

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL  
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY  
September 2, 2026

The Academic Council met at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, via Teams videoconferencing technology, with Professor Kimberly Winkle, presiding.

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

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Dr. Sean Alley       |                      |
| Dr. Allen MacKenzie  |                      |
| Dr. Daren Snider     | Dr. Heather Cathey   |
| Dr. Matt Smith       | Dr. Stacey Browning  |
| Dr. Hayden Mattingly | Dr. Amy Hill         |
| Dr. Lisa Zagumny     | Dr. Linda Null       |
| Dr. Darci Bell       | Dr. Ka Grimes        |
| Dr. Jim Baier        | Dr. Robby Sanders    |
| Dr. Brian Carver     | Dr. Brian O'Connor   |
| Dr. Yi Peng          | Dr. Troy Smith       |
| Dr. Hyewon Park      | Dr. Michael Olsen    |
| Dr. Melissa Comer    | Dr. Amber Spears     |
| Dr. Alfred Kalyanapu | Mr. Aaron Apple      |
| Dr. Syed Rafay Hasan | Mr. Brennan Casebier |
| Dr. Thu Ya Kyaw      | Mr. Isaac Leavy      |
| Dr. Ann Mangineli    | Ms. Addison Bray     |

**Others present were:**

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Dr. Mickey Latour   | Dr. Karen Wright |
| Dr. Sharon Huo      | Dr. Kevin Harris |
| Dr. Julie Baker     | Dr. Steven Sharp |
| Dr. Bedelia Russell | Ms. Jamie Evans  |

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

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Dr. Sean Alley     | Dr. Matthew Holben |
| Dr. Daron Smith    | Ms. Abby McCulley  |
| Dr. Wilson Gichuhi | Ms. Presley Elliot |
| Dr. Kexin Xu       |                    |

## **SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Minutes April 29, 2026

Policy 207 Faculty Work Performance and Discipline (**Informational Only**)

Policy 205 Faculty Tenure (**Informational Only**)

School of Environmental Studies Revision and Addition of Graduate Programs

Memo for New School of Architecture

Other Matters

Adjournment

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Stacey Browning SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Approval of the Minutes April 29, 2026**

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Stacey Browning SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Policy 207 Faculty Work Performance and Discipline (Informational Only)**

Dr. Russell stated the proposed revisions included annual evaluation and review processes for tenured faculty, an effort to make remediation efforts explicit, alignment with current evaluation practice and language, expanded definitions to assist with clarity of narrative sections, and the addition of headings to align with the narrative for each section of the policy. Some additional items considered were the removal of specific dates to use timelines instead, clarified scope and step in review process, and alignment with relevant revisions to Policy No. 205. Faculty Improvement Assessment is now referred to as Peer Review Committee (PRC). In Section VIII, four main heading sections were added for clarity along with editorial changes. Policy No. 207 was being reviewed parallel to Policy No. 205 to modify definitions within the policy. The committee members reviewing the policy were all tenured faculty members and the review process included going through line by line. **No Vote.**

### **Policy 205 Faculty Tenure (Informational Only)**

Dr. Russell stated One change was to differentiate “research/creative activity” and scholarship. In the original policy, it was stated as “research/scholarship/creative activity”, and time was spent defining each term. It was decided that scholarships are different from research and creative activity. Research and creative activity were the initial stages of inquiry to learn and examine while scholarship was the dissemination of that research or creative activity. This was broken into separate terms so that candidates who read the policy would understand the distinction between the three. **No Vote.**

### **School of Environmental Studies Revision and Addition of Graduate Programs**

Dr. Hayden Mattingly stated the proposed revisions provide several benefits:

- Align graduate certificates with the current PSM concentration structure.

- Create clear pathways between certificate programs and the Professional Science Master's degree.
- Increase recruitment opportunities for working professionals seeking focused graduate credentials.
- Support workforce development in environmental science, sustainability, environmental leadership, and geospatial technologies.
- Provide stackable credentials that can be incorporated into degree completion pathways.
- The proposed certificates reflect the updated curriculum of the PSM program and the needs identified by faculty, students, industrial advisory board members, and professional partners.
- The proposed certificate structure mirrors the concentration options available within the Professional Science Master's degree program, providing clear pathways for certificate students who later choose to pursue the full graduate degree. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Stacey Browning SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously. **Friendly Amendment** to remove the THEC form for the technical certificate.

### **Memo for New School of Architecture**

Dr. Sharon Huo stated Tennessee Tech received approval: from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission on August 24, 2026, to offer the Bachelor of Architecture program. The new program is a five-year, 152-hour credit program that will seek accreditation from the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB). We will begin admitting students for the program this fall, and the first cohort will enroll in Fall 2027. The new School of Architecture will be the academic home of the Bachelor of Architecture program. The school will be in the Regions Bank Building, which is owned by Tennessee Tech. The building will be equipped to accommodate classrooms, studio spaces, computer labs, fabrication and woodshop labs, as well as offices for the School Director, faculty, and staff. Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Stacey Browning SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Other Matters**

There were no other such matters.

### **Adjournment**

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED with approval and Dr. Stacey Browning SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

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

