

Meeting Minutes
Graduate Studies Executive Committee
Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 3:00pm
Provost's Conference Room, Derryberry

Members Present

Dr. Steve Isbell—Chair
Dr. Julie C. Baker—Executive Officer
Dr. Alice Camuti—Ex-Officio
Dr. Ashley Akenson
Dr. William Eberle
Dr. Rachel Hall
Dr. Katherine Herman-Turner
Dr. Samantha Hutson
Dr. Kim Hanna
for Dr. Barbara Jared
Dr. Alfred Kalyanapu
Dr. Tony Michael
Dr. Allan Mills
Dr. Sean Alley
for Dr. Julie Pharr
Dr. Michael Phillips
Dr. James Baier
for Dr. Darron Smith
Dr. Bedelia Russell (non-voting)
Dr. Jeremy Wendt
Dr. Lisa Zagumny
Kashaina Nucum

Members Absent

Dr. Joseph Slater
Dr. John Zhu
Dr. Hayden Mattingly
Dr. Thomas Payne
Dr. Mike Gotcher

Other Attendees

Becky Blalock
Lucinda Morabito
Stephanie Flores
Lauren Wright
Matt Silvey

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 September 2nd 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 & Sciences, Department of Sociology & Political Science, for a new degree program and addition of curriculum courses. The Master of Social Work will be a 60 credit hour hybrid program with an advanced standing 30 credit hour option and include the following new courses: *AC

SW 6000: Social Work Practice;

SW 5125 Human Behavior and Social Environment I;

SW 5150 Human Behavior and Social Environment II;

SW 6050: Research Methods in Social Work;

SW 6150: Evidence-Based Practice in Social Work;

SW 6100: Poverty, Inequality, & Social Justice;

SW 5175 Introduction to Social Welfare Policy;

SW 6900: Practicum IA;

SW 6910: Practicum IB;

SW 6200 Psychopathology in Social Work Practice;

SW 7000: Social Work Practice with Individuals;

SW 7010: Social Work Practice with Groups;

SW 7110: Trauma-Informed Social Work Practice;

SW 7900: Practicum IIA;

SW 7910: Practicum IIB;

SW 7015: Social Work Practice with Communities & Organizations;

SW 7125: Social Policy Analysis;

SW 7100: Grant Writing & Fund Development;

SW 7020 Social Work Practice with Families;

SW 7200 Assessment & Evaluation of Clinical Practice;

SW 7210 Social Work Practice in Addictions;

SW 7220 Substance Abuse & Recovery;

SW 5000 Rural Social Work;

SW 5010 School Social Work;

SW 5015 Medical Social Work;

SW 5020 Forensic Social Work;

SW 5025 Social Work with Children & Youth.

Motion to approve the request: Dr. Zagumny

Seconded by: Dr. Wendt

Comments/Amendments: Dr. Silvey presented the new Master of Social Work proposal. The department has had a bachelor's program for a while and would like to add a master's level program. Grants have been awarded to subsidize community programs, including a pro bono clinic, which will be supported by the master program and students. This will be a terminal practice degree. The program will be approximately 2 years of full time coursework and 2 years of field work though it may be longer depending on the needs of the student. There will be two specializations: General and Substance Abuse. The degree will have approximately 30 credit hours of foundation work to be completed before specialized coursework. The Substance Abuse track is more clinical. There will be an advanced standing option. If a student comes with a Bachelor of Social Work from an accredited university, they will not need to complete the foundation coursework. Department may add some Fast Track courses. TN Tech is not accredited at this time. At this time, the admission will be fall cohorts. Admissions will include a 2.75 minimum GPA, no GRE, references, and any undergraduate degree.

Dr. Kalyanapu asked about potential licensure. Dr. Silvey responded that after degree and field work is complete, students may apply for state licensure.

Dr. Hermann-Turner remarked that the program is very similar to the Clinical Mental Health program, which also requires clinical experience, and is concerned about marketing the two degrees. Dr. Silvey responded that while there are some similarities, the social work program will include different types of interactions, grant writing, and resources. Social work can help bridge gaps in available resources. The department will have to work hard to recruit, market, and prepare students.

Dr. Hanna asked about supervision of clinicals. Dr. Silvey stated that the clinic should be doing the supervision but the department will support as needed.

Dr. Russell mentioned that nursing uses virtual training and online resources for classes and suggested that it may be able to support the program. Dr. Silvey noted the suggestion.

Dr. Wendt asked if the department was prepared for when the grant funding ended. Dr. Silvey said the department is working hard to get the program going and making it sustainable before the grant ends.

Dr. Wendt commented on the course title "Social Justice". Dr. Silvey stated that the department is meeting with the curriculum committee to ensure all courses are appropriate.

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

4. Proposal by the College of Graduate Studies for the revision of Policy 283: General Graduate Transfer Credit Requirements and Policy 272: Graduate Studies Executive Committee.

Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Zagumny

Seconded by: Dr. Wendt

Comments/Amendments: Dr. Camuti presented reference and clarified wording updates to Policy 272 Graduate Studies Executive Committee. Policy 283 General Graduate Transfer Credit Requirements was updated with definitions and clear instructions about requesting transfer credits.

Dr. Akenson asked about options if a student is unable to get a syllabi for course. Dr. Baker stated that an exception request may be submitted.

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

5. Informational Items: None

6. Other Matters: None

7. Adjourn

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 November 4, 2025.