

# ACADEMIC COUNCIL Minutes June 11, 2026

**Present:** Joe Childs, Leslie Griffin, Kristen Land, Jeffrey Leffler, Heather Miller, Merideth Van Namen, Jon Westfall, Tammy Prather, Fawn Ussery

**Absent:** Vicki Bingham

**Guests:** Kevin Entrekin

**Call to order:** The Academic Council met in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room KWH on June 11, 2026. The meeting convened at 8:34 AM, with Provost Leslie Griffin presiding.

| Agenda item                 | Comments/Discussion                                                                                                                                                                              | Action taken    | Responsible party     |
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| <b>Approval of Agenda:</b>  | 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 Kristen Land. All were in favor. | <b>Approved</b> | <b>Leslie Griffin</b> |
| <b>Approval of Minutes:</b> | The motion to approve minutes for Thursday, June 4 <sup>th</sup> was made by Dr. Jeffrey Leffler and seconded by Fawn Ussery. All in favor.                                                      | <b>Approved</b> | <b>Leslie Griffin</b> |
| <b>Discussion Items</b>     |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                 |                       |

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| <b>Provost's Updates</b> | <p><b><u>Provost, Dr. Leslie Griffin, provided the following updates:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provost Griffin shared that Ms. Haley Murrell is now in charge of scheduling. She is to be emailed only. Her email address is <a href="mailto:hbmurrell@deltastate.edu">hbmurrell@deltastate.edu</a>.</li> <li>• She asked if there was any feedback on the June 2026 Academic Affairs Updates sent on Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. There was no feedback provided.</li> <li>• Provost Griffin expressed that the scheduled Chairs Training is taking shape and thanked those who have contributed.</li> </ul> |  | <b>Leslie Griffin</b> |
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| Faculty Senate                                               | <p><b>Faculty Senate President, Dr. Jon Westfall, provided the following update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Jon Westfall reported that Faculty Senate will review the Academic Freedom policy in their meeting in August.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                  |               | <b>Jon Westfall</b>    |
| <b>Action Items:<br/>New Business<br/>Policies and Forms</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |               |                        |
| <b>Curriculum/Course<br/>Actions</b>                         | <u>None</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |               |                        |
| <b>Policy Actions:</b>                                       | <p><b><u>Policy Action: 2027-2028 Academic Calendar (First Reading)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Jeffrey Leffler shared a proposed 2027-2028 Academic calendar.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |               | <b>Jeffrey Leffler</b> |
|                                                              | <p><b><u>Policy Action: 2026-2027 Academic Offerings Policy (First Reading)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Jeffrey Leffler proposed the revisions to the Academic Offerings Policy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Dr. Leffler made the motion to approve the 2026-27 calendar in a package with the amendments of the Academic Offerings policy. Dr. Merideth Van Namen seconded the motion. All in favor.</b></p> |               | <b>Jeffrey Leffler</b> |
|                                                              | <p><b><u>Policy Action: 2026-2027 Undergraduate Catalog (Second Reading)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Jeffrey Leffler proposed the 2026-2027 Undergraduate Catalog for second reading.</li> </ul> <p><b>A motion was made by Dr. Jeffrey Leffler to approve the 2026-2027 Undergraduate Catalog for second reading. Dr. Merideth Van Namen seconded the motion. All in</b></p>                      | <b>Passed</b> | <b>Jeffrey Leffler</b> |

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|                       | favor.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |               |                        |
|                       | <p><b><u>Policy Action: 2026-2027 Graduate Catalog (Second Reading)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Jeffrey Leffler proposed the 2026-2027 Graduate Catalog for second reading.</li> </ul> <p><b>A motion was made by Dr. Jeffrey Leffler to approve the 2026-2027 Graduate Catalog for second reading. Dr. Joe Childs seconded the motion. All in favor.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Passed</b> | <b>Jeffrey Leffler</b> |
| <b>Discussion</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Faculty Handbook sections titled, “Organization &amp; Governance” and “Faculty Classification &amp; Appointment Types,” and “Hiring, Orientation, &amp; Onboarding” was led by Dr. Jeffrey Leffler and Tammy Prather. It was explained that subjective language was removed and is guided by the Tenure Policy. There was also discussion of the need for an “off boarding,” process, but Dr. Leslie Griffin explained that is a Human Resources governed function.</li> <li>The Faculty Handbook sections titled, “Advising, Mentorship, &amp; Student Engagement/Campus Participation” was led by Kristen Land and Kevin Entrekin. Confirmation was needed that faculty will receive training in advising. Kevin Entrekin shared that training will be done. After more discussion of the matter, Dr. Leslie Griffin mentioned that not all training is formal.</li> <li>The Faculty Handbook section titled, “Teaching Responsibilities &amp; Workload Expectations/Academic Freedom &amp; Professional Ethics” was led by Dr. Jeffrey Leffler.</li> </ul> |               | <b>Leslie Griffin</b>  |
| <b>Announcements:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair Training   June 16, 2026</li> <li>Summer I Final Exams   June 24, 2026</li> <li>Summer II Term Begins   June 30, 2026</li> <li>Independence Day Holiday   July 2, 2026 (noon) to July 3, 2026</li> <li>Deadline: Lock FLAC Records   July 9, 2026</li> <li>Deadline: Faculty to acknowledge FLAC Records   July 12, 2026</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |               |                        |
| <b>Adjourned:</b>     | 10:56 a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |               |                        |
| <b>Next Meeting:</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Next Meeting Date: Thursday, July 16, 2026, 8:30 am in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |               |                        |

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