

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY
February 11, 2026

The Academic Council met at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, via Teams videoconferencing technology, with Professor Kimberly Winkle, presiding.

The following members of the council were present:

Dr. Thomas Payne	Dr. Stacey Browning
Dr. Allen MacKenzie	Ms. Megan Atkinson
Dr. Jennifer Shank	Dr. Amy Hill
Dr. Daren Snider	Dr. Linda Null
Dr. Mike Gotcher	Dr. Ka Grimes
Dr. Lisa Zagumny	Dr. Mustafa Rajabali
Dr. Daron Smith	Dr. Krystal Kennedy
Dr. Brian Carver	Dr. Amber Spears
Dr. Brian O'Connor	Dr. Krystal Kennedy
Dr. Melissa Comer	Mr. Jimmy Guadalupe
Dr. Christy Killman	Ms. Presley Elliott
Dr. Alfred Kalyanapu	
Dr. Syed Rafay Hasan	
Dr. Scott Christen	
Dr. Ann Manginelli	
Dr. Jennifer Mabry	

Others present were:

Dr. John Liu
Dr. Julie Baker
Dr. Bedelia Russell
Dr. Sharon Huo
Dr. Karen Wright
Dr. Jeremy Wendt
Dr. William Eberle

The following members of the council were absent:

Dr. Jennifer Shank	Dr. Brenda Wilson
Dr. Lee Ann Shipley	Dr. Michael Olsen
Dr. Jim Baier	
Dr. Yi Peng	
Dr. Hyewon Park	
Dr. Kexin Xu	
Dr. Joshua Field	

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of Minutes of December 3, 2025, meeting

Approval of Policy 272-Graduate Studies Executive Committee

Approval of Policy 283-General Graduate Transfer Credit Requirements

Approval of Policy 282-Graduate Faculty Appointment & Responsibilities Policy

Curriculum and Instruction - Program Deletions

Policy 219- Emeriti Faculty (First Reading)

Financial or Digital Literacy Change Stationery

Policy 259- General Education- (First Reading)

Computer Science Removal of GRE

Curriculum & Instruction Certificate Name Change

Curriculum & Instruction Elevate EdS ABA

Curriculum & Instruction Elevate MA ABA

Curriculum & Instruction Elevate PhD ABA

Other Such Matters

Adjournment

Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Daron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes of December 3, 2025, Meeting

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Daron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED.

Approval of Policy 272-Graduate Studies Executive Committee

Dr. Julie Baker stated attached is Policy 272 with revisions that were reviewed by several members of the GSEC. Full committee review and approval is requested. In addition, working procedures of the committee are revised and submitted for review and approval. After little discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Daron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of Policy 283-General Graduate Transfer Credit Requirements

Dr. Julie Baker stated attached is Policy 283 (with revisions) that was reviewed by several members of the GSEC. Full committee review and approval is requested. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Daron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of Policy 282-Graduate Faculty Appointment & Responsibilities Policy

Dr. Julie Baker stated a committee of GSEC members met via Teams during the 2024-2025 academic year to review Policy 282 Graduate Faculty Appointment and Responsibilities. Revisions to the current policy are recommended and are provided to the GSEC for review and approval. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Daron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Curriculum and Instruction - Program Deletions

Dr. Jeremy Went stated the undergraduate programs under these concentrations are being discontinued as the College of Education and Human Sciences Office of Teacher Education is no longer recommending licensure, making them no longer needed or sustainable. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Daron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Policy 219- Emeriti Faculty (First Reading)

Dr. Lisa Zagumny stated the retiring or retired faculty member must request Emeritus status in writing to the departmental chair/director and copy the dean. To be eligible for Emeritus status, the retiring or retired faculty member's departmental chair/director, dean and Provost must recommend the faculty member for Emeritus status in writing to the President. No Vote.

Financial or Digital Literacy Change Stationery

Dr. Linda Null stated some faculty and students interpreted the "and" in the category title to mean that the curriculum required courses in both categories, financial literacy and digital literacy. The change in the category name is to clarify that courses may be taken in either. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Daron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Policy 259- General Education- (First Reading)

Dr. Linda Null stated A total of 41 semester hours, consisting of approved general education courses in the following subject categories, are required for completion of all Tennessee Tech baccalaureate degrees. Of the 41 semester hours, 37 are designated and 4 are flexible. No Vote.

Computer Science Removal of GRE

Dr. William Eberle stated this change aligns with national trends, improves accessibility for all applicants, and removes a barrier that may deter strong candidates. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Daron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Curriculum & Instruction Certificate Name Change

Dr. Jeremy Wendt stated renaming the certificate from: "Instructional Design and Virtual Teaching" to "instructional Design" aligns the credential with current industry terminology, where most corporate roles now use that title. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Daron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Curriculum & Instruction Elevate EdS ABA

Dr. Jeremy Wendt stated the Department of Curriculum & Instruction proposes the creation of a stand-alone graduate degree from a current concentration. The Ed.S. in "Curriculum & Instruction with a concentration in Applied Behavior Analysis" would transition to the Ed.S. in "Applied Behavior Analysis." Changes in clinical practice, career-driven pathways, board certification requirements, and accreditation standards have driven the request. After much discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Daron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Curriculum & Instruction Elevate MA ABA

Dr. Jeremy Wendt stated The Department of Curriculum & Instruction proposes the creation of a stand-alone graduate degree from a current concentration. The M.A. in “Curriculum & Instruction with a concentration in Applied Behavior Analysis ” would transition to the M.A. in “Applied Behavior Analysis. ” Changes in clinical practice, career-driven pathways, board certification requirements, and accreditation standards have driven the request. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Daron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Curriculum & Instruction Elevate PhD ABA

Dr. Jeremy Wendt stated The Department of Curriculum & Instruction proposes the creation of a stand-alone graduate degree from a current concentration. The Ph.D. in “Exceptional Learning with a concentration in Applied Behavior Analysis ” would transition to the Ph.D. in “Applied Behavior Analysis. ” Changes in clinical practice, career-driven pathways, board certification requirements, and accreditation standards have driven the request. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Daron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Other Such Matters

Dr. Stacey Browning stated the Tennessee Legislation is trying to pass a bill to terminate tenure. <https://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/114/Bill/SB1838.pdf>

Ms. Megan Atkinson stated that this will be discussed at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Adjournment

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Daron Smith SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Amy McCoy, Recorder

Documents on file with the minutes:

All documents presented at the meeting