

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL  
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY  
October 5, 2022

The Academic Council met at 3:35 p.m. on Wednesday, October 5, 2022 via Teams videoconferencing technology, with Professor Kimberly Winkle, Chairperson, presiding.

The following members of the council were present:

|                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Dr. Thomas Payne       | Prof. Drew Sisk              |
| Dr. Kumar Yelamarthi   | Dr. Russell Witcher          |
| Dr. Jeff Roberts       | Dr. Ann Manginelli           |
| Dr. Mike Gotcher       | Dr. Matt Langford            |
| Dr. Lisa Zagumny       | Ms. Stephanie Adams          |
| Dr. Darron Smith       | Dr. Troy Smith               |
| Dr. Lee Ann Shipley    | Dr. Linda Null               |
| Dr. Dennis Fennewald   | Ms. April Crockett           |
| Dr. Troy Brachey       | Dr. Brian O'Connor           |
| Dr. Lori Maxwell       | Dr. Katherine Hermann-Turner |
| Dr. Sean Alley         | Dr. Jennifer Meadows         |
| Dr. Hyewon Park        | Dr. Lenly Weathers           |
| Dr. Melissa Comer      | Dr. Emily Lee                |
| Dr. Syed Rafay Hasan   | Mr. James Rankin             |
| Dr. Christopher Reames | Ms. Mariam Abbas             |

Others present were:

Dr. Sharon Huo  
Dr. Bedelia Russell  
Dr. Barbara Jared  
Dr. Brenda Wilson  
Dr. Andrew Callender

The following members of the council were absent:

Dr. Jennifer Shank  
Dr. Christy Killman  
Dr. Stephen Canfield  
Dr. Amber Spears  
Mr. Jacob Cherry  
Mr. Austin Wattenbarger

## **SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Minutes from the September 7, 2022 Meeting

Approval of Revisions of TTU Policy 211 (Appointment and Evaluation of Chairpersons)

Faculty Development Steering Committee's Proposed Changes

Course Changes in Minor for Event Planning, Promotion, and Management

Department of Communication

Program Admission Policy Revisions

Deletion of GRE for Joint DNP Program

Admissions Requirement Updates: MS Chemistry

Such other Matters

Adjournment

### **Approval of the Agenda**

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

### **Approval of the Minutes from the September 7, 2022 Meeting**

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Mike Gotcher SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Approval of Revisions of TTU Policy 211 (Appointment and Evaluation of Chairpersons)**

Friendly Amendment to include "and lecturers" to Section III, Letter C, Paragraph number 3. Dr. Sharon Huo stated that with the approval of the Provost, a chairperson is appointed by the dean of the corresponding college. In making chairperson appointments, the dean shall strive to appoint individuals who possess those personal attributes necessary to provide a quality of leadership which will earn and hold the respect of those he/she is appointed to serve. After much discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Troy Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Faculty Development Steering Committee's Proposed Changes**

Dr. Bedelia Russell stated that the Faculty Development Steering Committee shall include members of the faculty and administration that are leading advocates of faculty development activities and are appointed by the University President in accordance with approved procedures. After minimal discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Mike Gotcher SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Course Changes in Minor for Event Planning, Promotion, and Management**

#### **Department of Communication**

Dr. Brenda Wilson stated that these additional courses will allow students more variety if they are unable to take a course due to prerequisites. After minimal discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Mike Gotcher SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Program Admission Policy Revisions**

Dr. Barbara Jared stated that there is a need to standardize the graduate school statement regarding the admission requirements for the College of Graduate Studies. The Graduate School will forward the application to the WHSON with the first three references that are posted in the application system. If the applicant asked for more references than the minimum required, the WHSON admissions committee may not be able to see the specific type of references requested in our current policy. The faculty has agreed that it is appropriate for the applicant to choose professional references. After minimal discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Mike Gotcher SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Deletion of GRE for Joint DNP Program**

Dr. Barbara Jared stated that removing the GRE requirement will encourage more applicants without affecting the evaluator's ability to adequately evaluate admission applications. It will simplify admission processes for a faster turnaround and response to the applicant. Asking for three professional references allows applicants to better select those that can speak to their most recent abilities and aligns nursing processes with graduate school processes. After minimal discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Mike Gotcher SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Admissions Requirement Updates: MS Chemistry**

Dr. Andrew Callender stated that we recognize that the cost of the GRE is a significant barrier for many applicants or potential applicants, and we have not found that GRE scores are significantly predictive for student success. We also understand that no other MS/MA program in the College of Arts & Sciences requires the GRE for all applicants, and that even many highly-ranked PhD programs in Chemistry have stopped requiring the GRE. After minimal discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Mike Gotcher SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Such other Matters**

There were no such other matters.

### **Adjournment**

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

APPROVAL November 9, 2022

Amy McCoy, Recorder

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