

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY
November 5, 2025

The Academic Council met at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 3, 2025, via Teams videoconferencing technology, with Dr. Brenda Wilson, presiding.

The following members of the council were present:

Dr. Thomas Payne
Dr. Allen MacKenzie
Dr. Jennifer Shank
Dr. Mike Gotcher
Dr. Daron Smith
Dr. Lee Ann Shipley
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
Ms. Megan Atkinson
Dr. Amy Hill
Dr. Linda Null
Dr. Ka Grimes
Dr. Michael Olsen
Dr. Amber Spears
Mr. Jimmy Guadalupe

Others present were:

Dr. John Liu
Dr. Julie Baker
Dr. Bedelia Russell
Dr. Sharon Huo
Dr. Karen Wright
Dr. Steven Seiler
Dr. Bradley Cohen
Dr. Charmian Leong

The following members of the council were absent:

Dr. Daren Snider
Dr. Mustafa Rajabali
Dr. Krystal Kennedy
Ms. Maya Seitz
Ms. Abby McCulley
Ms. Presley Elliot

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of Minutes of October 1, 2025, meeting

Approval of Policy 732-Intellectual Property

College of Arts & Sciences, Department of Sociology & Political Science-New Academic Program Proposal, MSW

Policy 272-Graduate Studies Executive Committee (First Reading)

Policy 283-General Graduate Transfer Credit Requirements (First Reading)

Policy 282-Graduate Faculty Appointment & Responsibilities Policy (First Reading)

Approval of Policy 274-Graduate Assistantships

College of Arts & Sciences, Department of Biology-New Academic Program Proposal & Addition of Curriculum Courses – Ph. D in Integrative Biology

Such Other Matters

Adjournment

Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Mike Gotcher MOVED approval and Dr. Scott Christen SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes of October 1, 2025, Meeting

Dr. Mike Gotcher MOVED approval and Dr. Scott Christen SECONDED. APPROVED.

Approval of Policy 732-Intellectual Property

Dr. Charmain Leong 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. After little discussion, Dr. Linda Null MOVED approval and Dr. Amy Hill SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

College of Arts & Sciences, Department of Sociology & Political Science-New Academic Program Proposal, MSW

Dr. Steven Seiler stated addition of new Master of Social Work hybrid, 60 credit hour program with two tracks, Advanced Generalist Practice and Substance Abuse and Mental Health, and an accelerated option within each track. After little discussion, Dr. Mike Gotcher MOVED approval and Dr. Scott Christen SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Policy 272-Graduate Studies Executive Committee (First Reading)

Dr. Julie Baker stated attached is Policy 272 with revisions that were reviewed by several members of the GSEC. Full committee review and approval is requested. In addition, working procedures of the committee are revised and submitted for review and approval. No Vote.

Policy 283-General Graduate Transfer Credit Requirements (First Reading)

Dr. Julie Baker stated attached is Policy 283 (with revisions) that was reviewed by several members of the GSEC. Full committee review and approval is requested. No Vote.

Policy 282-Graduate Faculty Appointment & Responsibilities Policy (First Reading)

Dr. Julie Baker stated a committee of GSEC members met via Teams during the 2024-2025 academic year to review Policy 282 Graduate Faculty Appointment and Responsibilities. Revisions to the current policy are recommended and are provided to the GSEC for review and approval. No Vote.

Approval of Policy 274-Graduate Assistantships

Dr. Julie Baker stated a committee of GSEC members met via Teams during the 2024-2025 academic year to review Policy 274, Graduate Assistants. Revisions to the current policy are recommended and are provided to the GSEC for review and approval. After little discussion, Dr. Mike Gotcher MOVED approval and Dr. Scott Christen SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

College of Arts & Sciences, Department of Biology-New Academic Program Proposal & Addition of Curriculum Courses – Ph. D in Integrative Biology

Dr. Bradley Cohen stated the proposed PhD program in Integrative Biology addresses a critical workforce need in Tennessee and beyond for doctoral-level scientists who can bridge traditional boundaries between subdisciplines of biology and broader disciplinary divides. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and THEC's 2024 Supply and Demand Report, employment for biological scientists is projected to grow by 7.2% in Tennessee through 2032, outpacing the overall state employment growth rate of 6.8%. After little discussion, Dr. Stacey Browning MOVED approval and Dr. Allen MacKenzie SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Such Other Matters

There were no other such matters.

Adjournment

Dr. Mike Gotcher 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

