

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### **Recommendation for the Formation of the Aviation Science Department**

In accordance with Policy 2:009, Academic Reorganization, the Austin Peay State University and the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics is seeking to establish a new academic department, the Department of Aviation Science.

#### **Specific Recommendations for Reorganization**

The Bachelor of Science in Aviation Science, as well as the Robinson Flight Instructor Certificate will be housed within the new department. Both programs fall under the Federal CIP Code of 49.0101.

#### **Rationale for Recommendation**

*Circumstances prompting recommendation:* Currently, these programs, along with the Associate of Applied Science and Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology, are housed in the Department of Engineering Technology. The accrediting body for the Engineering Technology Programs is Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). Whereas the accrediting body for the Aviation Science programs is the Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI) and additionally requires continual Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Part 141 certification, in addition to all the technical objectives, flight hours and assessments, required for all FAA certifications. Additionally, the aviation-related program and flight operations are located at the Clarksville Regional Airport. In contrast, the Engineering Technology program courses are offered at both the Clarksville and Fort Campbell locations.

*Objectives to be accomplished by recommendation:* Creating a department of Aviation Science will enable these aviation related programs to have their own distinct department, with appropriate alignment of department missions, logistics, and procedures. This will benefit students, faculty, and staff in both departments.

*Anticipated Costs Associated with the Recommendations:* No new facilities or renovations are required to create this new academic unit. The Bachelor of Science in Aviation Science and the Robinson Flight Instructor Certificate programs, which will constitute the new Department of Aviation Science, along with the faculty and staff that support these programs, are already in their own space at the Clarksville Regional Airport. No new costs are anticipated with the creation of the new academic unit. Charles Weigandt, the current program director, will continue to lead these programs. Additionally, the existing marketing materials were created with the appropriate contact information for Mr. Weigandt, and there will be no start-up costs for these items. The current personnel in the Aviation Science program will remain and will continue to report to the Director of the Aviation Science Program, Mr. Charlie Weigandt. Establishing this department requires no new accounts to be created, aviation science is already financially separated from the Engineering Technology department.

*Impact on Degree Programs:* There is no impact since the degree programs are already established and will now be housed in a department reflective of just either the Aviation Science program in the Aviation Science Department or the Engineering Technology programs in the Engineering Technology Department.

*Timeline of Implementation:* The implementation of this change would take place, assuming THEC and Board of Trustee approval, in Fall 2026. This proposal has already been proposed and approved at all department, college and University Curriculum Committee levels. No concerns were raised and after answering a few general questions from the UCC, we are now ready for the proposal to go to faculty and faculty senate for review.