University Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2026

The University Curriculum Committee convened on September 17, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. via Teams.

Members Present:

Sean Alley
Philip Appiah-Kubi
Julie Baker
Angie Briggs
Amy Brown
Autumn Cecil (student rep.)
Katherine Chaffin
Amy Chambers
Brittany Copley
Kent Dollar
Julie Galloway
Gerald Gannod
Aiden Gillis (student rep.)
Kim Hanna
Steven Hayslette
Colin Hill
Michael Hoane
Sharon Huo
Samantha Hutson
Barbara Jared
Mary Kidd
Peter Li
Karen Lykins
Scarlett Martin (student rep.)
Lori Maxwell
Kelly McCallister
Allan Mills
Ben Mohr
Michael Nattrass
Alma Nunez
Michael Olsen
Nezih Pala
Richard Rand
Chad Rezsnyak
Lindsey Roberts
John Salma (student rep.)
Steven Sharp
Darron Smith
Daren Snider
Dennis Tennant
Steven Thomas
Kyle Turner
Jeremy Wendt
Kevin West
Christy West
Brenda Wilson
Kimberly Winkle

Members Absent:

Brandi Fletcher
Steve Frye
Christy Killman
Hayden Mattingly
Mohan Rao
Matt Smith
Benjamin Sweeney
Lisa Zagumny

Official Representatives:

Elizabeth Lewis (for Lisa Zagumny)

Guests:

Mary McCaskey

Proceedings:

UCC Agenda - September 17, 2026			
Item #	Unit	Agenda Item	A
01	UCC	Approval of Agenda	
02	UCC	Approval of **April 27, 2026 Minutes**	
03a	Economics, Finance, Marketing	New Course (FIN 3626)	
03b	Economics, Finance, Marketing	New Course (FIN 4992)	
03c	Economics, Finance, Marketing	New Course (FIN 3320)	
04a	English	New Course (PC4960/5960)	
04b	English	New Course (ENGL 2750)	
05	Agriculture	New Course (AGET 2220)	
06	Biology	2 Course Changes	
07	Other Such Matters	**Dr. Huo-reference Gen Ed Timelines/website	

Confirming that a quorum was present, Dr. Wendt called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve: Julie Baker
Second: Julie Galloway
Vote: Motion Carried

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES –April 27, 2026**

Motion to approve: Julie Baker
Second: Julie Galloway
Vote: Motion Carried

3. **Economics, Finance and Marketing – Three new course proposals**
    a. FIN 3626 – Internship in Banking
    Lec. 3. Credit 3.
    Pre-requisite: Consent of Instructor. A directed professional experience in the field of banking.

    Justification
    The Banking Certificate requires that students have 3 hours of experiential learning in banking. One option for satisfying that requirement is an internship. Currently, FIN 3625 Internship in Finance is listed as an option, but this course captures internships in any area of finance. FIN 3626 Internship in Banking would include internships only in banking.

No financial impact. Effective Fall 2027.

b. FIN 4992 – Special Topics: Experiential Learning in Banking
Lec. 3. Credit 3.
Pre-requisite: Consent of Instructor. Directed experience on a selected topic in banking. Course may be taken more than once as topics change.

Justification
The Banking Certificate requires that students have 3 hours of experiential learning in banking.
We often offer unique experiential courses in banking as special topics courses using the course number FIN 4990. One example is the Community Bank Case Study Competition. However, this is creating a conflict within our systems which identify any FIN 4990 course as an automatic fit for the banking certificate. If the 3-hour course is not an experience in banking, then it should not technically qualify for the banking certificate. FIN 4992 will eliminate this problem.

No financial impact.

Effective Fall 2027.

c. FIN 3320 – Financial Markets & Institutions
Lec. 3. Credit 3.
Pre-requisite: FIN 3210. This course surveys the modern financial system, focusing on securities markets, interest rates, monetary policy, and commercial banking. Students examine how financial institutions and markets interact within the broader economy and the role of regulation in promoting financial stability.

Justification
For the past academic year, The Economics, Finance, and Marketing has offered this popular course as Special Topics course. We intend to offer the course at least once per year or as demand necessitates.

No financial impact.

Effective Fall 2027.

Motion to approve: Julie Baker
Second: Julie Galloway
Vote: Motion Carried

4. The Department of English - two new course proposals.

a. A. Create PC 4960/5960 Rhetoric and Health Professions (see attached syllabus).
Lec. 3. Cr. 3.
Prerequisites: ENGL/PC 3250, or consent of instructor, or graduate status
Catalog description: This course focuses on the complex ethical dynamics of communicating within health professions, including medical and mental health contexts, and the evolving digital communication strategies providers and patients must navigate. Drawing upon rhetorical theory, such as ethos, multi-sensory invention, the rhetoric of risk, and rhetorical work, students will apply knowledge of theoretical constructs to real life communication situations involving different types of populations they are likely to encounter when communicating health information and working with various publics.

Justification: Within the Professional and Technical Communication Concentration at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, students are showing interest in communication within health professions and the Rhetoric of Science/The Rhetoric of Health and Medicine (for example, risk communication and the COVID-19 pandemic). This interest has been demonstrated mainly in the topics students choose to focus on when completing research and assignments. Growing scholarships in these fields also demonstrates a current and developing interest in these interdisciplinary connections. This course will further students' knowledge of relevant rhetorical theories and provide experience applying them to practical health communication tasks they could encounter in workplace settings.

Effective Date: Spring 2027

Financial Impact: None

b. Create ENGL 2750: Introduction to Health Humanities and Society (see attached syllabus).
Lec. 3. Cr. 3.

Prerequisites: None
Catalog Description: ENGL 2750 explores human health, culture, and illness using a range of materials drawn from humanities disciplines. Course topics include narratives of disease and illness, personhood and embodiment, representations of disability, the social determinants of health, invisible illnesses, patient/professional relationships, and death and dying. As it introduces core concepts, issues, and terminology covered in later classes, this course serves as the introductory course to the Health Humanities and Society minor.

Justification: With the creation of the Health Humanities and Society minor by the English Department (to be formally submitted in Fall 2026) there is need for an introductory level class to provide students a framework through which they can continue to explore topics, terminology, and concepts in their later elective courses. The proposed course is at an appropriate level for an introductory class and will be taught in a way that is accessible to students regardless of major. This course was approved by the English B.A. Curriculum Committee on April 28th, 2026.

Financial Impact: None

Effective: Fall 2027

Motion to approve: Julie Baker
Second: Julie Galloway
Vote: Motion Carried

5. Agriculture – new course proposal

a. AGET 2220 Introduction to Smart Farming Systems
This course introduces students to modern digital, smart, and precision farming technologies that are transforming agriculture. Students will explore how GPS, GIS, drones, sensors, robotics, and artificial intelligence are applied to crop and livestock systems. Through lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on activities, students will gain foundational knowledge of digital agriculture and its impact on sustainability, productivity, and profitability.

Justification:

The proposed course is designed as a sophomore-level introduction to modem agricultural technologies, including GPS, drones, sensors, robotics, and data analytics, which are now central to crop and livestock production, resource efficiency, and sustainability. Currently, students encounter these technologies primarily in upper-level courses; this course will provide earlier exposure across all concentrations, fostering a shared foundation in smart agriculture. With no prerequisites and an emphasis on demonstrations, case studies, and real-world applications, it will be accessible and engaging while preparing students for advanced coursework. By aligning with industry trends and workforce needs, the course will also strengthen recruitment, retention, and career readiness.

Effective Date: Spring 2027

Financial Impact: None

Motion to approve: Julie Baker
Second: Julie Galloway
Vote: Motion Carried

6. Biology – 2 course change proposals

a. Change the prerequisites for Molecular Genetics (BIOL 4150) to replace CHEM 3020 with CHEM 3010.
From: BIOL 4150 Molecular Genetics; Lec. 3, Cr. 3.
Course Description: Prerequisite: BIOL 3810, CHEM 3005 or 3020. Molecular basis of inheritance with special emphasis on microorganisms.

To: BIOL 4150 Molecular Genetics; Lec. 3, Cr. 3.
Course Description: Prerequisite: BIOL 3810, CHEM 3005 or 3010. Molecular basis of inheritance with special emphasis on microorganisms.

Justification: Because many students take molecular genetics concurrently with organic chemistry II (CHEM 3020), and because organic chemistry I (CHEM 3010) should provide sufficient background in organic chemistry for students to succeed in molecular genetics, we propose this change. It will also help eliminate a number of prerequisite override requests.

b. Change the prerequisites for Conservation Biology (WFS 4730) to include the General Ecology section without a lab (BIOL 3120)
From: WFS 4730 Conservation Biology; Lec. 3, Cr. 3.
Course Description: Prerequisite: BIOL 3130 or WFS 3130. Advanced concepts of plant and animal conservation, including biodiversity, population genetics, habitat fragmentation, endangered and threatened species, and ecosystem management.

To: WFS 4730 Conservation Biology; Lec. 3, Cr. 3.
Course Description: Prerequisite: BIOL 3120 or BIOL 3130 or WFS 3130. Advanced concepts of plant and animal conservation, including biodiversity, population genetics, habitat fragmentation, endangered and threatened species, and ecosystem management.

Justification: A number of students, particularly from the Environmental Sciences program, are taking conservation biology but are required to take only BIOL 3120 (general ecology with no lab) as part of their program of study. Since the lecture material in BIOL 3120 is identical to that in BIOL/WFS 3130, and since this should be sufficient for students to succeed in conservation biology, we would like to add BIOL 3120 as another acceptable prerequisite option. This would also have the benefit of reducing the number of prerequisite overrides needed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Spring 2027

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None.

7. Other such Matters:
    a. Dr. Huo spoke about the Career Fair that took place in Hooper Eblen with over 180 companies represented and over 1700 students in attendance.
    b. Dr. Huo also mentioned that the General Education Committee is now a university standing committee and had met once. Dr. Lori Maxwell is the chair of the committee. Dr. Huo stressed that the deadline for submissions to the General Education Committee is September 29, and that the committee's schedule with submission deadlines is on their website https://www.tntech.edu/committees/gec.php

Since no other such matters were presented, Dr. Wendt requested a motion for adjournment.

Motion to approve: Julie Baker
Second: Julie Galloway
Vote: Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.