

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Minutes

May 9, 2024

Present: Leslie Griffin, Tomeka Harbin, Merideth Van Namen, Vicki Bingham, Fawn Ussery, Joi Phillips, Chris Jerguson, Kristen Land, Valarie Morgan, David Hebert, Edwin Craft (left early- not included in vote counts)

Absent: Ellen Green

Guests:

Call to order: A meeting of the Academic Council was held in the Janet Wyatt Conference Room on May 9, 2024. The meeting convened at 8:30 AM with Interim Provost Leslie Griffin presiding.

Agenda item	Comments/Discussion	Action taken	Responsible party
Approval of Agenda:	Motion to approve agenda was made by Dr. Tomeka Harbin and seconded by Kristen Land. All in favor.	Approved	Leslie Griffin
Approval of Minutes:	Motion to approve minutes for Monday, April 29, 2024, was made by Dr. Chris Jerguson and seconded by Dr. Tomeka Harbin. All in Favor.	Approved	Valarie Morgan
Informational Items:			
Provost's Updates:	<p>Dr. Leslie Griffin provided the following updates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The President held a business meeting yesterday, and there will be another today in preparation for the Townhall scheduled for Monday, May 13, 2024 at 2:00 PM. 2. Budget decisions are still being finalized. 3. There will be much groundwork to do over the summer and civil discourse and professional dispositions are encouraged for all. 4. New positions have been posted; the need for an Associate Provost was reiterated; the elimination of the Graduate Dean position (will be bundled with AP position) was discussed; an announcement of one more position, scheduled to be posted shortly, was made. 		Leslie Griffin

Faculty Senate	<p>Dr. Chris Jerguson provided the following updates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Faculty Senate delayed their meeting until Monday, May 13th due to the rescheduling of the Townhall. 2. Items on the next FS meeting agenda include the election of a new secretary (the previous selection, Leslie Mancini, has been laid off), state appropriations (Dr. Craft noted this will amount to a 6.7% increase, but it is not yet known how the funds will be utilized), faculty salary increases, course stacking, and rights and responsibilities of emeritus faculty. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Dr. Griffin encouraged FS to make known the desire to have state appropriations go towards raises if that is the wish of the faculty. b. Dr. Griffin also noted that President Ennis inquired about the difficulty of the portfolio associated with tenure and promotion in a conversation about the lack of faculty candidates going up for full professor. It is possible this could lead to a revision of the tenure system. 3. It was noted that faculty senate would not meet in June/July due to the lack of a quorum, however, Dr. Griffin suggested that curriculum work would be happening, and they may want to reconsider. Dr. Jerguson agreed and noted he has pushed for FS working in the summer in the past unsuccessfully. 		Chris Jerguson
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Old Business:	None.		
New Business: Action Items: Resolution on Senate Officer Pay	<p><u>Resolution on Senate Officer Pay (Second Reading):</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Chris Jerguson made a motion to approve the resolution, which proposes to increase the Faculty Senate President’s pay from its current \$9000/an to \$12,000/an and to add a stipend for the Faculty Senate Secretary of \$2000/an. Second by Dr. Tomeka Harbin. The following discussion ensued: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The President suggested bringing the resolution back in the next budget cycle due to the near finalization of the next fiscal year’s budget. b. Van Namen noted again that this amount was very close to the \$15,000 a year for being chair and this might create inequities. Discussion on the potential to raise chair stipends followed, and it was suggested that this be added to the discussion in the future. Dr. Griffin noted that considerations should be given to differentiating between divisions based on size and number of accredited programs. c. It was again noted that the creation of service categories should still be considered and roles like FS Secretary should be clearly notated as “Tier 1” (top tier) acts of service to the university. Additionally, if certain tiers have pay attached, that should 		Shaun Kelly/Chris Jerguson/Valarie Morgan

	<p>also be noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Dr. Bingham asked if any research had been done on how FS pay was handled at other universities (it has not been explored). e. Shaun has been given a graduate assistant to help him with duties. f. Committees with heavy service commitments were discussed (i.e. UCC, Gen. Ed., Assessment Committee (soon to come)). It was noted that paying secretaries for all these committees would amount to around \$10,000 at the rate currently proposed by FS. Dr. Jerguson noted this was not much compared to the \$90,000 increase in the line for executive compensation. g. Questions were raised about Staff Council and their duties/commitment. This should also be considered. <p>1- approved, 1-nay, 8- abstentions. Motion did not carry.</p> <p><u>25-26 Academic Calendar:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Motion to approve the 25-26 academic calendar was made by Chris Jerguson and seconded by Joi Phillips. The following discussion ensued: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Office of Financial Aid asked that refund dates be removed. Joi Phillips noted that she would be monitoring any issues related to students receiving funds before the last day to add/drop classes. This has caused issues in the past, since students tend to be unable to pay for class additions out of pocket when receiving refunds before their schedules are finalized. b. Dr. Jerguson inquired about the Wed./Thurs. start dates for each semester. It was noted that this changed at the request of Dr. Lovin to allow for time after move-ins for Taking Care of Business Days on Mon./Tues. c. Dr. Bingham inquired about the date of faculty’s return to campus in August for 2024. Dr. Griffin inquired about this with Lisa Giger. The date will be August 16, 2024, with New Faculty Orientation being held on August 19, 2024. Discussion was had about adding this date to the future calendar, but it was decided that a “Roll Out” letter from the Provost’s office with all important dates would be better. <p>10- approved, 0 -nay, 0- abstentions. Motion carried.</p>		
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Announcements:	None.	
Adjourned:	9:28 am	
Next Meeting:	Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 8:30	