

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL  
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY  
April 8, 2026

The Academic Council met at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, via Teams videoconferencing technology, with Professor Kimberly Winkle, presiding.

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

Dr. Thomas Payne	Dr. Kexin Xu
Professor Kimberly Winkle	Dr. Ann Manginelli
Dr. Alen Mackenzie	Dr. Jennifer Mabry
Dr. Lisa Zagumny (proxy)	Dr. Stacey Browning
Dr. Darron Smith	Dr. Megan Atkinson
Dr. Brian Carver	Dr. Linda Null
Dr. Brian O'Connor	Dr. Ka Grimes
Dr. Yi Peng	Dr. Brenda Wilson
Dr. Hyewon Park	Dr. Krystal Kennedy
Dr. Melissa Comer	Dr. Amber Spears
Dr. Alfred Kalyanapu	Mr. Jimmy Guadalupe
Dr. Syed Rafay Hasan	

**Others present were:**

Dr. John Liu	Dr. Barbara Jared
Dr. Sharon Huo	Dr. Chris Wilson
Dr. Julie Baker	Dr. Jeremy Wendt
Dr. Karen Wright	Dr. Chad Rezsnyak
Dr. Bedelia Russell	Dr. Ben Mohr

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

Dr. Daren Snider	Dr. Scott Christen
Dr. Jennifer Shank	Dr. Amy Hill
Dr. Mike Gotcher	Dr. Mustafa Rajabali
Dr. Lee Ann Shipley	Dr. Michael Olsen
Dr. Jim Baier	Ms. Maya Seltz
Dr. Christy Killman	Ms., Abby McCulley
Dr. Joshua Field	Ms. Presley Elliott

\*Note Dr. Syed Hasan was marked absent on March 11th by accident, but he was present.

## **SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of Minutes of March 11, 2026, meeting

Annual Reports

Approval of Policy 215- Faculty-led Domestic Trips

Approval of Policy 216- Student Academic Integrity

Proposals by Whitson-Hester School of Nursing

- Add a Fast Track option
- Decrease credit hours for Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, MSN to DNP only with removal of course NRSE 6021
- Increase credit hours for MSN Nursing Education program with addition of course NURS 6102

Proposals by the College of Engineering, Department of General and Industrial Engineering-Edit three course titles in conjunction with adding a new graduate certificate, Engineering Project Management

Proposal by the College of Education and Human Sciences, Department of Curriculum and Instruction to elevate the Elementary Education and Secondary Education master concentrations to stand alone degrees

Chemistry Department is seeking to elevate its existing Biochemistry concentration into a full major

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Addition of Minor in Construction Management

Other Matters (New Chairperson)

Adjournment

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Dr. Brenda Wilson MOVED approval and Dr. Megan Atkinson SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

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

Dr. Brenda Wilson MOVED approval and Dr. Stacey Browning SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Approval of Policy 215- Faculty-led Domestic Trips**

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. Dr. Brenda Wilson MOVED approval and Dr. Stacey Browning SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Approval of Policy 216- Student Academic Integrity**

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. After much discussion Dr. Brenda Wilson MOVED approval and Dr. Stacey Browning SECONDED. APPROVED.

### **Proposals by Whitson-Hester School of Nursing**

Dr. Barabara Jarad stated. NRSE 6021 Integrative Application of Advanced Practice Skills is a course that has certification preparation embedded into the course. MSN to DNP students is already certified and do not need this course for certification. NRSE 6021 needs to be removed from the MSN to DNP program. It will be in the BSN to DNP Program of Study as these students need the Certification Prep information. This will create a 2-hour decrease in the concentration credit hours changing the concentration to a 29-credit hour study program. Brenda Wilson MOVED with approval and Dr. Stacey Browning SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Proposals by the College of Engineering, Department of General and Industrial Engineering-Edit three course titles in conjunction with adding a new graduate certificate, Engineering Project Management**

Dr. Wilson stated Many graduate students can benefit from engineering management and associated coursework. Course name changes will better reflect course content. Additionally, the graduate certificate can be used as a stacked credential for those students wishing to continue their studies and complete the MS in Engineering Management. Courses are available online. Dr. Brenda Wilson MOVED with approval and Dr. Stacey Browning SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Proposal by the College of Education and Human Sciences, Department of Curriculum and Instruction to elevate the Elementary Education and Secondary Education master concentrations to stand alone degrees**

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 Elementary Education" would transition to the M.A. in "Elementary Education." as a strategic move that aligns with current market demands, state-level literacy initiatives, and the university's mission as a leading teacher-prep institution in the region. Increased enrollment due to changes in licensure and career-driven pathways at the graduate level have also driven the request. Elevating Elementary Education to a stand-alone M.A. program honors Tennessee Tech's legacy as a "teacher's college" while modernizing our offerings to meet 21st-century state standards. This move will provide our graduates with a more marketable credential and ensure Tennessee Tech remains the primary provider of high-quality elementary educators in the state. Dr. Brenda Wilson MOVED with approval and Dr. Stacey Browning SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Chemistry Department is seeking to elevate its existing Biochemistry concentration into a full major**

Dr. Chad Rezsnyak stated Biochemistry is the most popular concentration within the BS Chemistry at Tennessee Tech University. Elevating the concentration to a major would increase visibility of the major and align with the university's strategic goals. This would also position TTU as one of only three chemistry programs in the state with a separate BS in biochemistry. Dr. Brenda Wilson MOVED with approval and Dr. Stacey Browning SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Addition of Minor in Construction Management**

Dr. Ben Mohr stated the Department is proposing a new minor in Construction Management to provide students with the opportunity to expand their knowledge base in coursework specific to construction. This minor is differentiated from minors in Business Management or Project Management by focusing on the construction aspects, though all are complementary. This minor will complement the existing Construction Engineering and Management concentration in the department. Dr. Brenda Wilson MOVED with approval and Dr. Stacey Browning SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Other Matters (New Chairperson)**

#### **Chairperson Election and SACCOS Update:**

Professor Kimberly Winkle was elected as the new chairperson for the 2026–2027 term. Additionally, Dr. Huo reported that the SACCOS event went very well and expressed appreciation to everyone for their participation.

### **Adjournment**

Dr. Brenda Wilson MOVED with approval and Dr. Stacey Browning SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Amy McCoy, Recorder Documents on file with the minutes: All documents presented at the meeting