

ACADEMIC COUNCIL BOARD

February 25, 2025

Library Tiered Classroom

2:00 p.m.

Minutes

Present: Dr. Scott Tollison, Dr. Kim Whitehead, Dr. Brian Anderson, Hillary Richardson, Matthew Miles, Dr. David Brooking, Dr. Kendall Dunkelberg, Dr. Kristy Alpe, Dr. Josh Dohmen, Shannon Lucius, Dr. Clear Moore, Trish Caston, Jessi Jobe, Nicole Patrick, Dr. Hope Durst

Approval of the January 2025 Minutes – Dr. Brooking motioned to move the minutes as presented. Trish Caston seconded that motion and Academic Council approved the minutes as presented.

Faculty/Staff presenting diplomas at commencement to relatives – Currently, there is no written standard at MUW for faculty/staff presenting diplomas at commencement to relatives. Originally, faculty were allowed to present to a child or spouse. In the last few years, staff have also been allowed to present to a child or spouse. However, there have been requests recently for siblings, nephews, nieces, etc. Shannon Lucius shared information with the Council Board regarding other school's processes within our area. While Delta State University lets faculty/staff present to "immediate family", Mississippi Valley State University rarely allows it, and Alcorn State University does not allow it. There is little consistency nation-wide. Dr. Tollison explained that we receive a request at least once a year, but it is becoming more frequent. The Academic Council Board decided to add a statement on the commencement website that faculty/staff could present diplomas to family. The Board will revisit the topic if it becomes a greater issue.

Adding Unauthorized Use of AI to Academic Integrity Reports – Dr. Tollison asked the Council Board if there were any new thoughts since January's meeting on adding unauthorized use of AI to Academic Integrity Reports. As of right now, there are three different syllabus statements that the faculty choose from, depending on their expectations of AI in the class. Giving faculty more guidance in Maxient, adding more AI information to the Student Handbook, encouraging students to check their syllabi for AI expectations, and editing the syllabus statements (if needed) were all suggestions brought forward by the Council Board. The Academic Council Board decided to leave the process as is for now.

MSMS – Dr. Tollison announced that the Request for Proposal (RFP) for MSMS Expansion is due today (Feb. 25) to the Mississippi Department of Education. The proposal will be uploaded to the MUW website on Wednesday (Feb. 26). Dr. Tollison took time to thank the Academic Council Board for their thoughts and ideas during the process. Dr. Tollison went on to explain the working relationship between MSMS and MUW.

Federal and State Impact – Dr. Tollison discussed HB 1434, HB 1193, SB 2515, the Philadelphia nursing expansion being handled through an appropriations bill, and the ORP bill. Dr. Tollison noted that Capital Day went very well and Charter Day will take place on March 12, 2025. Dr. Tollison also mentioned the U.S. Attorney General’s (US-AG) Memorandum and the Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) from the U.S. Department of Education.

Policy Statements:

- PS# 3504 Undergraduate Research Advisor Committee

The PS# 3504 was reviewed in 2024, Hillary Richardson recommended no changes as the previous Coordinator of Undergraduate Research.

- PS# 3505 Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

The PS# 3505 was recommended to be deactivated by Academic Council and was approved to enter into the 60-day review process. Dr. Alpe motioned and Josh Dohmen seconded the motion.

- PS# 3526 Academic Calendar Committee

The PS# 3526 was approved to enter into the 60-day review process by Academic Council with edits to add Athletics to the end of #1 after Development and Alumni. Dr. Dohmen motioned to enter into the 60-day review and Hillary Richardson seconded the motion.

- PS# 3544 MUW Council of Chairs

The PS# 3544 was approved to enter into the 60-day review process by Academic Council with no edits. Dr. Dunkelberg motioned to enter into the 60-day review and Trish Caston seconded the motion.

Announcements:

- Dr. Tollison announced that MUW is signing a dual enrollment agreement with LCSD and the date for the press conference will be released soon.
- Dr. Tollison confirmed that the search committees for the Director, Kossen Center for Teaching and Learning and the Director, Women's College will begin their process soon.
- Matthew Miles announced the African American Travel Museum that will be set up in The W Room in Hogarth on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, from 11:30am to 4:00pm.
- Dr. Dunkelberg announced that Dr. Drouillard is this year's MUW Humanities Faculty of the Year as awarded by the Mississippi Humanities Council. Dr. Drouillard will present "The Ice Age of Making Babies and (Pro)creating Meaning in the 21st Century" on March 4, 2025, in the Library's GPG Multipurpose Room at 4:00pm.

Adjournment:

Following a motion by Matthew Miles and a second by Dr. Moore, the meeting was adjourned.