

**Minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee
February 18, 2026**

Members in Attendance:

Willis Jones, Peter Carton, John Potter, Les Black, LaKaavia Taylor-Holman,
Quentin Sedlacek

Ex officio members: Paige Ware, Katrina Glenn, Rebecca Hood

Master of Science in Learning Sciences

- Proposal to Discontinue the Program in Fall 2027
- Proposal to Change admission cycle for FY 2026-2027

Dr. Candace Walkington presented a proposal to close the Master of Science in Learning Sciences (MSLS) program due to sustained low enrollment and financial considerations. Enrollment projections of 25–30 students per admission cycle were not met across four cycles. The department has exited its recruitment contract with Everspring.

The proposal was reviewed by the TEIL Committee and the department. The departmental vote was 8 in favor, with 4 abstentions. The proposed closure date is Fall 2027. Current students will be taught out to completion.

Discussion included questions regarding enrollment growth potential, faculty impact, and future use of Learning Sciences coursework.

The Academic Affairs Committee concluded discussion and **a motion to approve proposed changes to the Master of Science in Learning Sciences Program was moved, seconded, and carried.**

- **Proposal: Request to Approve an Online Course Section of EPL 6354 Leading Organizational Change.** Dr. Nick Gesualdi presented proposed updates to EPL 6354. Proposal seeks to develop online section of course for Fall term. Synchronous components were refined, and asynchronous materials were developed in collaboration with OIT course developers.

The Academic Affairs Committee concluded discussion and **a motion to approve EPL 6354 online course section was moved, seconded, and carried.**

- **Proposal: Request to approve an online course section for EPL 6340 Legal and Ethical Aspects of Leadership.** Dr. Les Black presented proposed revisions to EPL 6340. The course will be delivered in a hybrid format consisting of one 90-minute synchronous meeting per week, with asynchronous coursework completed prior to each session. Revisions align course and module-level objectives with Quality Matters standards.

The Academic Affairs Committee concluded discussion and **a motion to approve EPL 6340 was moved, seconded, and carried.**

Teaching & Learning

Drs. Karla del Rosal and Annie Wilhelm presented proposals to expand online course offerings within the EDU program to support program delivery in collaboration with Teach for America and to improve access for students in remote locations, including San Antonio, Austin, and Houston. The proposal are in alignment with Quality Matters (QM) standards. Implementation is proposed for Fall 2026.

- **EDU 6308 Foundations of Math Education (New Online Course)**
Proposal to create new 3-credit hour online course
- **EDU 6309: Foundations of Science Education (New Online Course)**
Proposal to create new 3-credit hour online course
- **EDU 6301: Differentiated Instruction for Secondary Math/Science Teachers (New Online Course)**
Proposal to create new 3-credit hour online course
- **EDU 6310: Foundations of Education (Online Section and Course Rename)**

Proposal to approve an online course section and rename the course

- **EDU 6305: Differentiated Instruction (Online Section and Course Rename)**
Proposal to approve an online course section and rename the course
- **EDU 6329: Teaching Mathematics in Elementary School (Online Section and Course Rename)**
Proposal to approve an online course section and rename the course
- **EDU 5355: Teaching Mathematics in Elementary School (Online Section and Course Rename)**
Proposal to approve an online course section and rename the course

The Academic Affairs Committee concluded discussion and **a motion to approve reformatting proposed EDU courses was moved, seconded, and carried.**

Meeting adjourned.