

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY
October 1, 2025

The Academic Council met at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, via Teams videoconferencing technology, with Professor Kimberly Winkle, presiding.

The following members of the council were present:

Dr. Thomas Payne
Dr. Allen MacKenzie
Dr. Daren Snider
Dr. Jennifer Shank
Dr. Lisa Zagumny
Dr. Jim Baier
Dr. Brian Carver
Dr. Brian O'Connor
Dr. Yi Peng
Dr. Hyewon Park
Dr. Melissa Comer
Dr. Christy Killman
Dr. Alfred Kalyanapu
Dr. Syed Rafay Hasan
Dr. Kexin Xu
Mr. Joshua Field
Dr. Scott Christen

Dr. Ann Manginelli
Dr. Jennifer Mabry
Dr. Stacey Browning
Dr. Amy Hill
Dr. Linda Null
Dr. Ka Grimes
Dr. Krystal Kennedy
Dr. Brenda Wilson
Dr. Mustafa Rajabali
Dr. Michael Olsen
Mr. Jimmy Guadalupe

Others present were:

Dr. John Liu
Dr. Julie Baker
Dr. Bedelia Russell
Dr. Jerry Gannod
Dr. Robby Sanders
Dr. Michae Aikens
Dr. Douglas Talbert
Dr. Maanak Gupta
Dr. Karen Wright
Dr. William Eberle

The following members of the council were absent:

Dr. Mike Gotcher
Dr. Darron Smith
Dr. Lee Ann Shipley
Ms. Megan Atkinson
Dr. Amber Spears
Ms. Maya Seitz

Ms. Abby McCulley
Ms. Presley Elliott

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of Minutes of September 3, 2025, meeting

Policy 732-Intellectual Property (First Reading)

Chemical Engineering Amendment of Graduate Certificate

Human Ecology Termination of Concentration in Child Life

Computer Science Program Modification, Artificial Intelligence

Such Other Matters

Adjournment

Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Jennifer Mabry SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes of September 3, 2025, Meeting

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Jennifer Mabry SECONDED. APPROVED.

Policy 732-Intellectual Property (First Reading)

Dr. Michael Aikens stated utilization of Tennessee Tech funds, personnel, (including overload compensation), facilities, equipment, materials, or other resources resulting in a direct, indirect, or depreciative cost to Tennessee Tech of more than \$4,560; excludes Tennessee Tech office space, Tennessee Tech libraries, and computers provided by Tennessee Tech. Students' use of resources or facilities typically available to students in their educational activities does not constitute significant use. No Vote.

Chemical Engineering Amendment of Graduate Certificate

Dr. Robby Sanders stated the intent is for this certificate to be open to all graduate students with interest in the subjects and with approval from their advisor. After offering the first two iterations and with additional interest expressed by graduate programs, the requested modification will allow students from these programs to enroll in the courses. After little discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Jennifer Mabry SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Human Ecology Termination of Concentration in Child Life

Dr. Melinda Anderson stated in preparation for the transition to our MS in Child Life degree; approved to start Fall 2026- it is necessary to terminate the undergraduate Child Life concentration and focus resources on the graduate program. Six students remain in the Child Life concentration. Four of them will graduate in May 2026. The remaining 2 students are set to graduate in May 2027. After little discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Jennifer Mabry SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Computer Science Program Modification, Artificial Intelligence

Dr. Jerry Gannod stated we are requesting the elevation of the B.S in Computer Science with a concentration in data science and artificial intelligence (DSAI) to a B.S in Artificial Intelligence. As part of this elevation, we are also requesting the addition of two new courses, AI 3100 (Human-Centered AI) and AI 4200 (Deep Learning). After much discussion, Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Jennifer Mabry SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Such Other Matters

There were no other such matters.

Adjournment

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Scott Christen SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Amy McCoy, Recorder

Documents on file with the minutes:

All documents presented at the meeting