

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY
April 29, 2026

The Academic Council met at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, via Teams videoconferencing technology, with Professor Kimberly Winkle, presiding.

The following members of the council were present:

Dr. Allen MacKenzie
Dr. Daren Snider
Dr. Jennifer Shank
Dr. Lisa Zagumny
Dr. Darron Smith
Dr. Jim Baier
Dr. Brian Carver
Dr. Brian O'Connor
Dr. Yi Peng
Dr. Melissa Comer
Dr. Christy Killman
Dr. Alfred Kalyanapu
Dr. Syed Rafay Hasan
Dr. Kexin Xu
Dr. Scott Christen

Dr. Ann Mangineli
Dr. Stacey Browning
Dr. Megan Atkinson
Dr. Amy Hill
Dr. Linda Null
Dr. Ka Grimes
Dr. Brenda Wilson
Dr. Mustafa Rajabali
Dr. Krystal Kennedy
Dr. Michael Olsen
Dr. Amber Spears
Mr. Jimmy Guadalupe

Others present were:

Dr. Michael Nattress
Dr. Aeris Gunnels
Dr. John Liu
Dr. Julie Baker
Dr. Bedelia Russell

Mrs. Karen Lykins
Dr. Philip Oldham
Mr. Lee Wray
Dr. Karen Wright
Dr. Kevin Harris

The following members of the council were absent:

Dr. Thomas Payne
Dr. Mike Gotcher
Dr. Lee Ann Shipley
Dr. Hyewon Park
Dr. Joshua Field

Dr. Jennifer Mabry
Ms. Maya Seitz
Ms. Abby McCulley
Ms. Presley Elliot

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Minutes April 8, 2026

NAPP - Bachelor of Architecture

Program Modification, Agribusiness Management concentration, delivery mode addition

Other Matters

Adjournment

Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Megan Atkinson SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes April 8, 2026

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Megan Atkinson SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

NAPP - Bachelor of Architecture

Dr. Aerie Gunnels stated that Tennessee Tech University proposes a new Bachelor of Architecture program in response to the growing demand for a skilled architecture workforce in Tennessee. The program's primary purpose is to prepare competent, licensed, and community-driven professionals equipped to meet the state's architectural and design needs. The proposed degree will be a five-year program and will seek accreditation from the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB)

Architecture is a growing field in Tennessee, driven by population growth and increased business investment. Labor market data indicate a significant and sustained demand for architecture related professionals across the state. O*NET Online, a database sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, projects approximately 380 annual openings for Architects, Architectural and Engineering Managers, and Postsecondary Architecture Teachers. In contrast, Tennessee universities have produced an average of only 138 architecture graduates per year over the past five years, with a peak of 174 in 2024-2025. Consequently, recent graduates meet less than 60% of the state's annual demand, highlighting a substantial unmet workforce need.

The program requires 154 credit hours, including general education, the Architectural Education Core, and electives. It emphasizes studio-based instruction and covers architectural systems, materials and methods, digital technologies, and construction and design documentation. The target audience primarily includes traditional high school graduates from Tennessee and current Tennessee Tech students pursuing other majors. It is also expected to attract transfer students from community colleges and adult learners seeking careers in architecture. The program will be delivered entirely through a traditional, on-ground format. **After much discussion** Dr. Lisa

Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Megan Atkinson SECONDED. APPROVED with one abstention.

Program Modification, Agribusiness Management concentration, delivery mode addition

Dr. Michael Nattress stated this proposal requests approval to add a fully online delivery option for the Agribusiness Management Concentration, Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (BSAG) at Tennessee Tech University. The existing on-ground program will remain and continue. The online delivery option will follow the same curriculum, academic standards, and learning outcomes as the existing on-ground program. Offering a fully online format will expand access to students who are unable to physically attend classes on campus, including working professionals, transfer students, and students in rural areas.

A comprehensive reviewing of the online courses currently offered by TTU shows that most Flight Foundation courses, together with some other required courses for the Agribusiness Management Concentration, are delivered online in spring, summer, and/or fall semesters. The School of Agriculture also has a plan for online delivery of other required courses related to concentration. The proposed online option aligns with the university's strategic goals of enhancing access to higher education through the growth of online programs, supporting flexible learning opportunities and increasing enrollment in academic programs. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Megan Atkinson SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Other Matters

There were no other such matters.

Adjournment

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED with approval and Dr. Megan Atkinson SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

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