

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

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

October 2, 2026

1:00 pm

Graduate Council Chair: Dr. Patrick Richey

Members Present: Amy Harris, Daniel Morrell, Deborah Wagnon, Helen Binkley, Holly Hebert, Hongbo Zhang, Jaishree Ranganathan, Jim Farnsworth, Joan Boulware, Kate Pantelides, Kimberly Ward, Patrick Richey, Pamela Morris, Sanjay Asthana, Stephen Salter, Theresa McBreen, Calle Shwani, Jenn Dix

Members Absent: Kim Evert, Scott Handy

Visitors Present: Christine Crisp, Racha El Kadiri, Peter Eley, Jon DiCicco

1. Call to order: Dr. Patrick Richey 1:00pm

2. Approval of Graduate Council Minutes of April 24, 2026

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

3. New Business - Department/Program Graduate Faculty Criteria

The Council discussed department Graduate Faculty criteria and the requirement that discipline-specific criteria be equivalent to or exceed the general criteria established by the Graduate Council. The discussion arose after identifying instances where program criteria may not meet this standard, such as allowing a book chapter to satisfy a requirement where the Graduate Council criteria specify a book.

The Council agreed that additional clarification and guidance for departments may be needed. This item will be discussed further at the next Graduate Council meeting. Dr. El Kadiri will draft proposed communication for departments whose criteria do not meet Graduate Council requirements. Dr. Richey, Dr. Pantelides, and Dr. Zhang will review the draft before it is brought forward.

4. Committee Reports

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

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

October 2, 2026

1:00 pm

A. Curriculum Changes – Dr. Pamela Morris

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

B. Graduate Faculty Status – Dr. Kate Pantelides

A motion was made to approve all applications, with the exception of Robin Lee's application, which was tabled until the next meeting. Seth Marshall's application for Full status was approved at the Teaching status level, as the department had not approved his application for Full status. The motion was seconded and approved.

C. Scholarship/Program Review – Dr. Helen Binkley

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

5. Motion to Adjourn: Dr. Patrick Richey 1:55pm

MINUTES
2026-2027 Graduate Council Subcommittee
September 25, 2026
ZOOM - <https://mtsu.zoom.us/j/87504291199>
9:00 a.m.

Call to Order: Pam Morris 9:00am
Present: Dan Morrell, Pam Morris, Holly Hebert, Deborah Wagnon, Joan Boulware
Absent: N/A
Visitors Present: Paula Calahan, Christine Crisp, Tongia Key, Andrew Polk, Samuel Haruna, Peter Eley, Kate Goodwin, Emily Butch, Jenn Dix, Amy Aldridge, Bridget Donnelly, Joshua Phillips, Lee Wade, Tyler Henson
Previously Tabled Proposals N/A
New Business N/A

Proposals

Proposal	Effective Date	Proposed Action	Detailed Explanation	Reference #
College of Basic and Applied Sciences				
Agriculture				
Horse Science, M.S.	Summer 2027	Change to curriculum of existing major	Clarification for students during program of study preparation	16
Discussion: N/A				
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.				

Chemistry

Biomedical Sciences, M.S.	Spring 2027	Change to curriculum of existing major	This proposal seeks to add three courses to the list of electives allowed for this program and remove one. CHEM 6600 - Research in Biomedical Sciences, BIOL 5340 - Human Skeletal Biology, and BIOL 6340 - Cancer Biology will be added and BIOL 5550 - Biotechnology (which has been renumbered BIOL 6050 - Advanced Biotechnology) will be removed due to capacity issues. These changes will allow additional flexibility in terms of electives for the program.	1
Discussion: N/A				
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.				

Computer Science

CSCI - 7360 - Artificial Intelligence for Scientific Research	Spring 2027	New Course	Prerequisites: CSCI 6020 or equivalent (grade of C or above) or consent of instructor. AI methodologies for scientific research practice. Topics include foundation models, retrieval-augmented systems, agentic workflows, model adaptation, AI-assisted literature engagement, scientific writing with AI, documentation and reproducibility, and ethical use of AI in research. Domain-specific scientific models serve as recurring case studies.	2
Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.				
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.				

College of Behavioral and Health Sciences

Human Sciences Courses

HSC - 5040-6520 - Several HSC Graduate Courses	Summer 2027	Course Discontinuation	The following courses can no longer be offered due to the dissolution of the Department of Human Sciences that occurred on July 1, 2026 (CBHS reorganization). HSC Graduate Courses: • HSC 5040 - Seminar in Human Sciences • HSC 5042 - Seminar in Human Sciences: Nutrition and Food Science • HSC 5043 - Seminar in Human Sciences: Textiles, Merchandising, and Design • HSC 5044 - Seminar in Human Sciences: Interior Design • HSC 5050 - Advanced Problems in Human Sciences • HSC 5052 - Advanced Problems in Human Sciences: Nutrition and Food Science • HSC 5053 - Advanced Problems in Human Sciences: Textiles, Merchandising • HSC 5054 - Advanced Problems in Human Sciences: Interior Design • HSC 5450 - Professionalism in Consumer Services • HSC 6500 - Issues and Trends in Human Sciences • HSC 6520 - Public Policy on Consumer and Family Issues Therefore, we are requesting these courses be deactivated.	15
---	-------------	------------------------	---	----

Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

College of Liberal Arts

English

ENGL - 5540 - Approaches to Teaching ESL Grammar and Writing	Summer 2027	Course Discontinuation	The grad program has not offered this course for several years, and no one is interested in teaching it in the future.	3
Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.				
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.				
ENGL - 6551 - Popular Culture Studies	Summer 2027	Course Discontinuation	There have been no offerings in Popular Culture for several years, and the two faculty members who normally would teach such courses are involved in other teaching assignments.	4
Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.				
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.				
ENGL - 6571 - Studies in Folklore	Summer 2027	Course Discontinuation	There have been no offerings in Folklore for several years, and the two faculty members who normally would teach such courses are involved in other teaching assignments.	5
Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.				
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.				
ENGL - 6651 - Essentials of Linguistics	Summer 2027	Course Discontinuation	The English Grad program has not offered any linguistics courses in several years, and two of the three specialists have no interest in teaching their field on this level.	6
Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.				
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.				
ENGL - 6851 - Writing Center Theory	Summer 2027	Course Discontinuation	The only faculty member qualified to teach this course accepted a job offer at another school two years ago	7
Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.				
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.				

ENGL - 6861 - Middle Tennessee Writing Project (MTWP) Summer Institute	Summer 2027	Course Discontinuation	The faculty member who routinely offered this course has been retired for four years, and no one currently on the faculty has been able to offer it again.	8
Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions. Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.				
ENGL - 7551 - Popular Culture Studies	Summer 2027	Course Discontinuation	There have been no offerings in Popular Culture for several years, and the two faculty members who normally would teach such courses are involved in other teaching assignments.	9
Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions. Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.				
ENGL - 7651 - Essentials of Linguistics	Summer 2027	Course Discontinuation	Two of the English grad program's linguistics specialists are not interested in teaching their field on this level, and no grad linguistics courses have been offered in several years.	10
Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions. Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.				
ENGL - 7851 - Writing Center Theory	Summer 2027	Course Discontinuation	The only faculty member qualified to teach this course accepted a job offer at another school two years ago.	11
Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions. Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.				
ENGL - 7861 - Middle Tennessee Writing Project (MTWP) Summer Institute	Summer 2027	Course Discontinuation	The faculty member who routinely offered this course has been retired for four years, and no one currently on the faculty has been able to offer it again.	12
Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions. Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.				

History

HIST - 6541 - Seminar: Museums and Material Worlds - Interpreting Objects in Context	Spring 2027	New Course	Prerequisite: HIST 6535/7535. The materiality of public history, the examination and interpretation of history for a wide audience, and the practical applications of historical methods to interpret objects. Combines reading and discussion, historical object interaction and interaction with practicing professionals in an experiential learning environment.	13
Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.				
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.				

HIST - 7541 - Seminar: Museums and Material Worlds - Interpreting Objects in Context	Spring 2027	New Course	Prerequisite: HIST 6535/7535. The materiality of public history, the examination and interpretation of history for a wide audience, and the practical applications of historical methods to interpret objects. Combines reading and discussion, historical object interaction and interaction with practicing professionals in an experiential learning environment.	14
Discussion: Department representative was available to answer questions.				
Committee Action: A motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.				

Adjournment: 9:13am

Graduate Council - Faculty Status Subcommittee
September Minutes – Zoom
<https://mtsu.zoom.us/j/82406790478>
September 25, 2026
1:00 PM

I. Call to Order: Kate Pantelides 1:05pm

Members Present: Jim Farnsworth, Kate Pantelides, Kimberly Evert, Kimberly Ward, Sanjay Asthana, Scott Handy, Hongbo Zhang

Members Absent: N/A

Visitors Present: Christine Crisp

II. Graduate Faculty Status

Adjunct

1. Applin, Janet – approved
2. Baker, Heather– approved
3. Blankenship, Julia - approved
4. Bolinger, Angela - approved
5. Booth, Matthew - approved
6. Boyd, Gail - approved
7. Brock, Lucas - approved
8. Caruso, Michael - approved
9. Clouse, Katherine - approved
10. Coats, Jonathan - approved
11. Coble, Scott - approved
12. Conklin, Joy - approved
13. Cooper, Amanda - approved
14. Eaton, Jason - approved
15. Ferguson, Takisha – approved
16. Ford, Derria— approved
17. Hall, NKeesia - approved
18. Hicks, Marchetta - approved
19. Hodge, Phillip - approved
20. Jacobs, Jeff - approved
21. Jimenez, Karen - approved
22. Jones, Sandra - approved
23. Kernagis, Lawrence - approved
24. Lawson, Tara - approved
25. Levine, William - approved

26. McCreary, Jenny - approved
27. Mims, La Shonda - approved
28. Nelson, Martez - approved
29. Orrand, Tiffany - approved
30. Patterson, Greg - approved
31. Sampson, Jamie - approved
32. Ward, Matthew- approved
33. Young, Meredith- approved

Full

1. Bell, Mallory- approved
2. Binkley, Helen - approved
3. Dahan, Charles- approved
4. deClercq, Trevor- approved
5. Detweiler, Eric- approved
6. Fackler, Amanda- approved
7. friedli, andrienne- approved
8. Jackson, Alexander- approved
9. Johnson, Leigh- approved
10. Jones, Ryan- approved
11. Kyriakoudes, Louis- approved
12. Lambert, Frank- approved
13. Lee, Robin- approved
14. Lewis, Christine- approved
15. Liu, Yi- approved
16. Lovett, Jennifer- approved
17. MacDougall, Preston- approved
18. Manix, Kelly- approved
19. McCarthy, Patrick- approved
20. Owusu, Andrew- approved
21. Ridgley, Robyn- approved
22. Roach, Michael- approved
23. Rountree, Wendy- approved
24. Senavirathne, Padhuk Gamaralalage- approved
25. Stephens, David- approved
26. Tarpey, Richard- approved
27. Terletska, Hanna- approved
28. Vlasov, Dmitrii- approved
29. Voss, Diana- approved
30. Wang, Tianrun- approved
31. Wang, Chengshan- approved
32. West Osterfield, Paul- approved
33. Williams, Kelly- approved
34. Wright, Elizabeth- approved

35. Zha, Xiaoya- approved
36. Zhou, Hongjuan- approved

Teaching

1. Decker, Jarett- approved
2. Green, Lisa- approved
3. Huff, Amy- approved
4. Lukianova, Anna- approved
5. Marshall, Seth- approved
6. Mbamba, Crispin- approved
7. Puram, Varun teja- approved
8. Rice, Aaron- approved
9. Taylor, Matt- approved
10. Williams, Ralph- approved
11. Yoon, Na Young- approved

III. Motion to Adjourn: Kate Pantelides 1:43pm

GRADUATE COUNCIL

Scholarship / Program Reviewer Subcommittee

MEETING AGENDA

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
September 25, 2026	11:00 a.m.	Microsoft Teams

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

I. Call to Order

Presiding: Dr. Stephen Salter 11:00am

Members Present: Stephen Salter, Jaishree Ranganathan, Amy Harris, Helen Binkley

Members Absent: Theresa McBreen

Visitors Present: Christine Crisp

II. External Program Reviewers

A.	M.A. International Affairs	Charity Butcher – The Subcommittee determined that the reviewer met the established criteria. The motion to approve Charity Butcher as an external program reviewer carried.
B.	M.S. Media and Communications	Dorothy Bland – The Subcommittee determined that the reviewer met the established criteria. The motion to approve Dorothy Bland as an external program reviewer carried.

III. Motion to Adjourn: 11:13am