculty Handbook. The noted changes or additions was restoring the "creative activity and research" statement and "freedom in service/outreach" statement. In addition, the AAUP statement was added and the President or his/her designee has the final authority to interpret the terms of the policy. Dr. Propes MOVED approval and Dr. Null SECONDED. The policy was APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of Policies

- a. Academic Faculty Roles and Responsibilities – Dr. Huo stated this policy defines the roles of TTU faculty. Dr. Mullens MOVED approval and Dr. Larimore SECONDED. A friendly amendment was approved in section I. to change the word "segregate" to "allocate" and change "between" to "among." The policy was APPROVED unanimously.
- b. Appointment and Evaluation of Academic Deans – Dr. Huo stated this is a new policy and is similar to UTK and other universities. Dr. Badoe MOVED approval and Dr. Propes SECONDED. After discussion, a friendly amendment was approved to delete the second sentence in section III.A.4, and to change section III.A.3.e. to ...a diverse Committee. The policy was APPROVED unanimously.
- c. Appointment and Evaluation of Chairpersons – Dr. Huo stated this policy is from the Faculty Handbook with a few updates. Dr. Darvennes MOVED approval and Mr. Gabelman SECONDED. The policy was APPROVED unanimously.
- d. Faculty Evaluation of University Administrators – Dr. Huo stated this policy is updated from what is currently in the Faculty Handbook. Dr. Mullens MOVED approval and Dr. Badoe SECONDED. After much discussion, Dr. Darvennes MOVED to appoint a subcommittee to review this policy further and Dr. O'Connor SECONDED. The motion to send to subcommittee was APPROVED unanimously. The subcommittee consists of Dr. Hodum,

Dr. Mullens and Dr. Talbert. They will present the policy at the January 2015 Academic Council meeting.

- e. Faculty Voluntary Separation – Dr. Huo stated this policy was revised from the current HR policy on separation. HR is also updating their policies and the Policy No. in section III.C. will be added at that time. Dr. Talbert MOVED approval and Mr. Gabelman SECONDED. After discussion, a friendly amendment was made to change the following: section III.A. third sentence change “requirements” to “guidelines”; III.B.1. change “shall” to “should”; and III.B.2. & 3. change “but” to “preferably”. The amendment was APPROVED unanimously.
- f. Distance Education – Dr. Huo stated that SACSCOC requires a policy for distance education. An ad hoc committee of faculty and staff from programs and departments that have offer distance education courses developed this policy, as well as Terry Saltsman. Dr. Talbert MOVED approval and Dr. Propes SECONDED. Dr. Frye explained that the ad hoc committee had looked at MTSU and other universities distance education policies. This policy includes online education as well as distance education. The policy was reviewed several times by our legal counsel, Kae Carpenter. A friendly amendment was made to correct the spelling of complements in section III.A.5. and to delete “Tennessee Tech will provide” in section III.D.1.d. The amendment was APPROVED unanimously.

Such Other Matters

There was discussion on what requires University Assembly approval. Dr. Isbell will submit the semester report from the Academic Council to the University Assembly for the November 19 meeting. After the University Assembly approves the reports, information regarding the policies can be shared with the campus.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm

Carol Holley, Recorder

APPROVED JANUARY 28, 2015

Documents on file with the minutes:

All policies presented at the meeting