

ACADEMIC COUNCIL BOARD

January 27, 2026

Library Tiered Classroom

2:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Dr. Scott Tollison, Dr. Kim Whitehead, Dr. Marty Brock, Dr. Brian Anderson, Kelly Woodford, Dr. Marty Hatton, Dr. Brandy Larmon, Hillary Richardson, Matthew Miles, Dr. David Brooking, Dr. Dee Larson, Dr. Kristy Alpe, Zander Hill, Dr. Jill Drouillard, Dr. Melissa Smith, Dr. Clear Moore, Trish Caston, Jessi Jobe, Nicole Patrick, Erinn Holloway

1. **Approval of the November 2025 Minutes** – Dr. Tollison presented the November minutes for approval. Hillary Richardson motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Kelly Woodford seconded. Academic Council approved the minutes.
2. **Dual Enrollment Update** – Trish Caston gave an update about dual enrollment numbers and progress at the University. The number of dual enrollment students at the W have steadily increased with recruiting and with that increase, they have been working on streamlining the admissions process for these students. They will be adding DeSoto County in the fall further increasing these numbers. In the fall, the number of dually enrolled students stood at 410 students.
3. **Return on Investment for Liberal Arts Universities** – Dr. Whitehead attended the AACU convention during which she copresented “Thinking Consortially: An Overview of a Values Based Collaborative Culture.” The retreat talked on how liberal arts college graduates make more over long periods of time in their career compared their counterparts, how branding is important and AACU also debuted the video it’s members.
4. Policy Statements

In Review

A. PS# 3538 Planning and Institutional Effectiveness (PIE) Council

Dr. Anderson stated that the changes to this policy cleared up the membership language and broadens participation by staff. Dr. Moore made a motion to approve PS# 3538 with no edits. Trish Caston seconded the motion. Academic Council approved PS# 3538 with no edits.

B. PS# XXXX Accessibility Committee

Dr. Moore stated this policy was established with consultation with the previous legal consultant. Training will be made available from a paid consultant. Hillary Richardson made a motion to have a representative from the Library on the committee. Dr. Brock made a motion with the following edit: “one faculty member from each College/School, Library, and..” Dr. Larson seconded the motion. Academic Council approved PS# XXXX Accessibility Committee with the changes to move forward.

C. PS# XXXX Disability Accommodations Appeals and Grievances Committee

Dr. Brooking made a motion to approve PS# XXXX Disability Accommodations Appeals and Grievances Committee with no edits. Matthew Miles seconded the motion. Academic Council approved PS# XXXX Disability Accommodations Appeals with no edits.

5. Adjournment

Following a motion by Dr. Brock and a second by Dr. Larson, the meeting was adjourned.