

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

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

**The following members of the council were present:**

Dr. Daren Snider	Dr. Linda Null
Dr. Lisa Zagumny	Dr. Ka Grimes
Dr. Daron Smith	Dr. Mustafa Rajabali
Dr. Brian Carver	Dr. Krystal Kennedy
Dr. Brian O'Connor	Dr. Krystal Kennedy
Dr. Melissa Comer	Mr. Jimmy Guadalupe
Dr. Alfred Kalyanapu	Ms. Presley Elliott
Dr. Scott Christen	
Dr. Ann Manginelli	
Dr. Stacey Browning	
Ms. Megan Atkinson	
Dr. Amy Hill	

**Others present were:**

Dr. John Liu  
Dr. Julie Baker  
Dr. Bedelia Russell  
Dr. Sharon Huo  
Dr. Karen Wright  
Dr. Steven Seiler  
Dr. Tony Michael  
Dr. Melinda Anderson  
Dr. Michael Nattress

**The following members of the council were absent:**

Dr. Jennifer Shank  
Dr. Lee Ann Shipley  
Dr. Jennifer Mabry  
Dr. Yi Peng  
Dr. Hyewon Park  
Dr. Mike Gotcher  
Dr. Joshua Field  
Dr. Amber Spears  
Dr. Allen MacKenzie  
Dr. Christy Killman

## **SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of Minutes of February 11, 2026, meeting

Policy 215- Faculty-led Domestic Trips (First Reading)

Policy 216- Student Academic Integrity (First Reading)

School of Human Ecology- Pre Child Life Certificate, reduction in credit hours

Approval of Policy 219- Emeriti Faculty

Approval of Policy 259- General Education

Proposal by the College of Agriculture and Human Ecology, School of Agriculture to add a Fast Track option

Proposal by the College of Education and Human Sciences, Department of Counseling and Psychology to edit the program of study and increase the credit hours for the Counseling and Supervision PhD from 48 to 60

Foreign Languages - Renaming International Business and Cultures to International Commerce and Cultures

Department of Sociology and Political Science is adding a Fast Track option to their new Master of Social Work degree

New minor, Communication and Media: Film

Other Such Matters

Adjournment

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Mr. Jimmy Guadalupe SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Approval of the Minutes of February 11, 2025, Meeting**

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Mr. Jimmy Guadalupe SECONDED. APPROVED.

### **Policy 215- Faculty-led Domestic Trips (First Reading)**

Dr. Julie Baker stated all faculty-led domestic trips that include one or more overnight stays must follow the applicable College or School procedures for approval. Requiring faculty to provide emergency contact information for at least two faculty points of contact to students prior to departure. No Vote.

### **Policy 216- Student Academic Integrity (First Reading)**

Dr. Julie Baker stated academic integrity is at the foundation of the educational process. Maintaining high standards of academic integrity is critical to the reputation of Tennessee Tech, its students, faculty, alumni, and the employers of Tennessee Tech. No Vote.

### **School of Human Ecology- Pre Child Life Certificate, reduction in credit hours**

Dr. Melinda Anderson stated to combine similar content from existing courses HEC 2200 and HEC 3500 into one course. We will leave HEC 2200 and HEC 3500 in the catalog until all students on the current plan of study graduate. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Mr. Jimmy Guadalupe SECONDED. APPROVED.

### **Approval of Policy 219- Emeriti Faculty**

Dr. Lisa Zagumny stated any faculty member who has served Tennessee Tech for a sufficient length of time to be eligible for state retirement benefits shall be eligible for Emeritus status upon retirement from the University. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Mr. Jimmy Guadalupe SECONDED. APPROVED.

### **Approval of Policy 259- General Education**

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. The flexible hours must be taken in the categories that have variable credit (Humanities & Cultural Expression, Scientific Reasoning, and Financial Literacy or Digital Literacy. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Scott Christen SECONDED. APPROVED.

### **Proposal by the College of Agriculture and Human Ecology, School of Agriculture to add a Fast Track option**

Dr. Michael Nattress stated the Fast-Track program is vital to the success of both undergraduate and graduate students in the School of Agriculture. This option supports timely degree completion, meets the need of undergraduate students, strengthens graduate enrollment, and improves workforce readiness while maintaining all existing undergraduate and graduate academic standards. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Scott Christen SECONDED. APPROVED.

### **Proposal by the College of Education and Human Sciences, Department of Counseling and Psychology to edit the program of study and increase the credit hours for the Counseling and Supervision PhD from 48 to 60**

Dr. Tony Michael stated the program will increase from a minimum of 48 credit hours to a minimum of 60 credit hours. This expansion ensures alignment with 2024 CACREP accreditation doctoral standards and enhances the depth and breadth of student training. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Scott Christen SECONDED. APPROVED.

### **Foreign Languages - Renaming International Business and Cultures to International Commerce and Cultures**

Dr. Michael Olsen stated Per auditing and accreditation restrictions, “business” cannot be in the name of a program that is not housed in the College of Business. The proposed substitute, “commerce,” respects this restriction while also reflecting the interdisciplinary and business focus of the program. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Scott Christen SECONDED. APPROVED.

### **Department of Sociology and Political Science is adding a Fast Track option to their new Master of Social Work degree**

Dr. Steven Seiler stated the MSW Pathway allows Tennessee Tech to be competitive with institutions with traditional BSW-to-MSW fast-track options by creating an efficient, cost-effective, and accelerated route to the MSW. This option does not require students to have a BSW. In fact, it allows undergraduates from any major to complete up to nine hours of graduate-level MSW coursework during their senior year, reducing both the time and cost to MSW degree completion. This positions Tennessee Tech to compete directly with institutions that rely on the BSW-to-MSW pipeline by offering an attractive, flexible alternative that broadens access and serves a wider student population. Importantly, this initiative also strengthens the pipeline from undergraduate to graduate social work education by allowing current Sociology majors in Social Work Concentration to transition more seamlessly into the MSW, even before a BSW program is formally established. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Scott Christen SECONDED. APPROVED.

### **New minor, Communication and Media: Film**

Dr. Scott Christen stated film and screen media are among the most influential art forms of the modern era. They shape cultural narratives, reflect societal values and influence public opinion. A minor in Film and Screen Studies allows students to critically analyze visual storytelling, cinematic techniques and the social contexts in which films and media are produced and consumed. Additionally, this minor would (a) enhance interdisciplinary relevance by intersecting with four other disciplines, (b) enrich career preparation by utilizing skills developed within the minor to apply to professions such as marketing, education and business, (c) meet student interest and demand by understanding interest in film and media continues to grow among students, who increasingly consume and create digital content. Providing a structured minor acknowledges this interest, giving students a formal pathway to pursue their passion while complementing their major. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Mr. Jimmy Guadalupe SECONDED. APPROVED.

### **Other Such Matters**

Correction: Brenda Wilson was marked absent February 11, 2026: however, she was in attendance.

### **Adjournment**

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Mr. Jimmy Guadalupe SECONDED. APPROVED.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Amy McCoy, Recorder

Documents on file with the minutes:  
All documents presented at the meeting