

Deans Council

6/25/25

Dr. Abbott will be transitioning from her role as Interim Provost and will be working from Ginger's old office and also remote, as Jordan Barkley takes over 7/1 as new Provost.

JA will be providing support for Dr. Barkley over the next month or so. She thanked everyone for the support shown over last few months.

Sharon Brewer is working remotely this week as she has COVID.

1. **College Science and Mathematics Restructure**

Kim Childs

The College of Sciences and Mathematics requests the following changes effective September 1, 2026:

- 1) Separate the Physics, Engineering and Astronomy departments into two groups: (a) engineering (1 chair, 6 faculty, and 1 machinist) and (b) physics and astronomy (6 faculty).
- 2) Combine Engineering and Computer Science into a single department.
- 3) Combine Physics and Astronomy with Earth Sciences and Geologic Resources and rename the new department to reflect both disciplines.

This will result in College of Sciences and Mathematics reduce by one department to :

Computer Science & Engineering
Earth Sciences, Geologic Resources & Physics
Biology
Chemistry/Biochemistry
Mathematics & Statistics
Nursing

After discussion the deans did not feel any of these changes affected the other colleges and were happy to move forward with approval.

Dr. Lane made a motion to approve this restructure, seconded by Dr. Knepp. All deans were in approval. The change will be effective fall 2026.

2. **NTT Promotion Requirements**

Dustin Knepp/Stacy Hendricks

DK and SH worked on promotion amounts for non-tenure-track faculty, following a recent change in the HOP to add titles in line with UTS.

The deans were asked to review and provide feedback. We want these changes to go into effect fall 2025 in time for promotion applications for the fall.

JA asked for HOP numbers to be listed and clearly state how these should be interpreted. We will review at the next meeting for final approval.

3. **Mid-Term Grades**

Marc Guidry

Under our current HOP, instructors are only required to submit mid-term grades for lower level courses. MG is proposing a change, requiring them for ALL 3/4000 level courses. The suggestion followed discussion with athletic advisors who state students get little feedback and do not know where they stand.

Research shows that combining mid-term grades with support helps student retention and student success, particularly with males.

Charlotte Sullivan has advised us to expect performance-based funding to be passed in next legislative session.

College of Sciences and Mathematics has been following this practice for some time and has experienced success with many students. Michele Harris provided data on the success of providing mid-term grades for upper level courses in their college.

JA said we need to do better with searches and onboarding faculty and make it clear what they are expected to do.

Midterm grades will help with grade appeals and will help protect faculty. This is low cost solution to improve retention.

Dr. Hendricks made a motion to implement this change. It was seconded by Dr. Williams, and all deans approved for this to go into effect fall 2025. MG has already checked with Mickey Diez and there is no issue from registrar's office.

4. **Any Other Business**

Dr. Knepp and Dr. Lane attended UTS Faculty Success Community of Practice Convening training. We are not alone. Other UT schools do not have academic unit leader training. SH suggested a leadership training for our two new incoming deans.

We will invite Ginger to present at a future meeting to provide an overview on budget, which was submitted 6/23/25.

Attendees: Judy Abbott, Marc Guidry, Sharon Brewer (zoom), Stacy Hendricks, Jason Reese, Hans Williams, Gary Wurtz, Forrest Lane, Kim Childs, Dustin Knepp