Meeting Minutes
Graduate Studies Executive Committee
Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at 3:00pm
Provost's Conference Room, Derryberry

Members Present	Members Absent	Other Attendees
Dr. Alice Camuti—Ex-Officio	Dr. Joseph Slater	Lucinda Morabito
Dr. Allan Mills- chair	Dr. John Zhu	Stephanie Flores
Dr. Ashely Akenson	Dr. Julie C. Baker—Executive Officer	Irene Sullivan
Dr. William Eberle	Dr. Bedelia Russell (resource)	Tammy Dodson
Dr. Rachel Hall	Kashaina Nucum	Becky Blalock
Dr. Katherine Hermann-Turner	McKenna Stevens	Jacqueline Rush
Dr. Samantha Hutson	Braxton Westbrook	Dr. Justin Lee
Dr. Barbara Jared		Dr. Bradley Cohen
Dr. Alfred Kalyanapu		Dr. Samantha Allen
Dr. Hayden Mattingly		
Dr. Thomas Payne		
Dr. Julie Pharr		
Dr. Michael Phillips		
Dr. Darron Smith		
Dr. Jeremy Wendt		
Dr. Karen Wright (resource)		
Dr. Brad Cohen For Dr. Kit Wheeler		
Dr. Lisa Zagumny		
Mrs. Michele Niec		

1. **Approval of the agenda.**
   Motion to approve the agenda: Dr. Zagumny
   Seconded by: Dr. Smith
   Comments/Amendments: None

   The Committee voted and the motion was: Approved by: All Opposed by: None

2. Approval of the minutes of the March 31, 2026, meeting.

   Motion to approve the minutes: Dr. Zagumny
   Seconded by: Dr. Smith
   Comments/Amendments: None

   The Committee voted and the motion was: Approved by: All Opposed by: None

3. Proposal by the College of Business to inactivate the following courses. Effective Fall 2026.

BA 5400	BMGT 6710	DS 6050	FIN 6350	MBA 6800
BA 5500	BMGT 6800	DS 6120	FIN 6730	MBA 6830
BA 5600	BMGT 6810	DS 6420	FIN 6740	MBA 6840
BMGT 6400	BMGT 6820	DS 6560	FIN 6910	MKT 6500
BMGT 6510	BMGT 6940	ECON 6920	LAW 6450	MKT 6930

Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Zagumny
Seconded by: Dr. Smith
Comments/Amendments: Dr. Pharr stated that the courses listed above are courses that are no longer taught and need to be removed from the catalog.

The Committee voted and the motion was: Approved by: All Opposed by: None

4. Proposal by the College of Education and Human Sciences, Department of Counseling and Psychology to edit COUN 7400. Effective Fall 2026.

Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Hermann-Turner
Seconded by: Dr. Zagumny
Comments/Amendments: Dr. Hermann-Turner proposed the updated title and course description to align with accreditation standards as practicum has changed for doctoral students.

The Committee voted and the motion was: Approved by: All Opposed by: None

5. Proposal by the College of Education and Human Sciences, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, effective Fall 2026.
    a. Edit courses READ 6700 and EDU 7020 and add courses READ 6625, LSCI 7500, CUED 7300, READ 7340, READ 7350, and READ 7310.
    b. Edit Catalog programs of study for Specialist in Early Childhood Education, Literacy, Library Science, Master's program Literacy, Library concentrations.
    c. Edit Catalog wording for Higher Education Doctoral program and the catalog programs of study for Exceptional Learning Doctoral concentrations in Program Planning and Evaluation, STEM Education, Health Behavior and Wellness Education, and Critical Discourse and Literacy Studies.

Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Wendt
Seconded by: Dr. Smith
Comments/Amendments: Dr. Wendt stated that the changes to the course descriptions of READ 6700 and EDU 7020 (item a) are related to reflecting the current accreditation standards. The addition of the

six courses presented support accreditation requirements in program curricula. Item b was presented as a request to update the programs of study in the existing catalog for the EdS in ECE, Literacy, and Library Science, and the Master's in Literacy and Library Science concentrations. Dr. Wendt stated that these changes support licensure requirements. The proposal in Item c includes updates to the Exceptional Learning and Higher Education doctoral program degree requirements in the current catalog and to update the GPA requirements to reflect the overall university GPA requirements.

The Committee voted and the motion was: Approved by: All Opposed by: None

6. Proposal by the College of Emerging and Integrative Studies, Department of Environmental Studies to edit existing graduate certificates, Technical Environmental Informatics and Managerial Environmental Informatics and to add three new graduate certificates within the PSM program in Environmental Science, Environmental Sustainability, and Environmental Leadership. Effective Fall 2027. *AC

   Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Zagumny
   Seconded by: Dr. Smith
   Comments/Amendments: Dr. Allen proposed the addition of three new graduate certificates and a change to the credit hours of the two existing graduate certificates. The certificates will fit with the recently added Environmental Studies concentrations and follow the current trend of earning a certificate within the degree framework.

   The Committee voted and the motion was: Approved by: All Opposed by: None

7. Proposal by the College of Arts and Science, Department of Biology to update the Integrative Biology doctoral program based upon THEC feedback add course BIOL 7010. Effective Fall 2026.

   Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Zagumny
   Seconded by: Dr. Smith
   Comments/Amendments: Dr. Cohen stated that THEC reviewed the new Integrative Biology doctoral program and made recommendations to make it more current and relevant, including increasing research hours.
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   Dr. Mattingly asked if Biology 7010 would be open and available to students in other programs. Dr. Cohen stated that the course would be open to all students.

   The Committee voted and the motion was: Approved by: All Opposed by: None

8. Proposal by the College of Agriculture & Human Ecology, School of Human Ecology to update the course description for HEC 5100. Effective Fall 2026.

   Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Zagumny
   Seconded by: Dr. Smith

Comments/Amendments: Dr. Hutson stated that the change to the course description will better align with the standards of the new accreditation agency.

The Committee voted and the motion was: Approved by: All Opposed by: None

9. Informational Items:
    a. Following a request for review of the graduate catalog, The Department of Curriculum and Instruction requested updates to their EdS catalog language during the spring semester. The EdS catalog changes were implemented (editorial) and matches language on the department website.
    b. TTU Policy 282, Graduate Faculty, which was approved by the Board of Trustees this year, is now revised and published on Policy Central. As a reminder, the policy changed the classification of "Adjunct" to "Affiliate" membership.
10. Other Such Matters:

    A committee is needed to review graduate policies 270 and 271. You may be contacted or you may volunteer.

    Dr. Mattingly asked why items take so long to go into effect. Dr. Camuti responded that Degree works changes are typically done once a year with the catalog release. Dr. Mattingly proposed doing it more than once a year.

    Dr. Kalyanapu asked about status of providing health insurance to our graduate students. Dr. Camuti stated that there had not been any movement on the proposal for several reasons including funding. Dr. Eberle commented that we are a small school with limited funding and unattractive to health insurance carriers. Dr. Payne commented that students should have catastrophic coverage. Dr. Camuti stated that the university was providing information on the TBR student health coverage available which covered such events.

    Comments/Amendments: Dr. Camuti recognized and thanked the members of GSEC that have or will retire and welcomed the new members.

11. Adjourn

    Motion to adjourn:

    The Committee voted and the motion was: Approved by: All Opposed by: None

Minutes prepared by S. Flores, reviewed by Dr. A. Camuti, approved by GSEC on 8/25/26.