

ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes June 04, 2026

Present: Vicki Bingham, Joe Childs, Leslie Griffin, Kristen Land, Jeffrey Leffler, Heather Miller, Merideth Van Namen, Jon Westfall, Tammy Prather, Fawn Ussery
Absent: None

Guests: None

Call to order: The Academic Council met in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room KWH on June 4, 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. Jon Westfall 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 23 rd was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham and seconded by Fawn Ussery. All in favor. The motion to approve minutes for Wednesday, May 6 th was made by Dr. Vicki Bingham and seconded by Dr. Merideth Van Namen. All in favor.	Approved	Leslie Griffin
Discussion Items			

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 Mrs. Betty Jones is retiring on June 30th and Mrs. Amber Hays is currently training to take on her role. Deans and chairs will be notified of appropriate task contacts once responsibilities are finalized between Mrs. Hays and Mrs. Kendra Whitehead. She also shared information regarding the CAO meeting that took place on May 20th at Alcorn University. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS ChatGPT Dashboard Title II Compliance 		Leslie Griffin
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Universal Learning compliance in Canvas - Who can provide guidance to ensure compliance? o AI Innovation Hub: Powering the Future with ITS, AWS, and MAIN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What departments might be interested in this information? o Financial Literacy Survey designed by the University of Mississippi o 90-hour Baccalaureate Degree <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What would be optimal? - Requested attendees to provide feedback before Friday's meeting. o AA degrees for stop-outs who did not attend community colleges o IHL Policy changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 517, page 89 of IHL Board of Trustees Policies & Bylaws - 521, page 94 of IHL Board of Trustees Policies & Bylaws • President's Cabinet Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The budget for FY 27 has been approved. 		
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 efforts are underway to update course evaluations to enhance their value and effectiveness • AI Syllabus guidance • Canvas data resilience • Kent AI Robot concerns 		Jon Westfall
Action Items: New Business Policies and Forms			
Curriculum/Course Actions	<u>None</u>		

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Policy Actions:	<p><u>Policy Action: 2026-2027 Academic Calendar Revisions (First Reading)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Jeffrey Leffler shared a proposed revision to the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar. • There was discussion of forming a task force around procedures that are necessary. <p>Dr. Leffler made the motion to accept revisions to the 2026-27 calendar to include the addition of progress grades, to include the full summer term, and parts of term for each term. Fawn Ussery seconded the motion. All in favor.</p>	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>
	<p><u>Policy Action: 2027-2028 Academic Calendar Revisions (First Reading)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Jeffrey Leffler made the motion to accept revisions to the 2027-2028 Academic Calendar. • There was discussion about when the registration date needed to be, which led to tabling this motion until more information could be gathered from other departments. <p>Tabled</p>	<p>Tabled</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>
	<p><u>Policy Action: 2026-2027 Undergraduate Catalog (First Reading)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Jeffrey Leffler proposed the 2026-2027 Undergraduate Catalog for first reading. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Jeffrey Leffler to approve the 2026-2027 Undergraduate Catalog for first reading. Tammy Prather seconded the motion. All in favor.</p>	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>
	<p><u>Policy Action: 2026-2027 Graduate Catalog (First Reading)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Jeffrey Leffler proposed the 2026-2027 Graduate Catalog for first reading. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Jeffrey Leffler to approve the 2026-2027 Graduate Catalog for first reading. Dr. Merideth Van Namen seconded the motion. All in favor.</p>	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Jeffrey Leffler</p>
	<p><u>Policy Action: International Students (First Reading)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Kristen Land shared a proposed revision to the International Students policy. • Proposed actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red-lined changes to the policy for students to receive support from the International Student Services. 	<p>Passed</p>	<p>Kristen Land</p>

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	A motion was made by Kristen Land to approve the action and was seconded by Dr. Meredith Van Namen. All in Favor.		
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provost Griffin initiated the discussion of the IHL Appendix 12 for Colleges of Business and Aviation explaining that Aviation will become its own College as early as Fall 2026 with Dr. Joe Childs serving as the Dean. She further explained that the search for the College of Business Dean cannot begin until this segmentation occurs. This action is taking place due to the current and projected growth of the program and so the deans have availability to provide support effectively. Tammy Prather explained that this action will cause a change of codes for the students that are currently under the College of Business and Aviation. <p>A motion was made by Dr. Joe Childs to approve the action and was seconded by Dr. Meredith Van Namen. All in Favor.</p>	Passed	Leslie Griffin
Announcements:	<u>None</u>		
Adjourned:	11:08 a.m.		
Next Meeting:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Meeting Date: Thursday, June 11, 2026, 8:30 am in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room 		