

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL  
TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY  
January 26, 2005

The Academic Council met at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 26, 2005, in the Deans' Conference Room of Derryberry Hall with Dr. Jeff Roberts, Chairperson, presiding.

The following members of the Council were present:

Dr. Don Elkins	Dr. Christine Miller
Dr. Jack Armistead	Dr. Jann Cupp
Dr. Darrell Garber	Dr. David Larimore
Dr. Robert Niebuhr	Dr. P.K. Rajan
Dr. Winston Walden	Prof. Darlene Franklin
Prof. Rebecca Tolbert	Prof. Delane Stewart
Dr. Roy Loutzenheiser	Dr. Chris Brown
Mr. Matt Levi	Dr. Tony Baker
Dr. David Narrie	Dr. Linda Null
Dr. Cathy Cunningham	Dr. Jeff Roberts
Dr. Sharon Whitney	Dr. Brian O=Connor
Dr. Mark Stephens	Dr. Corinne Darvennes

Ms. Yvonne Gribble, Dr. Francis Otuonye, and Mr. Charles Wilkersonr4.29>>BDC -0.005 Tc 0.005 Tw

- 2 A. p p r o v e d t h e m i n u
3. Denied approval of the recommendation from the committee studying disruptive classroom behavior.
  4. Approved an option for alternate MW, MF, and WF class schedules.
  5. Approved clarification of the 30-day limit in the Grade Appeals Policy.
  6. Approved a new admissions policy for international students.

## PROCEEDINGS

### Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Narrie MOVED approval of the agenda, Dr. Miller SECONDED the motion, and the agenda was APPROVED as distributed.

### Approval of the Minutes of the November 10 Meeting

Dr. Narrie MOVED approval of the minutes of the November 10 meeting, and Dr. Larimore SECONDED the motion. The minutes were APPROVED as posted on the web.

### Report from Committee on Disruptive Classroom Behavior

Dr. Whitney presented the report from the committee charged with defining disruptive classroom behavior. The committee proposed and Dr. Whitney MOVED to approve the following:

That a policy statement be placed in the *Faculty Handbook* and *Student Handbook* to the effect that the teacher has the responsibility for maintaining a suitable classroom learning environment. Whereas academic freedom is a public policy of the university as a whole, the Academic Council hereby authorizes the teacher to include in his/her course syllabus rules of demeanor and measures for enforcing those rules.

Dr. O'Connor SECONDED the motion. The report was discussed at length, and it was pointed out that the Academic Council states the minimum standards to be included in the syllabus, but the faculty member may add additional statements. The consensus of the group was that this statement does not change anything and is really not needed. Also, the Council agreed that the faculty member is the one best able to define what is considered disruptive behavior in the classroom, and the definition can be included in the syllabus if the instructor chooses. TBR does not have an official definition, but the Dean of Students Office has a definition that faculty may find helpful. With only 8 affirmative votes, the proposed statement FAILED to pass. Dr. Roberts said that this issue should have more study and perhaps the Faculty Senate should look at it. He thanked the committee for their work in researching this issue.

### Report from Committee Studying an Option for Alternate Monday/Wednesday/Friday Class Scheduling

9:30, 11:30, and 1:30 would not be used for General Education courses but would be primarily for courses comprised of department majors. The Council discussed ramifications of using this schedule and the benefits that might accrue to both students and faculty.

Dr. Stephens MOVED to accept the committee report to allow for departments to experiment with alternate 80-

