

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

Members Present

Dr. Julie C. Baker—Executive Officer
Dr. Steve Isbell—Chair
Dr. William Eberle
Dr. Mike Gotcher
Dr. Rachel Hall
Dr. Katherine Hermann-Turner
Dr. Barbara Jared
Dr. Alfred Kalyanapu
Dr. Hayden Mattingly
Dr. Allan Mills
Dr. Thomas Payne
Dr. Julie Pharr
Dr. Michael Phillips
Dr. Darron Smith
Dr. Jeremy Wendt
Dr. Kit Wheeler
Dr. Karen Wright
Dr. Lisa Zagumny
Jack Baker
for McKenna Stevens

Members Absent

Dr. Ashley Akenson
Dr. Alice Camuti—Ex-Officio
Dr. Samantha Hutson
Dr. Joseph Slater
Dr. John Zhu
Dr. Bedelia Russell (non-voting)
Braxton Westbrook
Michele Niec
Kashaina Nucum

Other Attendees

Karen Warren
Lucinda Morabito
Stephanie Flores
Tammy Dodson
Andrew Bleigner
Dr. Steven Seiler

1. Approval of the agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda: Dr. Zagumny

Seconded by: Dr. Gotcher

Comments/Amendments: None

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

2. Approval of the minutes from the November 4, 2025, meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes: Dr. Zagumny

Seconded by: Dr. Gotcher

Comments/Amendments: None

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

3. Proposal by the Office of International Programs to revise TN Tech Policy 240 Full course of Study Requirements for International Students, Effective Fall 2026. *AC

Comments/Amendments: Andrew Bleigner, Director of International Services, presented this proposal. The committee had several recommendations regarding the policy and suggested a rewrite.

This item will be moved to the March 3, 2026 meeting. Dr. Zagumny offered to assist to clarify and enhance the proposed revision. Dr. Payne asked about clarification about residency regarding online programs and the different visa types.

The Committee voted and the motion was to table the proposed revision.

4. Proposal by the College of Engineering, Department of Computer Science, Effective Summer 2026.
 - a. Remove GRE requirement from admission to the master's and doctoral programs for international and domestic applicants. *AC
 - b. Expand allowable elective course prefixes (Math, DS, ECE, ENGR, and EMGT) for the Master of Science program of study.

Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Zagumny

Seconded by: Dr. Gotcher

Comments/Amendments: Dr. Eberle stated that the GRE is not an effective indicator of student success in the program and is no longer a factor in the admission decision, therefore, the department proposes removal of the requirement for the computer science master's and doctoral programs. Similar programs or colleges do not require a GRE.

Dr. Eberle continued with the department's proposal to include non-computer science courses in the computer science program of study. This will reduce the number of substitutions as many engineering courses can relate to multiple programs or focus areas.

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

5. Proposal by the College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Sociology and Political Science to add a Pathway/Fast track option to the Master of Social Work, edit courses SW 5005 (replaces SW 5000-delete) Rural Social Work, SW 5110 (replaces SW 6100-delete) Poverty, Inequality, and Social Justice, and SW 5175 Intro to Social Welfare Policy, Effective Fall 2027. *AC

Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Zagumny

Seconded by: Dr. Gotcher

Comments/Amendments: Dr. Seiler presented the addition of a Fast Track option to the Master of Social Work program which would allow (TN Tech) undergraduate students to take upper-division courses that will apply to their undergraduate and graduate degrees. The course changes were needed to support the Fast Track option.

The committee discussed the Fast Track Program and the option to Request a Graduate Course; and how the departments can utilize the options to improve programs and encourage enrollment.

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

6. Proposal by the College of Business, Department of Business to edit course BMGT 6950, Effective Fall 2026.

Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Zagumny

Seconded by: Dr. Gotcher

Comments/Amendments: Dr. Pharr proposed the update to the prerequisites for BMGT 6950 to support students as they move through the program.

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

7. Proposal by the College of Education and Human Sciences, Department of Counseling and Psychology, Effective Fall 2026.

- a. Add courses PSY 7100 Introduction to School Psychology and PSY 7800 Practicum in School Psychology,
- b. Add cross-listed courses PSY 5170 Legal Psychology and PSY 5180 The Psychology of Emotion: Theory and Research

Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Zagumny

Seconded by: Dr. Gotcher

Comments/Amendments: Dr. Hermann-Turner stated the addition of the practicum will help streamline the courses and guide students.

Dr. Hermann-Turner continued the cross-listed courses are supported by a new professor with a focus in those areas.

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

8. Proposal by the College of Education and Human Sciences, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Effective Fall 2026.

- a. Add courses EDU 7900 Scholarly Inquiry and Design Seminar, EDUB 6100 Capstone in Behavior Analysis, EDUB 7100 Capstone in Behavior Analysis, EDUB 7200 Behavior Analysis Internship, EDUB 7300 Teaching Behavior Analysis, EDUB 7400 Research, Scholarship, and Publication in Basic Bx(Behavior) Analysis; and Edit courses CUED 6430 Design Studio: Production of Instructional Materials, CUED 6450 Immersive Technologies. CUED 7510 Instructional Design Foundations, CUED 7540 Applied Instructional Design & Learning Analytics, CSED 6000 Digital Literacy and Computing, CSED 6010 Computational Thinking, CSED 6020 Computer Science Concepts for Teachers, CSED 6030 Computer Science Instructional Methods, HRED 7030 College & University Finance

Comments: Dr. Eberle asked about having two courses with the same name. Dr. Payne asked if a specialist student took EDUB7100, do they repeat it as a doctoral student? To which Dr. Wendt responded that the capstone courses are in conjunction with degree levels and will not be able to be taken twice.

- b. Edit course READ 6200 Foundations of Literacy, READ 6360 Literacy for Diverse Populations

Comments: Dr. Wendt stated these are minor edits to courses.

- c. Update the Fast Track program requirements, Effective Fall 2026.

Comments: Fast Track has proven to be very effective, and the department wants to encourage students to participate and thus continue their graduate degree at Tech. The proposal removes the 90 hours of UG coursework completion requirement to Junior level status and lowers the GPA requirement to 3.0 from 3.25.

- d. Update the catalog description and program of study for the Higher Education, Ph.D. program, Effective Fall 2026.

Comments: Dr. Wendt stated these are simple updates to the catalog that remove the time to degree completion from an estimate of four years to the ability to complete the degree in 8 years.

- e. Change the title of a graduate certificate from Instructional Design and Virtual Teaching to Instructional Design, Effective Fall 2026. *AC

Comments: Dr. Wendt proposed the graduate certificate title change since the certificate is not just for educators and would like to make the certificate more attractive to students from other colleges.

- f. Transition the master, specialist, and doctoral degree concentrations in Applied Behavior Analysis to stand alone master, specialist, and doctoral degrees, Effective Fall 2026. *AC

Comments: Dr. Wendt stated that the programs are the same. The department is proposing to elevate the ABA concentrations to stand alone degrees to enhance their offerings.

- g. Update the catalog and program of study information for the stand-alone master, specialist, and doctoral degrees in Applied Behavior Analysis, Effective Fall 2026.

Comments: Dr. Wendt stated that with the change to the degrees mentioned above, the catalog would need to be updated.

Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Zagumny

Seconded by: Dr. Gotcher

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

- 9. Informational Items: Dr. Karen Wright, TN Tech Director of Academic Projects & Analytics Support, provided an overview of new technology, UQ software, that allows TN Tech to gain market insights that may support current program reviews and new program development.

Comments: Dr. Wright stated that she is here to help all of TN Tech improve and expand programs. This includes assisting with feasibility studies or research needed when proposing new programs. The UQ software uses CIP codes to compare data nationwide to help us improve and expand our academic portfolio.

Dr. Payne commented that we should leverage our resources as programs potentially cross colleges.

10. Other Matters: Dr. Baker shared several issues that have arisen in the implementation of Talon, primarily regarding graduate assistants. HR and Graduate Studies are working to solve the issues. If you have any lingering issues, please contact Dr. Camuti or Dr. Baker. GA stipends are bi-weekly, not bi-monthly. The offer-letter is being updated to reflect bi-weekly stipend versus end of the month.

11. Adjourn

Motion to approve the agenda: All

Seconded by:

Comments/Amendments: None

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 March 3, 2026.