

Meeting Minutes
Graduate Studies Executive Committee
Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 3:00pm
Provost's Conference Room, Derryberry

Members Present

Dr. Kyle Shanks
for Dr. Ashley Akenson
Dr. Julie C. Baker—Executive Officer
Dr. William Eberle
Dr. Rachel Hall
Dr. Katherine Hermann-Turner
Dr. Samantha Hutson
Dr. Steve Isbell--Chair
Dr. Barbara Jared
Dr. Hayden Mattingly
Dr. Allan Mills
Dr. Thomas Payne
Dr. Richard Rand
for Julie Pharr
Dr. Michael Phillips
Dr. Darron Smith
Dr. Jeremy Wendt
Dr. Karen Wright
Dr. Lisa Zagumny
Josh Loiacono
for Kashaina Nucum
McKenna Stevens

Members Absent

Dr. Alice Camuti—Ex-Officio
Dr. Mike Gotcher
Dr. Alfred Kalyanapu
Dr. Bedelia Russell
Dr. Joseph Slater
Dr. John Zhu
Michele Niec
Braxton Westbrook

Other Attendees

Lucinda Morabito
Stephanie Flores
Dr. Cara Sisk
Dr. Peter Li
Dr. Brad Cohen

1. Approval of the agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda: Dr. Zagumny

Seconded by: Dr. Wendt

Comments/Amendments: None

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

2. Approval of the minutes from the Oct 7, 2025 meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes: Dr. Zagumny

Seconded by: Dr. Wendt

Comments/Amendments: None

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

3. Proposal by the College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Earth Sciences to add a new course, GEOG 5720 AI for Geospatial Analysis. Effective Fall 2026

Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Zagumny

Seconded by: Dr. Wendt

Comments/Amendments: Dr. Peter Li presented the addition of GEOG 5720 AI for Geospatial Analysis to meet current needs in the industry and is open to other disciplines.

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

4. Proposal by the College of Business, Department of Accounting to change ACCT 6250 Government, NFP, and Healthcare Accounting to ACCT 5250 Government, NFP, and Healthcare Accounting. Program updated to reflect change. Effective Fall 2026

Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Zagumny

Seconded by: Dr. Wendt

Comments/Amendments: Dr. Richard Rand presented the proposal to change the course number. The change is proposed to be more efficient and align with current requirements.

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

5. Proposal by the College of Emerging and Integrative Studies, Department of Communication and Media to change the title of two cross listed courses, PRST/COMM 6960 Digital Audience Behavior Analysis and Insight and 6980 Strategic Communication. Effective Fall 2026

Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Zagumny

Seconded by: Dr. Wendt

Comments/Amendments: The change of the title of PRST/COMM 6960 was to be more specific while the change to PRST/COMM 6980 is to correct a typo, remove the 's' from Communications.

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

6. Proposal by the College of Education and Human Sciences, Department of Curriculum and Instruction to delete the following: Effective Fall 2026 Pg 21
 - a. Family and Consumer Sciences, Master and Specialist Concentrations *AC
 - b. Music, Master Concentration *AC
 - c. 125 Inactive Courses, see memo

Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Zagumny

Seconded by: Dr. Wendt

Comments/Amendments: Dr. Jeremy Wendt proposed the removal of the concentrations and the courses due to little or no use.

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

7. Proposal by the College of Agriculture and Human Ecology, School of Human Ecology to change the prerequisites for HEC courses, increase the credit hours for HEC 6575, course title change for HEC6565, update the program of study and catalog wording, including admission requirements, for the Child Life graduate program. Experiential Track credit hours change from 42 to 48 credit hours.

Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Zagumny

Seconded by: Dr. Wendt

Comments/Amendments: Dr. Samantha Hutson, graduate program director for the Community Health and Nutrition program which includes HEC courses, proposed the updated title for HEC 6565 to help identify what the class is about. The increase of credit hours for HEC 6575 is to meet a program requirement.

Dr. Cara Sisk, professor for the Child Life program, proposed changes to the Child Life catalog wording and program of study. The department continued to review the program after its initial proposal and found information that needed improvement and clarity. Note: the change in the credit hours for the Experiential Track does not need to be approved by THEC as it is an optional extension to the degree.

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

8. Proposal by the College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biology to add Integrative Biology doctoral program and nine Biology courses BIOL 7210, 7250, 7270, 7310, 7340, 7440, 7470, 7990, and 7991. Effective Fall 2026

Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Zagumny

Seconded by: Dr. Wendt

Comments/Amendments: Dr. Cohen presented the new program and related courses. Dr. Eberle asked about the 9 new courses. Dr. Cohen stated that there are two existing research courses and seven will be new. Dr. Mattingly asked if other disciplines could enroll in the courses. Dr. Cohen stated that at this time, the courses are open to all students. Dr. Rand asked about the academic support for the new program. Dr. Cohen stated that the department will hire one full-time faculty and one part-time faculty and doctoral students will likely be used as GTA's for undergraduate labs. The department has 15 graduate faculty and a goal of 20 students for the program. Dr. Wendt inquired about funding for the GTA's. Dr. Cohen stated that most of their grants offer an option to match funds which will help fund the GTA's.

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

9. Informational Items: None

10. Other Matters: None

11. Adjourn

Motion to approve the adjournment: All

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, and approved by GSEC on February 3, 2026.