

March 25, 2016

Dear TSU Family,

As you know, over the course of the last several weeks, I have led an effort to ensure that the FOCUS Act meets the needs of the TSU community. The FOCUS Act restructures the Tennessee Board of Regents system by removing the TBR universities from the system and creating individual boards to govern each of the six TBR universities. My goal was to seek to enhance the FOCUS Act by proposing reasonable amendments to clarify provisions in the law and to minimize the unintended effects of the law on TSU.

I am pleased to announce the successes that we have achieved. Our efforts have led to the inclusion of key amendments to address TSU's concerns. For example, due to our efforts, all of the six TBR University Presidents, including TSU's President, will now serve on the critically important Funding Formula Committee - the committee charged with developing a funding model to distribute base operational funding to all public institutions of higher education in the state. The original version of the FOCUS Act allowed only one of the six Presidents to serve on the committee. This is a significant achievement.

We also were able to secure amendments to clarify the role of the state university boards under this new structure. Because of our efforts, the boards' role will be to govern the institutions, rather than operating them as stated in the original legislation.

Through our meetings with the Governor's office, we were also able to secure a commitment from the Governor's office that it will pursue other amendments in next year's FOCUS Act cleanup bill. We plan to work closely with the Governor's office to aid the office in its efforts.

In addition, as a member of the Governor's FOCUS Act task force, I will be working closely with Governor Haslam and the other members of the task force to represent TSU's interests. This includes ensuring that the Tennessee Higher Education Commission possesses the necessary oversight and regulatory authority to appropriately manage the numerous issues that will undoubtedly arise among the State's universities, including the UT System institutions.

We are still in discussions regarding the apparent strengthening of the UT system and minimizing the effects this will have on TSU. That dialogue is continuing.

I want to thank you again for your support during this critical time. I want to assure you that your efforts were instrumental in helping TSU accomplish its goals related to FOCUS.

Sincerely,  
President Glenda Glover