

# **Graduate Council Meeting Minutes**

## **<https://mtsu.zoom.us/j/82406790478>**

**October 24, 2025**

**1:00 pm**

**Graduate Council Chair: Dr. Frank Lambert**

### **I. Call to order: Dr. Frank Lambert 1:00pm**

Members Present: Alyson Lischka, Barbara Lancaster, Carol Nies, Dan Morrell, Deborah Wagnon, Frank Lambert, Helen Binkley, Jaishree Ranganathan, Kate Pantelides, Kim Evert, Kim Ward, Abigail Nkuah, Patrick Richey

Members Absent: Don Roy, Hongbo Zhang, Joan Boulware, Sally Ann Cruikshank, Stephen Salter, Sanjay Asthana, Rachael Oke

Visitors Present: Christine Crisp, Racha El Kadiri

### **II. Approval of Minutes from September 26, 2025**

Motion was made to approve the September 2026 Graduate Council Minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

### **III. Committee Reports**

#### **A. Curriculum Changes – Dr. Alyson Lischka**

Motion was made to approve the proposals. The motion was seconded and approved.

#### **B. Graduate Faculty Status – Dr. Kate Pantelides**

Motion was made to approve the applications. The motion was seconded and approved.

#### **C. Scholarship/Program Review – Dr. Helen Binkley**

N/A

### **IV. New Business**

#### **A. Appeal Process Restructure – Dr. Frank Lambert**

Dr. Lambert discussed reviewing graduate student appeals process aimed at creating

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a clearer, less ambiguous policy, with input from the College of Graduate Studies and University Council. Dr. El Kadiri added that involving academic deans would resolve past ambiguities and reduce litigation risks, and the group agreed to discuss and vote on the proposal at the December 5 Graduate Council meeting. After concerns about Faculty Senate communication were raised, it was discussed that Dr. El Kadiri and Dr. Richey would ensure clear communication with Faculty Senate about graduate appeals and the Graduate Council's reporting process.

**V. Motion to Adjourn: Dr. Frank Lambert 1:23pm**

**MINUTES**  
**2025-2026 Graduate Council Subcommittee**  
**October 17, 2025**  
**ZOOM - <https://mtsu.zoom.us/j/87504291199>**  
**9:00 a.m.**

<b>Call to Order:</b>	Dan Morrell 9:00am
Present:	Carol Nies, Dan Morrell, Deborah Wagnon, Barbara Lancaster, Joan Boulware
Absent:	Alyson Lischka
Visitors Present:	Christine Crisp, Tongia Key, Denise Shackleford, Amy Aldridge, Racha El Kadiri, Rachel Leander, Tyler Henson, Vajira Manathunga, Emily Butch, Elizabeth Ann Smith, Paula Calahan, Mitzi Brandon,
<b>Previously Tabled Proposals</b>	N/A
<b>New Business</b>	N/A

**Proposals**

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Detailed Explanation</b>	<b>Reference #</b>
<b>College of Basic and Applied Sciences</b>				
<b>Mathematical Sciences</b>				
ACSI - 6120 - Applications of Artificial Intelligence and Large Language Models in Actuarial Science	Spring 2026	New Course	Prerequisite: ACSI 6110 or consent of the instructor. Examines the application of artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, and large language models (LLMs) in modern actuarial practice.	1
<b>Discussion:</b> Dr. Vajira Manathunga attended the meeting and was available to address any questions.				
<b>Committee Action:</b> A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.				
ACSI - 6604 - Mathematics of Life Contingencies	Spring 2026	New Course	Prerequisites: ACSI 4230 and STAT 4190 or equivalent, or successful completion of Exam P, VEE Mathematical Statistics, and Exam FM, or consent of instructor. Introduction to life and long-term health insurance, survival models, life tables and selections, insurance benefits, annuities, premium calculation, and policy values.	2

**Discussion:** Dr. Vajira Manathunga attended the meeting and was available to address any questions.

**Committee Action:** A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

#### Professional Science

Professional Science, Actuarial Science Concentration, M.S.	Summer 2026	Change to curriculum or existing major, minor, or certificate	Replace MATH 6604 with ACSI 6604 - Mathematics of Life Contingencies	7
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**Discussion:** Dr. Rachel Leander attended the meeting and was available to address any questions.

**Committee Action:** A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

#### College of Behavioral and Health Sciences

##### Health and Human Performance

ATHT - 6300 - Evidence-Based Medicine	Summer 2026	Course Change	TITLE Change: From Advanced Evidence Based Medicine to Evidence-Based Medicine	3
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**Discussion:** n/a

**Committee Action:** A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

##### Human Sciences

DIET - 6030 - Food Systems Management	Summer 2026	Course Change	DIET 6030 will be offered as a 3-credit hour course, rather than the originally proposed 4-credit hours.	4
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**Discussion:** Dr. Elizabeth Smith attended the meeting and was available to address any questions.

**Committee Action:** A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

DIET - 6050 - Medical Nutrition Therapy	Summer 2026	Course Change	DIET 6050 will be offered as a 3-credit hour course, rather than the originally proposed 6-credit hours and will be repeated once.	5
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**Discussion:** Dr. Elizabeth Smith attended the meeting and was available to address any questions.

**Committee Action:** A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

DIET - 6500 - Integrative Learning Experience	Summer 2026	Course Change	DIET 6500 will be offered as a 3-credit hour course, rather than the originally proposed 2-credit hours and the course will be repeated once. The title of the course will now be Integrative Learning Experience in place of the Dietetic Capstone.	6
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**Discussion:** Dr. Elizabeth Smith attended the meeting and was available to address any questions.

**Committee Action:** A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Social Work**

Social Work, Dual MLS-MSW Degree Program, M.S.W.	Summer 2026	Inactivation of Program or Concentration	Inactivation of the MSW/MLS Dual Degree is due to several issues including the MLS program is currently seeing accreditation and the MSW program has not completed an online program. The MLS program is online and requiring face-to-face classes for the MSW part of the dual program is not conducive to student needs at this time.	13
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**Discussion:** N/A

**Committee Action:** A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

## College of Liberal Arts

### Sociology

SOC - 5450 - Emotions in Society: Context, Structure and Identity

Summer 2026 Course Change

New Title: From Sociology of Emotions to Emotions in Society: Context, Structure and Identity

12

**Discussion:** N/A

**Committee Action:** A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

## College of Media and Entertainment

### Recording Industry

RIM - 6710 - Drafting and Negotiating Entertainment Industry Contracts

Spring 2026 New Course

Study key provisions in entertainment contracts from company and talent perspectives. Develop skills in drafting, analyzing, and negotiating agreements with artists, producers, labels, publishers, and managers through practical exercises.

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**Discussion:** Dr. Denise Shackleford attended the meeting and was available to address any questions. Discussion was had of whether the Nashville School of Law students would have to come to Murfreesboro. Dr. Aldridge confirmed that they guaranteed the student would never have to come to Murfreesboro- classes would have to be online or in person at NSL.

**Committee Action:** A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

RIM - 6720 - Copyright and Trademark Law

Spring 2026 New Course

Explore copyright and trademark law, including rights, registration, infringement, defenses, and remedies. Analyze key legal opinions and statutes to understand the assignment, transfer, and protection of intellectual property.

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**Discussion:** Dr. Denise Shackleford attended the meeting and was available to address any questions.

**Committee Action:** A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

RIM - 6730 - Legal Issues in the Entertainment Industry

Spring 2026 New Course

Examine legal challenges in the entertainment industry, including copyright, contracts, intellectual property, defamation, right of publicity, licensing, and digital media. Analyze case law, statutes, and industry practices affecting artists, labels, publishers, studios, and other professionals.

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**Discussion:** Dr. Denise Shackleford attended the meeting and was available to address any questions.

**Committee Action:** A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

RIM - 6750 - Social Media and  
the Law

Spring 2026 New Course

Explore legal issues in social media, including First  
Amendment rights, defamation, privacy, and intellectual  
property. Analyze how laws apply to digital platforms and  
user-generated content.

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**Discussion:** Dr. Denise Shackleford attended the meeting and was available to address any questions.

**Committee Action:** A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Adjournment:** Dan Morrell 9:25am

Graduate Council - Faculty Status Subcommittee  
October Agenda – Zoom  
<https://mtsu.zoom.us/j/82406790478>  
October 17, 2025  
1:00 PM

## I. Call to Order: Kate Pantelides 1:00pm

Members Present: Kim Ward, Kate Pantelides, Sanjay Asthana, Kimberly Evert, Sally Ann Cruikshank, Hongbo Zhang

Members Absent: n/a

Visitors Present: Christine Crisp

## II. Graduate Faculty Status

### Adjunct

1. Alexander, Jordan - approved
2. Caskey, Joy - approved
3. Mulhearn, Ann- approved
4. Phillips, Kristin- approved
5. Widup, Amanda- approved for adjunct
6. Wise, Stephanie- approved

### Full

1. Bergemann, Sarah- approved
2. Barnes, Maryann- approved
3. Chusuei, Charles- approved
4. Dube, Pankhuree - approved
5. Dye, Christopher- approved
6. Kwon, Jasmin- approved
7. Loke, Sooie-Hoe- approved
8. Moore, Megan- approved
9. Weissmiller, April- approved

### Teaching

1. Benfield, Jesse- approved
2. Macy, Amy- approved

## III. Motion to Adjourn: Kate Pantelides 1:05pm