

## Meeting Minutes

Graduate Studies Executive Committee  
Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 3:00pm  
Provost's Conference Room, Derryberry

### Members Present

Dr. Julie C. Baker—Executive Officer  
Dr. Alice Camuti—Ex-Officio  
Dr. Michael Burdick—Chair  
Dr. Dan Combs  
Dr. William Eberle  
Dr. Mike Gotcher  
Dr. Rachel Hall  
Dr. Samantha Hutson  
Dr. Steve Isbell  
Dr. Barbara Jared  
Dr. Alfred Kalyanapu  
Dr. Hayden Mattingly  
Dr. Tony Michael  
Dr. Allan Mills  
Dr. Thomas Payne  
Dr. Julie Pharr  
Dr. Michael Phillips  
Dr. Darron Smith  
Dr. Jeremy Wendt  
Dr. Lisa Zagumny  
Dr. John Zhu  
McKenna Stevens  
Braxton Westbrook

### Members Absent

Dr. Joseph Slater  
Dr. Bedelia Russell (non-voting)  
Kelsey Rainey  
Omar Abdelsalam

### Other Attendees

Karen Warren  
Lucinda Morabito  
Stephanie Flores  
Shelia Kendrick  
Becky Blalock  
Tammy Dodson  
Dr. Ashley Akenson

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1. Approval of the agenda.

**Motion to approve the agenda: Dr. Lisa Zagumny**

**Seconded by: Dr. Darron Smith**

**Comments/Amendments: None**

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

2. Approval of the minutes from the November 5, 2024 meeting.

**Motion to approve the minutes: Dr. Lisa Zagumny**

**Seconded by: Dr. Darron Smith**

**Comments/Amendments: None**

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

3. Student Item: [REDACTED]

**Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Lisa Zagumny**

**Seconded by: Dr. Darron Smith**

**Comments/Amendments:** [REDACTED]

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

4. Proposal by the College of Education and Human Sciences, Department of Counseling and Psychology to add or edit the following courses, effective Fall 2025:

- a. Add COUN 7470 Motivational Interviewing Pg 17
- b. Add COUN 7850 Advanced Research Methods and Design Pg 37
- c. Edit PSY 5140 Health Psychology, combine lecture and labs credit hours into lecture hours only
- d. Edit COUN 6680 Trauma/Grief/Crisis Counseling, change to prerequisite. Pg 56
- e. Edit COUN 6800 Practicum, change to prerequisite. Pg 67
- f. Edit COUN 7300 Seminar in Counseling, may repeat if different topic. Pg 95

**Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Lisa Zagumny**

**Seconded by: Dr. Darron Smith**

**Comments/Amendments:** Dr. Micheals stated that the addition of the courses will enhance current programs. The first two are additions, the first, COUN7470, is clinical based, the other, COUN 7850, is to support the doctoral dissertation process. The edits are clean up.

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

5. Proposal by the College of Education and Human Sciences, Department of Curriculum and Instruction to edit the prerequisite course for EDU 7300 Research Design, effective Fall 2025. Pg 115

**Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Lisa Zagumny**

**Seconded by: Dr. Darron Smith**

**Comments/Amendments:** Dr. Wendt stated that it is a minor edit, adding a prerequisite.

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

6. Proposal by the College of Engineering, Department of Mechanical Engineering to reduce the number of credits required for the non-thesis option from 33 to 31 credits for the MSME degree, the thesis option will not change. \*AC Pg 127

**Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Lisa Zagumny**

**Seconded by: Dr. Darron Smith**

**Comments/Amendments:** Dr. Zhu stated that the department is changing the requirement from 3 credits of independent study to 1 credit Graduate Seminar as an intro to research for the master's degree. With so many online students, independent study can be difficult. The credit hours are not unusual in Engineering.

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

7. Proposal by the College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biology to add the following courses, effective Fall 2025. Pg 131

- a. BIOL 5080 Vertebrate Evolution; BIOL 5090 ~~Biochemistry of Microorganisms~~ Microbial Physiology; BIOL 5190 Molecular Signal Integration; BIOL 5200 Plant Developmental Morphology; BIOL 5350 Restoring Resilient Ecosystems; BIOL 5770 Mycology

**Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Lisa Zagumny**

**Seconded by: Dr. Darron Smith**

**Comments/Amendments:** Dr. Combs stated that they are adding a graduate level option to some undergraduate courses. The department is not expecting a lot of graduate students to enroll in these courses, but the option will be available. One title was changed to better fit the course.

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

8. Proposal by the College of Business, Department of Business to increase the number of hours required for the Master of Business Administration (MBA) from 30 to 33 credit hours. \*AC Pg 168

**Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Lisa Zagumny**

**Seconded by: Dr. Darron Smith**

**Comments/Amendments:** Dr. Pharr presented. Students are asking about specializing and it can be done with certificates, but a 15-credit hour certificate surpassed (MBA) program credits. With the 12-credit hour certificate change, business students will be able to complete (the MBA) degree and a certificate in 33 credit hours, stacking the certificate with the degree. Undergraduate business students will take 21 core credits and 12 elective credits. The electives would fulfill the certificate requirements. This adds value to the program and will hopefully encourage MBA students to get a certificate. May work with the undergraduate Fast Track program. Dr. Isbell confirmed that students have expressed a desire. Dr. Gotcher asked if the MBA program will still be competitive with an increase in credit hours. Dr. Payne responded that it will be competitive. The program does not require prerequisites and is open to all undergraduate degree majors. He continued, adding that previously, the extra course required for the certificate was a concern with financial aid. The degree will be enhanced and more appealing with the change. Dr. Camuti clarified that undergraduate

business students will not be taking less credits, but a core class will be replaced with an elective. The credit hours (33) will be the same for all business students. Dr. Pharr said that it will be of more value to incoming business students as they will be able to replace a core course that they are already familiar with and take an elective. Dr. Payne stated that the additional credentials would make students more marketable.

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

9. Proposal by the College of Business, Department of Business to reduce the required credit hours from 15 to 12 credit hours for the Banking and Financial Services Certificate, the Healthcare Informatics Certificate, and the Cyber Management and Analytics Certificate, effective Fall 2025. **\*AC** Pg 171

**Motion to approve the proposal: Dr. Lisa Zagumny**

**Seconded by: Dr. Darron Smith**

**Comments/Amendments:** Dr. Pharr stated that with other colleges changing their certificate credit hours, the College of Business reviewed their own. THEC does not list a minimum credit hour for certificates and will accept 12 credit hours. Industry has 12-hour training programs or certificates as well as other academic institutions. The change would make the certificates appealing.

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

#### 10. Informational Items

- a. College of Engineering Doctoral Catalog Correction Pg 177
- b. College and Department Name Changes, please review catalog pages Pg 188 (Coursedog, Catalog product, Pages [2025-2026 Graduate Catalog])

**Comments/Amendments:** Dr. Camuti informed the committee that the first item, the Doctoral Catalog Correction, is a catalog cleanup. Some key wording was missing, things that were approved in the past but not updated.

#### 11. Other Matters

- a. Graduate Assistant Health Insurance Update

**Comments/Amendments:** Dr. Camuti stated that International Student Affairs already has insurance available for international students which may give us another, less costly option for insurance. She has connected with the representative to get more information. The funding will still need to be worked out. At this time, it may be offered to doctoral students only.

#### 12. Adjourn

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

**\*AC** – Denotes an item that will need Academic Council and possibly other approvals.

GSEC Meeting Minutes prepared by S. Flores, reviewed by Dr. A. Camuti, approved by GSEC March 4, 2025

\*redacted for sensitive information for publication.