

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes April 23, 2026

Present: Vicki Bingham, Joe Childs, Leslie Griffin, Kristen Land, Jeffrey Leffler, Heather Miller, Merideth Van Namen, Jon Westfall

Absent: Tammy Prather, Fawn Ussery

Guests: Serge Herzog, Jennifer Knudsen, and David Salino (representing Fawn Ussery)

Call to order: The Academic Council met in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room KWH on April 23, 2026. The meeting convened at 8:30 AM, with Provost Leslie Griffin presiding.

Agenda item	Comments/Discussion	Action taken	Responsible party
Approval of Agenda:	Dr. Griffin began the meeting by asking for a motion to approve the agenda. The motion to approve the agenda was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham which was seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All were in favor.	Approved	Leslie Griffin
Approval of Minutes:	The motion to approve minutes for Thursday, April 9 nd was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham and seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All in favor.	Approved	Leslie Griffin
Discussion Items			

Guest Speaker	<p><u>IREP Director, Dr. Serge Herzog, presented the following:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serge Herzog provided an update on institutional data reporting and analysis initiatives. He began his presentation by introducing a set of Power BI dashboards he developed to monitor current institutional data needs. He noted that these reports are intended for administrative audiences only and are for internal use at this time. Mr. Herzog then reviewed a student persistence report he created analyzing transfer and dropout patterns from Fall 2014 through Spring 2025. He explained that this report is designed to support understanding of longitudinal persistence and attrition trends. He also presented enrollment trend data within the Power BI environment and 		Leslie Griffin
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ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes April 23, 2026

	<p>invited feedback from council members regarding the content and variables included in the reports. During this discussion, he noted that program labeling is currently inconsistent across some reports. He explained that the ownership tree and Banner data are hard-coded, which contributes to labeling inaccuracies, and that work is underway to update these structures to improve accuracy and consistency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Provost requested that council members notify Serge Herzog of any labeling inconsistencies they observe and copy the Provost, Tammy, and Jeff) on those communications. Deans were additionally asked to inform the Provost of any specific program-level issues that are contributing to enrollment delays. • Finally, Mr. Herzog discussed ongoing statistical modeling work using generalized linear models (GLM) to identify significant predictors of student discontinuation. He indicated that the current focus is on new freshmen, with particular attention to economic barriers. He noted that GPA has emerged as the most significant factor in these analyses. He also shared that he is examining peer exposure effects, including class size, as part of this work. 		
Provost's Updates	<p><u>Provost, Dr. Leslie Griffin, provided the following updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provost Griffin shared that the luncheon to honor the University Curriculum Committee and ACUE participants had been scheduled for April 28th. A total of 25 individuals participated in ACUE training this year. • She also shared information regarding the upcoming risk assessment and audit planning meeting that is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6th from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. She went over the components of the risk assessment form and encouraged each unit director to answer the questions to the best of their knowledge. • She also asked everyone to block out Tuesday through Friday of the last week of May for Academic Affairs planning retreat. The group will meet each day from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. with set content to discuss at each meeting time. There will be a potential overflow meeting each day from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. if a topic is not sufficiently covered and decided upon during the scheduled retreat. A total of six strategic areas will be covered during the planning sessions including infrastructure and processes that need attention. 		Leslie Griffin

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes April 23, 2026

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Resources has sent out the staff annual evaluation forms. Each person needs to succinctly describe how they met goals during the previous year and set two to three goals for the next year. Individual conferences will be scheduled. 		
Faculty Senate	<p>Faculty Senate President, Dr. Jon Westfall, provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Jon Westfall reported that election of new officers was held on April 9th. Peter Dean will continue to serve as past president, Ben Yarbrough will serve as secretary, and Jon Westfall had been elected for president-elect. Dr. Westfall is working on putting committees together as well as on chair elections. He has sent an email to faculty and some staff to seek input and engagement with the Faculty Senate. The executive committee will meet in May, but the full Faculty Senate will not meet again until early August. 		Jon Westfall
Action Items: New Business Policies and Forms			
Curriculum/Course Actions	<p><u>Curriculum Action: General Education Curriculum</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Jennifer Knudsen presented revisions to the proposed General Education Curriculum based on feedback from a previous Academic Council meeting. She also shared a four-year rotation planned to update assessments for each of the general education learning outcomes. Discussion included the need to revise the language of GELOs 1, 3, 5, and 6 to provide clarity and effective assessment of outcomes. Dr. Knudsen is to provide Dr. Leffler with a clean document with these revisions. Dr. Griffin indicated that this represents a first round of revisions and that additional work will be conducted over the next year as the Mississippi IHL revises their policies for the general education curriculum. Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of red-lined changes to the undergraduate catalog to revise the General Education Curriculum with the exception of the correct name for the sign language course in the personal development category be edited. Approval of red-lined changes to the undergraduate catalog to revise the General Education Learning Outcomes pending edits to GELOs 1, 	Passed	Jeffrey Leffler

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes April 23, 2026

	<p>3, 5, and 6 as indicated by Academic Council to provide clarity.</p> <p>A motion was made by Dr. Merideth Van Namen to approve the action and was seconded by Kristen Land. All in Favor</p>		
	<p><u>Course Action: CRD 101</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Merideth Van Namen shared a proposal to create a new course: CRD 101 – College Reading and Study Skills. This new course is part of the previously approved recommendations from the Remedial/Intermediate Task force and serves as a course in the second half of the semester for students who will not be able to be successful in one of the courses they are attempting during the term. Students will be able to add this course and drop the course in which they are failing. Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red-lined revisions to the Undergraduate Catalog to create CRD 101. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Jeffrey Leffler to approve the action and was seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All in Favor.</p>	Passed	Jeffrey Leffler
	<p><u>Course Action: CRD 199</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Jeffrey Leffler shared a proposal to create a new course: CRD 199 – Content Area Literacy. This new course is part of the previously approved recommendations from the Remedial/Intermediate Task force and serves as the course that supports students meeting the criteria to require additional support in reading. Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red-lined revisions to the Undergraduate Catalog to create CRD 199. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Meredith Van Namen to approve the action and was seconded by Kristen Land. All in Favor.</p>	Passed	Jeffrey Leffler

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes April 23, 2026

	<p><u>Course Actions: MAT 108 and 109</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Jeffrey Leffler shared a proposal to create two new courses: MAT 108 – College Algebra I and MAT 109 – College Algebra II. These new courses are part of the previously approved recommendations from the Remedial/Intermediate Task force and serve as the support for students meeting the criteria to require additional support in mathematics when their program requires College Algebra. • Discussion included that Dr. Leffler and Tammy Prather will determine the process by which students gain credit for the College Algebra requirement to be reported out in the next Academic Council meeting and for the course description for MAT 104 – College Algebra to include a prerequisite of an ACT score above 17. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined revisions to the Undergraduate Catalog to create MAT 108. ○ Red-lined revisions to the Undergraduate Catalog to create MAT 109. ○ Revisions to the course description for MAT 104 to include a prerequisite of ACT score above 17. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Jeffrey Leffler to approve the action and was seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All in Favor.</p>	Passed	Jeffrey Leffler
	<p><u>Course Actions: MSC Courses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Joe Childs shared a proposal to create eight new courses: MSC 101 – Department of the Air Force Professionalism, MSC 102 – Competition and Security, MSC 201 – Team and Leadership Fundamentals I, MSC 202 – Team and Leadership Fundamentals II, MSC 301 – Leading People and Effective Communication I, MSC 302 – Leading People and Effective Communication II, MSC 401 – National Security, Leadership Responsibilities and Commissioning Preparation, and MSC 402 – National Security, Leadership Responsibilities and Commissioning Preparation . These new courses are necessary for alignment with the syllabi provided by the Department of the Air Force (DAF) for students enrolled in the ROTC cross-town agreement with the University of Mississippi. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined revisions to the Undergraduate Catalog to create MSC 101. ○ Red-lined revisions to the Undergraduate Catalog to create MSC 102. 	Passed	Jeffrey Leffler

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes April 23, 2026

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined revisions to the Undergraduate Catalog to create MSC 201. ○ Red-lined revisions to the Undergraduate Catalog to create MSC 202. ○ Red-lined revisions to the Undergraduate Catalog to create MSC 301. ○ Red-lined revisions to the Undergraduate Catalog to create MSC 302. ○ Red-lined revisions to the Undergraduate Catalog to create MSC 401. ○ Red-lined revisions to the Undergraduate Catalog to create MSC 402. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Joe Childs to approve the action and was seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All in Favor.</p>		
	<p><u>Course Fee Actions: Nursing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Vicki Bingham shared a package of proposals to create, increase, decrease, or delete course fees for 20 nursing courses. Rationale included such things as no longer needing software, students being required to carry their own malpractice insurance, decrease in charge for Basic Life Support (BLS) training, adding fees for fingerprinting/criminal background check, technology fees for maintenance of simulators, moving fees from one course to another, TYPON NSST software access, EHR GO software for electronic documentation, lab supplies, clinical placement software, HESI testing package, and required substance abuse screening. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decrease the course fee for NUR 307 to \$215.00 per semester. ○ Decrease the course fee for NUR 312 to \$240.00 per semester. ○ Decrease the course fee for NUR 332 to \$490.00 per semester. ○ Decrease the course fee for NUR 336 to \$245.00 per semester. ○ Decrease the course fee for NUR 442 to \$130.00 per semester. ○ Decrease the course fee for NUR 443 to \$153.00 per semester. ○ Decrease the course fee for NUR 402 to \$180.00 per semester. ○ Increase the course fee for NUR 358 RN-BSN to \$143.00 per semester. ○ Increase the course fee for NUR 602 to \$452.00 per semester. ○ Delete the course fee for NUR 606. ○ Increase the course fee for NUR 620 to \$258.00 per semester. ○ Create a new course fee for NUR 641 in the amount of \$238.00 per semester. 	Passed	Jeffrey Leffler

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes April 23, 2026

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Create a new course fee for NUR 628 in the amount of \$5.00 per semester. ○ Increase the course fee for NUR 801 to \$173.00 per semester. ○ Decrease the course fee for NUR 822 to \$10.00 per semester. ○ Create a new course fee for NUR 318 LPN-BSN in the amount of \$115.00 per semester. ○ Create a new course fee for NUR 322 LPN-BSN in the amount of \$473.00 per semester. ○ Create a new course fee for NUR 312 LPN-BSN in the amount of \$240.00 per semester. ○ Create a new course fee for NUR 304 LPN-BSN in the amount of \$160.00 per semester. ○ Create a new course fee for NUR 320 LPN-BSN in the amount of \$70.00 per semester. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham to approve the action and was seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All in Favor.</p>		
	<p><u>Course Fee Actions: Counselor Education</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Vicki Bingham shared a package of proposals to create new course fees for four counselor education courses. Rationale included a subscription to Supervision Assist software for CED 630 and adding two CPCE pre-assessments with the associated costs spread over CED 609, 610, and 619. ● Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Create a new course fee for CED 630 in the amount of \$197.00 per semester. ○ Create a new course fee for CED 609 in the amount of \$25.00 per semester. ○ Create a new course fee for CED 610 in the amount of \$25.00 per semester. ○ Create a new course fee for CED 619 in the amount of \$25.00 per semester. 	Passed	Jeffrey Leffler

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes April 23, 2026

	A motion was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham to approve the action and was seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All in Favor.		
	<p><u>Course Fee Actions: Sport and Movement Sciences (formerly HPER)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Vicki Bingham shared a package of proposals to create, increase, decrease, or delete course fees for nine Sport and Movement Sciences courses. Rationale included reduced need for travel funds, reduced fees related to CPR training, the need to cover fees related to the American Red Cross Lifeguard certification, the purchase of equipment needed for instruction, and changes in the applied nature of courses. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decrease the course fee for PER 499 to \$25.00 per semester. ○ Decrease the course fee for PER 244 to \$20.00 per semester. ○ Create a new course fee for PER 175 in the amount of \$50.00 per semester. ○ Increase the course fee for PER 314 to \$20.00 per semester. ○ Decrease the course fee for PER 315 to \$20.00 per semester. ○ Delete the course fee for PER 360. ○ Create a new course fee for PER 382 in the amount of \$20.00 per semester. ○ Decrease the course fee for PER 464 to \$15.00 per semester. ○ Delete the course fee for PER 475. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham to approve the action and was seconded by Dr. Joe Childs. All in Favor.</p>	Passed	Jeffrey Leffler
Policy Actions:	<u>None</u>		Jeffrey Leffler

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes April 23, 2026

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Meredith Van Namen asked about the syllabus assignment that had been added to the Canvas templates. She indicated that some faculty do their own syllabus assignment and needed some additional guidance and communication as to the rationale for the new assignment in the template. Dr. Griffin asked Drs. Westfall, Van Namen, Childs, and Kristen Land to work together on recommendations for a communications plan. Dr. Van Namen also asked about upcoming deadlines for new ADA Compliance regulations. Dr. Leffler shared that due to our size, we had another year to work on compliance and that we are considering how to manage such things as the Academic Calendar and Catalogs. Dr. Griffin indicated that this topic would be added to the upcoming Academic Affairs retreat. 		Leslie Griffin
Announcements:	Final Exams May 4-7, 2026 Graduate Commencement May 7, 2026 4:00 PM, Bologna Performing Arts Center COBA Commencement May 8, 2026 9:00 AM, Bologna Performing Arts Center CEAH Commencement May 8, 2026 11:00 AM, Bologna Performing Arts Center CNHS Commencement May 8, 2026 2:00 PM, Bologna Performing Arts Center Final Grades Due May 11, 2026 Noon		
Adjourned:	11:47 a.m.		
Next Meeting:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next Meeting Date: Thursday, May 7, 2026, 8:30 am in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room Upcoming Meeting Date: Thursday, May 21, 2026, 8:30 am in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room 		