

## Academic Affairs Committee - June 2026 Transcript

(00:05):

Dr. Carol Clark: Trustee Gibson is absent. Trustee Jenkins. Here. Trustee Martin is absent. Trustee May? Here. Trustee Mealer is absent. Trustee O'Malley. Here. Trustee Rainey? Here.

Trustee May: Thank you, secretary.

(00:26):

Trustee May: We have a quorum, and I'll call the meeting to order. Trustees, please remember that only Academic Affairs committee members should participate in discussions on agenda items. The minutes for the April 10th, 2026 Academic Affairs Committee meeting were circulated in advance. Are there any corrections or additions to the minutes?

Trustee Jenkins: Motion to approve.

Trustee Rainey: Second.

Trustee May: Its been moved and seconded. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye. Any opposed? Seeing none, the minutes are approved. Your meeting materials include proposal to form an honors college. I recognize Dr. Mitch Cordova, provost, and vice president for Academic Affairs to present further information.

(01:12):

Dr. Mitch Cordova: Thank you, Trustee May. I'm very excited to share this proposal for you all today. The creation of an honors college represents an important step forward for Austin Peay. It allows us to build a strong foundation of our existing honors program while creating a more visible, intentional, and academically distinctive structure that will help us track retaining and support more high achieving students. The proposed structure will further elevate academic excellence, expand high impact practices, and position Austin Peay more competitively among our peer and aspirin institutions. The proposal also addresses the dissolution of a university college. This transition is intended to better optimize our current student success functions and better align our degree granting academic programs with instructors that more effectively support their mission, visibility, and long-term growth. By doing so, we can strengthen the academic home for existing programs while also creating more focus and coordinate approach to student success and academic excellence. (02:13): The proposal before you today was first drafted using a significant portion of her proposal submitted to me by the Honors Program record and portions of her proposal submitted to me by the Dean of the University College at my request. I also use my own due diligence to create the first draft. Following the creation of

the first version of the proposal, the proposal is further developed by going through the steps outlined in APSU Policy 2.009 academic reorganization. Through this process, we have worked to ensure appropriate consultation, review, and consideration of the academic, organizational and student success implications associated with this proposed change. I want to express my sincere appreciation to many individuals and groups who have provided thoughtful feedback throughout this process, including faculty senate executive committee, full faculty senate, dean's council, provost council, university curriculum committee, student government, and members of the campus community who submitted public comments. (03:11): Feedback was incredibly valuable. All the feedback is carefully reviewed and used to update, refine, and strengthen the final proposal that is before you. The final version is stronger because of the engagement, the questions, suggestions, the perspectives offered by faculty, staff, students and our campus leaders. So that, thank you for the opportunity to present and I'd be glad to answer any questions you may have.

(03:38):

Trustee May: Thank you, Dr. Cordova. Do I hear a motion to approve the proposed to form an Honors College?

(03:44):

Trustee Jenkins: Motions.

(03:46):

Trustee May: Is there a second?

Trustee Rainey: Second.

Trustee May: It is moved and seconded to approve the proposal to form an Honors College. Dr. Cordova will answer any questions that you may have. Hearing none, all those in favor, please signify by saying aye. Aye. Any opposed? Thank you. The motion carries. Your meeting materials included a proposal to form a new department of aviation science within the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. I recognize Dr. Cordova to provide further information.

(04:24):

Dr. Mitch Cordova: Thank you, Trustee May. Similar to the previous item, this reorganizational proposal is the result of growth and excellence in an existing unit that is now poised to stand on its own. Our aviation science program has prepared dozens of helicopter pilots over the past few years, many of whom have flown into our commencement ceremonies at the Dunn Center, which is a site as strongly energy to see if we haven't done so already. Now, the aviation science program is on cusp of obtaining accreditation of the Aviation Accreditation Board International, otherwise known as Abbi, and is prepared to stand on its own outside of the Department of

Engineering Technology where it's operated since its inception. This change will optimize the reporting structures and give the program the ability to advocate for itself like any other academic department on campus currently does. I am excited to see what is next for the faculty and staff in the program and the scores of students who will be learning the fly in one of our gov branded helicopters. (05:21): Again, thank you for your time and I'd be happy to address any questions you have.

(05:26):

Trustee May: Thank you, Dr. Cordova. Do I hear a motion to approve the proposal for a new Department of Aviation Science?

Trustee Rainey: So moved.

Trustee Jenkins: Second. Second.

Trustee May: It is moved and seconded to approve the proposal to form a new department of aviation science. Dr. Cordova will answer any questions that you have.

(05:46):

Trustee O'Malley: How many helicopters do we have now?

(05:49):

Dr. Mitch Cordova: Seven.

(05:50):

Trustee O'Malley: Seven, wow. \*inaudible\*

(06:00):

Trustee May: It's moved and second to proceed. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye. Aye. Any opposed? Seeing none, the motion carries. Your meeting materials included proposed revisions to APSU policy 1.025 on academic tenure. I recognize Dr. Cordova to provide further information.

(06:26):

Dr. Mitch Cordova: Thank you, Dr. May. In response to House Bill 2194, which was signed by Governor Lee, it goes into effect on July 1st. We bring before you proposed revisions to APSU policy 1.025, which is our policy on academic tenure. The revisions we recommend will bring our procedures in line with what is required by the new state law. Additionally, these changes coincide with the updates we have already made to APSU policy 5.029, which now covers disciplinary procedures for all APSU employees, faculty, and staff. Previously, our policy only addressed staff. Moreover, these changes also coincide with the revisions we have made to

APSU policy 2.066, which specifically addresses faculty, discipline, and performance improvement. I'll be happy to address any questions you have about these revisions and I also want to know, I want to thank Vice President Whiteside and the Office of Legal Affairs for taking the lead on these revisions. (07:22): It's very helpful. Thank you for that.

Trustee May: Thank you, Dr. Cordova. Do I hear a motion to approve the proposed revisions to APSU policy 1:025?

Trustee Rainey: So moved.

Trustee Jenkins: Second. Second.

Trustee May: Thank you. It's moved and seconded to approve revisions to APSU policy 1:025. Dr. Cordova will answer any questions that you may have. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye. Aye. Any opposed? Seeing none, the motion carries. Your meeting materials also included proposed revisions to APSU policy 1:027, general education requirements and degree requirements. I recognize Dr. Cordova to provide further information.

Dr. Mitch Cordova: Thanks again, Trustee May. The revisions before you today for our general education and degree requirements policy are minimal and primarily update various titles and nomenclature for areas such as our world languages program. Again, very, very small changes made to this policy. If you have any questions, I do certainly like to answer.

Trustee May: Thank you, Dr. Cordova. Do I hear a motion to approve the proposed revisions to APSU Policy 1:027?

Trustee Jenkins: Motion.

Trustee May: Then second?

Trustee Rainey: Second.

Trustee May: Is moved and seconded to approve revisions to APSU policy 1:027. Dr. Cordova will answer any questions that you may have. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye. Aye. Any opposed? Seeing none, the motion carries. This concludes our agenda and I moved as a meeting adjourned. Is there a second?

(09:14):

Committee Jenkins: Second.

(09:16):

Trustee May: Move to second, meeting adjourned. All those in favor, say aye. Opposed? Seeing the ayes have it, the meeting is adjourned.