MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY
September 30, 2026

The Academic Council met at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 30, 2026, via Teams videoconferencing technology, with Dr. Lisa Zagumny, presiding.

The following members of the council were present:

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

Others present were:
Dr. Sharon Huo
Dr. Julie Baker
Dr. Bedelia Russell
Dr. Karen Wright
Ms. Karen Lykins
Dr. Mohan Rao
Dr. Kyle Turner
Dr. Mark Loftis
Dr. Jeremy Wendt

The following members of the council were absent:
Dr. Daron Snider
Dr. Hayden Mattingly
Dr. Daron Smith
Dr. Matthew Holben
Ms. Megan Atkinson
Dr. Ka Grimes
Mr. Brennan Casebier
Ms. Addison Bray

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Minutes September 2, 2026

Proposal by the College of Education and Human Sciences, Department of Counseling and Psychology to add a 12-credit hour graduate certificate, Addiction Counseling Specialty Certificate, to the Clinical Mental Health Master's program effective Fall 2027

Policy 204 Faculty Appointments (First Reading)

Approval of the Agenda
Dr. Brian Carver MOVED with approval and Dr. Alfred Kalyanapu SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes September 2, 2026
Dr. Brian Carver MOVED with approval and Dr. Alfred Kalyanapu SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Proposal by the College of Education and Human Sciences, Department of Counseling and Psychology to add a 12-credit hour graduate certificate, Addiction Counseling Specialty Certificate, to the Clinical Mental Health Master's program effective Fall 2027
Dr. Mark Loftis stated this certificate will be awarded to graduate students in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling concentration. Counseling graduate students can receive extensive training in addiction counseling. These skills are highly desirable in the counseling field. Graduate students who can complete the courses below will meet the criteria for the certificate. Dr. Brian Carver MOVED with approval and Dr. Alfred Kalyanapu SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Policy 204 Faculty Appointments (First Reading)
Dr. Mohan Rao stated the types of faculty appointments at Tennessee Tech include tenure-track, tenure, lecturer, clinical-track, research-track, and temporary appointments. Professor of Practice appointments are full-time, non-tenurable positions established to meet instructional, professional, or programmatic needs. Appointments are for fixed terms of one to six years and may be renewed based on institutional needs, funding availability, and satisfactory annual performance. Appointees must have substantial professional experience, certification, or distinguished professional accomplishments in a field relevant to the appointment. Professors of Practice bring professional and applied expertise to academic programs. Responsibilities may include teaching, mentoring and advising students, supervising applied or experiential learning activities, and fostering partnerships with industry or other professional organizations. Appointments may be supported, in whole or in part, by institutional funds or appropriate external sources, including grants, contracts, professional revenues, industry partnerships, gifts, or endowments. **No Vote.**

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