

Meeting Minutes

Graduate Studies Executive Committee
Tuesday, November 5, 2024, at 3:00pm
TJ Farr Conference Room 108

Members Present

Dr. Julie C. Baker—Executive Officer
Dr. Alice Camuti—Ex-Officio
Dr. Michael Burdick—Chair
Dr. Dan Combs
Dr. Allen McKenzie
For 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. Michael Phillips
Dr. Bedelia Russell (non-voting)
Dr. Darron Smith
Dr. Jeremy Wendt
Dr. Lisa Zagumny
McKenna Stevens
Braxton Westbrook

Members Absent

Dr. Joseph Slater
Dr. John Zhu
Dr. Julie Pharr
Kelsey Rainey
Omar Abdelsalam

Other Attendees

Karen Warren
Lucinda Morabito
Stephanie Flores
Dr. Dennis Tennant

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1. Approval of the agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda: Lisa Zagumny

Seconded by: 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 October 1, 2024 meeting.

Motion to approve the agenda: Lisa Zagumny

Seconded by: Darron Smith

Comments/Amendments: None

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

3. Proposal from the College of Education, Department of Curriculum and Instruction to update the program of study for the Specialist degree Educational Technology concentration, effective Fall 2025.

Motion to approve the proposal: Lisa Zagumny

Seconded by: Darron Smith

Comments/Amendments: Dr. Wendt stated the change to the Program of Study for Educational Technology concentration, EdS. was needed because of a discontinued course, CUED 7430. The total credit hours is the same. CUED 7430 was removed from the core coursework and 3 credit hours was added to the advisor guided electives.

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

4. Proposal from the College of Education, Department of Curriculum and Instruction to add two new courses: EDUL7850 Discourse Analysis and EDUL7950 Special Topics, effective Fall 2025.

Motion to approve the proposal: Lisa Zagumny

Seconded by: Darron Smith

Comments/Amendments: Dr. Wendt remarked, with the recent change to the Literacy concentration (becoming Critical Discourse and Literacy Studies), new courses were needed to support the concentration.

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

5. Proposal from the College of Interdisciplinary Studies, School of Environmental Science to add a thesis option and reduce the credit hours from 33 to 30 credit hours in the Environmental Informatics concentration; to add two concentrations, Environmental Science and Environmental Sustainability, both with thesis and non-thesis options, effective Summer 2025. *AC

Motion to approve the proposal: Lisa Zagumny

Seconded by: Darron Smith

Comments/Amendments: Dr. Mattingly referred to the new courses approved in Spring were to help modify the concentrations. The current proposal will change the credit hours, add new courses to the program of studies, add a thesis option to the Environmental Informatics concentration, unify the core coursework for all concentrations, and add two new concentrations (Environmental Science and Environmental Sustainability) bring the total to three Environmental Science concentrations. All three concentrations will have a non-thesis and thesis option and an

internship will remain in the thesis option. The changes will give more freedom in electives and will improve the original, allowing for a better fit. Memos were added for the two new concentrations to provide information regarding admissions (same as Environmental Informatics), Fast Track participation (same as Environmental Informatics), and catalog descriptions.

Dr. Kalyanapu asked about the possibility of engineering interactions or involvement. Dr. Mattingly responded that electives could definitely be in engineering. Students may not have prerequisites so it is not assigned.

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

6. Proposal from the College of Engineering, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering to add a new course: CEE6380 Earthquake Ground Motion Analysis, effective Fall 2025.

Motion to approve the proposal: Lisa Zagumny

Seconded by: Dan Combs

Comments/Amendments: Dr. Mackenzie stated that the department has faculty qualified to teach and it makes sense to offer a course about earthquakes.

The question was asked if Tech had earthquake simulation equipment.

The answer was not specifically but equipment from other areas may be used and there is computer software available.

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

7. Proposal from the Whitson-Hestor School of Nursing to replace the Master of Science in Nursing admission requirement of 3 letters of recommendation with 3 professional references, effective Summer 2025. *AC

Concentrations included: Adult Geriatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner,

Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, Family Nurse Practitioner, Nursing Education, and Nursing Administration.

Motion to approve the proposal: Lisa Zagumny

Seconded by: Darron Smith

Comments/Amendments: Dr. Hall said the letters of recommendation often hold up the applications. The faculty would rather have a reference.

Dr. Kalyanapu asked if this is common?

Dr. Hall said yes, and next meeting will remove the letters of recommendation from Post Graduate Certificates.

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

8. Proposal from the College of Interdisciplinary Studies, School of Professional Studies to reduce the number of credit hours required for department certificates from 15 to 12 credit hours, effective Fall 2025. The credit hour change for certificates does not affect the credit hours of the Master's degree programs with embedded certificates. *AC
Certificates included: Healthcare Informatics, Human Resources, Project Management for the Professional, Public Safety, Strategic Leadership, Training and Development, and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

Motion to approve the proposal: Lisa Zagumny

Seconded by: Darron Smith

Comments/Amendments: Dr. Tennant said that when the certificates were original created they were under the impression that all graduate certificates must be a minimum of 15 credit hours but upon review, the minimum is 12 credit hours. (Undergraduate certificate minimum is 15 cr, Graduate certificate minimum is 12 cr hrs.) Changing the certificates credit hours will allow for more flexibility and be more appealing to students.

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

9. Proposal from the College of Interdisciplinary Studies, School of Professional Studies to add a new program, Master of Professional Studies Integrated Leadership, effective Fall 2025. *AC

Motion to approve the proposal: Lisa Zagumny

Seconded by: Darron Smith

Comments/Amendments: Dr. Tennant stated that this is what the School of Professional Studies is moving towards. Students will be earning two certificates and then have an internship or electives. This is in response to demand in workforce for stacked credentials. This will also help those seeing a second degree.
Dr. Gotcher add that the hope is to be able to allow students to customize their studies, truly and interdisciplinary degree.
Dr. Camuti added that APSU offers micro-credential certificates.

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

10. Informational Items:

- a) Catalog wording has been updated for Master of Engineering Management.
The change in the catalog wording was “collaboration” to “with support of”. Dr. Payne thanked Engineering for working with Business to clarify the wording as it was needed for clarification for accreditation review.

- b) the Cultural and Interdisciplinary Training Certificate.
Wording was updated to be more precise in the variety of programs able to participate in the certificate.

11. Other Matters: Dr. Camuti informed the Committee, in regard to health insurance for students, that a Healthcare quote should be received within a couple of weeks.

12. Adjourn

Motion to approve the proposal: Lisa Zagumny
Seconded by: Darron Smith
Comments/Amendments: None

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, and approved by GSEC, 1/28/25.