



Academic Affairs Committee Minutes

October 20, 2023

McCandless Hall Conference Room 300

Present: Bill Dunnivant, Russ Johnson, Bridgette Walker, Steve Wang, Derek Newland, Morgan Stanford, Lee Vartanian, Katie Holm, Troy Adair, Dave Ragsdale, Molly Myhan (Recorder)

Absent: Cathy Dickens, Toni Bailey, Christi Blaylock

Guests: Dave Ragsdale, Katie Holm, Katia Maxwell, Pamela Sue Keller, Mark Reynolds, Felicia Mucci, Darlene Turner-White, Jaylen Wiggins, Patsy Glaze, Leigh Hester, Lynsi Bragwell

- I. Meeting called to order by Mr. Dunnivant: 1:14 p.m.
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes (October 20, 2023)
 - Motion to approve: Lee Vartanian
 - Second: Derek Newland
 - All approved with recommended change of: Spelling correction on page 2 “Adult” Degree Program
- IV. New Business
 - Introduction of Committee Members
 - New Faculty at Athens State
Dr. Vartanian announced the new faculty, who hired to fill vacancies among the three colleges.
- V. Program Approval: Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre (Dave Ragsdale)
 - Program alteration only – more appropriate than Bachelor of Science in Drama
 - Will not change credit
 - Cost neutral – no additional faculty or resources
 - 4 concentrations
 - Musical Theatre
 - Performance
 - Production Design & Technology
 - Theatre Education (teacher prep) – currently only available at Troy

VI. College Overviews

- The Deans shared highlights of their respective colleges.
- The Committee will plan to hold a meeting at the ACA in the future.

VII. Program Spotlight: AthensTEACH Program (Leigh Hester)

- Provides a path to obtaining a secondary (grades 6-12) teacher certification while earning your STEM bachelor's degree
- Recruitment and retention scholarships
- Alabama STEM teacher salaries are now competitive with other industries.
- Athens State University is scheduled to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Calhoun Community College on November 13, 2023 at Calhoun.

VIII. Signed MOUs

- [PLA Agreement](#) with Wallace State (Felicia Mucci)
Allows students to retain prior learning assessment (PLA) credit when they transfer to ASU, after completing their Associate's degree.
- [Fast-Track BSN Agreement](#) with Drake State (Mark Reynolds)
Allows students to receive their Associates degree in Nursing (AND) and Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree simultaneously.

IX. Adjourn (Chairperson): 2:09 pm