

**Tennessee State University Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting – June 15, 2023  
Tennessee State University – Hankal Hall**

**MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Trustees Deborah Cole, Andre Johnson, Bill Johnson, Obie McKenzie, Richard Lewis, Stephen Corbeil, Joseph Walker, Pam Martin, and Shaun Wimberly

**University Staff Present:** President Glenda Glover; Laurence Pendleton, General Counsel and Board Secretary; Doug Allen, Vice President of Finance and Budget; Curtis Johnson, Vice President for Administration; Dean Frank Stevenson, Assoc. Vice President of Student Affairs; Terrence Izzard, Assoc. Vice President of Enrollment Management; Dr. Robbie Melton, Graduate School Dean; Dr. Arlene Nicholas-Phillips, Liaison to the Board of Trustees; Ginette Garza Brown, Associate General Counsel; Director of Internal Audits, Renee Forbés-Williams; Chief Operating Officer, Jason Evans; and Assistant Vice President of Customer Relations, Jessica Powell

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Cole called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. on June 15, 2023.

**II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Board Chair welcomed the attendees, and Dean Frank Stevenson gave the invocation. Chair Cole recognized Cabinet members and deans in attendance. Chair Cole recognized the several new employees who were present, including new Chief Operating Officer, Jason Evans; Assistant Vice President of Customer Relations, Jessica Powell; and Director of Internal Audits, Renee Forbes-Williams; William Radford, Assistant Vice President for Design and Construction.

Dr. Reginald McDonald was recognized for the TSU Aristocrat of Bands' extraordinary efforts and accomplishments, including winning a Grammy award and recently performing at the White House. Dr. McDonald thanked the University, and Dr. Glover in particular, for the constant support of the band.

**III. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**

Chair Cole asked the Board Secretary, Laurence Pendleton, to call the roll. The following Trustees were present during roll call: Trustee Deborah Cole, Andre Johnson, Bill Johnson, Richard Lewis, Joseph Walker, Steve Corbeil, Obie McKenzie, Pam Martin, and Shaun Wimberly. Board Secretary Pendleton announced the presence of a quorum.

Chair Cole asked the committee members to state now if any of the committee members cannot hear or speak with each other. No committee members answered in the affirmative. Chair Cole also asked the committee members to indicate if someone is present with them from the location in which they are calling. No committee members indicated there was anyone present.

#### **IV. ACTION ITEMS**

##### **A. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair Cole introduced the first agenda item, which was the approval of the Consent Agenda items, which included the March 16, 2023, Board meeting minutes; March 16, 2023, Audit Committee meeting minutes; March 16, 2023, Finance and Budget Committee meeting minutes; March 16, 2023, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes; March 16, 2023, Executive Committee meeting minutes; November 7, 2022, Housing Committee meeting minutes; and January 10, 2023, Housing Committee meeting minutes, as contained in the Board materials for the June 15, 2023, Board meeting. Trustee B. Johnson moved to recommend to the full Board approval of the Consent Agenda item. Trustee Martin seconded the motion, which carried by roll call vote.

##### **B. APPROVAL AND ELECTION OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR**

Chair Cole opened the floor for nominations for Board Chair. Trustee Martin nominated Trustee Cole to serve as Chair for another two-year term. There were no further nominations. Trustee A. Johnson seconded the nomination. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Chair Cole thanked everyone on the Board for their confidence and accepted the appointment.

##### **C. APPROVAL AND ELECTION OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES VICE CHAIR**

Chair Cole opened the floor for nominations for Board Vice Chair. Chair Cole nominated Trustee Martin to serve as Vice Chair for another two-year term. There were no further nominations. Trustee B. Johnson seconded the nomination. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Chair Cole thanked everyone on the Board for their confidence and accepted the appointment.

##### **D. APPOINTMENT OF AT-LARGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Chair Cole introduced the next item on the agenda, the appointment of At-Large Executive Committee members. Chair Cole reminded the Board that pursuant to the Board's Committees of the Board policy, the Board's Executive Committee is comprised of the Board Chair, Board Vice Chair, and at least one at-large voting member elected by the Board. Members of the Executive Committee serve for a term of two years. Currently, Trustees Lewis and Walker serve as at-large members of the Executive Committee by Trustee Lewis' service as a Committee Chair and Trustee Walker's service as the most recent former Board Chair. Chair Cole moved to re-appoint Trustees Lewis and Waker to serve another two-year term each on the Executive Committee. Trustee Martin seconded the motion, which carried by roll call vote.

##### **E. APPROVAL OF REAPPOINTMENT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Chair Cole reminded the Board that pursuant to the Audit Committee Charter, Board policy, and state law, the Board had established an Audit Committee where the members serve a two-

year term. To ensure compliance with state law and the Board Audit Committee Charter, she recommended the reappointment of the current Audit Committee members, Trustees Cole, McKenzie, and Pinnock, to serve another two-year term each.

Chair Cole moved to re-appoint Trustees Cole, McKenzie, and Pinnock to serve as members of the Audit Committee for another two-year term. Trustee Lewis seconded, and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

#### **F. APPROVAL OF REAPPOINTMENT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Vice Chair Pamela Martin reminded the Board that pursuant to the Audit Committee Charter, Board policy, and state law, the Audit Committee Chair serves a one-year term. To ensure compliance with state law and the Board Audit Committee Charter, she recommended the reappointment of Trustee Cole to serve another one-year term as Chair of the Audit Committee. She stated that Trustee Cole had been a committed and effective chair of the Audit Committee.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Vice Chair Martin moved to appoint Trustee Cole to serve as Chair of the Audit Committee for another one-year term. Trustee Lewis seconded, and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

#### **G. APPOINTMENT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE**

Chair Cole addressed the next item on the agenda, the appointment of the student trustee. She reminded everyone that pursuant to the FOCUS Act, a Tennessee State University student shall serve as a non-voting student member of the Board. The Board shall appoint the non-voting student member to serve a term of one (1) year.

In preparing for the Board's appointment of the Student Trustee for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, and pursuant to the institution's Student Trustee recommendation process, the Tennessee State University Student Government Association ("SGA") solicited and conducted a preliminary review of the candidates and forwarded three candidates for further consideration. The Board Secretary and Associate Vice President for Student Affairs then met with the finalist candidates and made a recommendation to the President for interviews. She added that President Glover conducted interviews of the recommended candidates. At the conclusion of the recommendation process, President Glover decided to recommend the re-appointment of Mr. Shaun Wimberly to serve as the Student Trustee.

Chair Cole added that Mr. Wimberly will be a senior in the fall 2023 semester. He is pursuing a Bachelor of Agricultural Science degree in Agribusiness. He brings a key perspective to the Board.

Chair Cole made a motion to appoint Mr. Shaun Wimberly to serve a one-year term as Student Trustee on the TSU Board of Trustees. Trustee B. Johnson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Chair Cole thanked Mr. Wimberly for his service. Mr. Wimberly accepted the appointment as Student Trustee and thanked the Board.

## **H. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

As Audit Committee Chair, Chair Cole informed the Board that the Audit Committee met to take action on two agenda items and received reports on four other items before going into Executive Session to discuss items deemed confidential under state law. The Audit Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the March 16, 2023, Audit Committee meeting minutes. The Audit Committee also voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audit Plan. Chair Cole added that the Audit Committee reviewed and discussed the annual report on the audit office's audit activities, a report on internal and external audit items, discuss the audit office's internal quality assessment, and outstanding audit issues.

### **i. APPROVAL OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 AUDIT PLAN**

On behalf of the Audit Committee, Chair Cole moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audit Plan as contained in the June 15, 2023, Board materials for this agenda item. Trustee Corbeil seconded the motion to approve, and it carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Chair Cole advised the Board that the Audit Committee voted to recommend the hiring of a CPA firm to audit the University's June 30, 2022, financial statements. Chair Cole moved to approve the recommendation. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion to approve, and it carried by roll call vote.

Chair Cole announced that this concluded the Audit Committee report and moved on to the next agenda item.

## **I. FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chair Cole introduced the next item on the agenda, the Finance and Budget Committee Report.

Trustee Lewis of the Finance and Budget Committee stated that the Committee met to act on five action items and received reports on five other items. The Finance and Budget Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the March 16, 2023, Finance and Budget Committee meeting minutes, the approval of the FY 2024 Tuition and Mandatory Fees increase, the approval of the FY 2023 estimated budget, the approval of the FY 2024 proposed budget, and the approval of the FY 2024 capital construction plan addendum.

In addition, Trustee Lewis noted that President Glover and her team provided reports and updates on the University budget, capital plan and development update, finance and budget report, report on student scholarships and enrollment, and Housing Committee Report.

**i. APPROVAL OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES INCREASE**

On behalf of the Finance and Budget Committee, Trustee Lewis moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the fiscal year 2023-2024 tuition and mandatory fee increase of 2.83 percent., as contained in the Board materials for the June 15, 2023, Board meeting. Trustee Corbeil seconded the motion, and it carried by roll call vote.

**ii. APPROVAL OF THE FY 2023 ESTIMATED INSTITUTIONAL BUDGET**

Trustee Lewis moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the FY 2023 Estimated Budget, as contained in the June 15, 2023, Board materials. Trustee Martin seconded the motion, which carried by roll call vote.

**iii. APPROVAL OF THE FY 2024 PROPOSED INSTITUTIONAL BUDGET**

On behalf of the Finance and Budget Committee, Trustee Lewis moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the FY 2023 Proposed Budget, which is contained in the June 15, 2023, Board materials. Trustee B. Johnson thanked the Board for the nearly 7% increase in combined instruction research and academic support elements within the budget, moving the University to a goal of 50% or more toward instruction target. Trustee B. Johnson seconded the motion to approve, and it carried by roll call vote.

**iv. APPROVAL OF THE FY 2024 CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PLAN ADDENDUM**

Trustee Lewis, on behalf of the Finance and Budget Committee, voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the FY 2024 Capital Construction Plan Addendum, as contained in the June 15, 2023, Board materials. Trustee Corbeil seconded the motion, and it carried by roll call vote.

**J. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chair Cole introduced the next item on the agenda, the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee Report. Trustee Martin reported that the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee met to consider and vote on three agenda items and to receive reports on four other agenda items.

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Martin indicated that the Committee moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the March 16, 2023, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes, the approval of the 2023-2024 Tenure and Promotion Recommendations, and the approval of a new academic program the MS in Business Data Analytics. The Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee also

received reports on SACSCOC review matters, academic affairs, the student housing plan, and student affairs.

**i. APPROVAL OF THE 2023-2024 TENURE AND PROMOTIONS RECOMMENDATIONS**

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Pam Martin moved to approve the 2023-2024 tenure and promotion recommendations. Trustee Bill Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**ii. APPROVAL OF A NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM – M.S. IN BUSINESS DATA ANALYTICS**

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Martin moved to approve a New Academic Program – the MS in Business Data Analytics, as contained in the Board materials for the June 15, 2023, Board meeting. Trustee B. Johnson seconded, and the motion to approve was carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Dr. Glover notified the Board that SACSCOC asked the University to submit a monitoring report last December. The report was submitted. SACSCOC met today, and Dr. Glover was informed that SACSCOC no longer needs a monitoring report.

**K. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chair Cole stated that the Executive Committee met today to discuss and vote on one action item and hear reports on four items. The Executive Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the March 16, 2023, Executive Committee meeting minutes.

Chair Cole also stated that the Executive Committee also heard a report on Board Committee assignments, Board resolution items, a personnel update, and a report from Secretary Pendleton.

**V. REPORT ON PROGRESS ON BOARD RESOLUTION ACTION ITEMS**

Chair Cole introduced the next item on the agenda, a report on the progress on the Board Resolution Action items. The Chair recognized President Glover, who provided information regarding this agenda item and the Board's 12-item action plan. President Glover explained that at the March 16, 2023, Board meeting, the Board resolved to take an even more active role in oversight, beyond its already active role.

President Glover stated that the Board examined the committee structures and determined that there will be some additional consideration to take place at its September 2023 meeting. The Board previously established a Housing Committee.

President Glover stated that the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) was engaged by TSU to look at the University's Board policies and practices, assess the Board's overall effectiveness, and identify areas where the Board can enhance its effectiveness. The AGB consultant stated that "the Board is operating effectively and in alignment with good governance practices." The

consultant provided the Board with suggestions for achieving its goal of elevating its effectiveness. The AGB will hold a session with the Board on September 13, 2023, following up on the AGB report. The report's conclusion was shared at the Tennessee Government Operations hearing and with other government committees.

President Glover reported that a Scholarship Plan was presented by the administration during the March 16, 2023, Board meeting for approval. It is included in the June 15, 2023, Board materials. The administration will provide the updated Scholarship Plan to THEC with the Fall semester.

President Glover further report that Housing application, enrollment, and classification data was presented by the administration during the June 15, 2023, Board meeting.

President Glover reported that enrollment classification data was presented by the administration during the June 15, 2023, Board meeting. Total enrollment as of June 13, 2023, was 5,041.

With respect to personnel review and oversight, President Glover stated that a Chief Operating Officer was hired and will conduct a personnel review, including reviewing performance and organizational structure. Three interim dean positions have been filled. There are active searches going on for two or three remaining interim dean positions. Eight of nine department chair positions have been filled. Five associate and assistant dean positions have been filled.

The University has hired Chief Operating Officer Jason Evans, Associate Vice President for Design and Construction William Radford, and Assistant Vice President of Customer Relations Jessica Powell.

President Glover stated that the Vice President of Business and Finance has been directed to seek approval for any expenditure that meets or exceeds 10% of the approved budget effective July 1, 2023. The President or COO will review said requests and, thereafter, submit it to the Board for approval. The University is working on a policy for approval.

A communications plan was presented to the Board. A new Office of Customer Relations was established and staffed with four individuals, including Assistant Vice President of Customer Relations Jessica Powell. The team will provide a more centralized approach and timely information.

Finally, President Glover stated that the Board Resolution requiring a report at the Board's quarterly meetings to ensure compliance with the Board Resolution is being accomplished through the President's Report.

Trustee B. Johnson was recognized by Chair Cole as being re-appointed as the Faculty Trustee. She thanked him for his work on the Board.

## **VI. REPORT ON TSU COMMUNICATIONS PLAN**

Chair Cole presented the next item on the agenda, a report on the TSU Communications Plan. The Chair recognized President Glover to provide information regarding this agenda item, who in turn asked Kelli Sharpe to present the information.

Ms. Sharpe indicated that a draft communications plan is included in the Board materials. She will be working with various parties to develop a final plan. The final document will be presented during the September Board meeting. She said that she is holding regular meetings with staff to develop a communication plan and how to strengthen communications. She is evaluating best ways to communicate with stakeholders. They are working on strengthening the University's brand, including working with the Customer Service division to make sure that there is phone etiquette training. Ms. Sharpe discussed daily and weekly communications internally and externally.

Chair Cole thanked Ms. Sharpe for her efforts and the great coverage with respect to the band.

## **VII. REPORT ON RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS**

Chair Cole called on President Glover to present information regarding this agenda item. President Glover asked Dr. Quincy Quick to report on this item.

Dr. Quick shared that TSU has reached a new high in research grant awards of \$95,532,666. This surpasses the University's prior research grant awards record of \$70.7 million in 2021 and represents a 34% increase and a 200% increase over the past five years. Dr. Quick acknowledged Dr. John Ricketts in the Department of Agriculture, who received an \$18 million award from the USDA NIFA. Dr. Quincy secured a \$3 million award from the National Institute of Structure and Technology that will be used for teaching and research labs in the goal of reaching an R1 designation.

The University has set a strategic goal to meet \$150 million in awards over the next five years. They have reached out to Congressional partners to assist with this goal. Dr. Quick thanked members of the staff for their assistance.

## **VIII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Chair Cole called on President Glover to present information regarding this agenda item, the President's Report.

President Glover provided reports on various items contained in the Board materials for the June 15, 2023, Board Meeting and her President's report PowerPoint slides. She announced that TSU is strong financially and that they continue to work to eliminate any misperceptions as to this.

The endowment is \$97.6 million, which has more than doubled. The University's reserves are \$64 million, which is close to the highest the University has ever achieved. TSU's assets equal \$401 million, which is the highest ever. She reported that this is TSU's best financial position ever.



President Glover also reported on recent development and news involving TSU. Dr. Reginald McDonald, the Aristocrat of Bands, and the Sophisticated Ladies were recognized for their efforts, including the band's recent Grammy award and a recent performance by the group at the White House and the Country Music Awards. Dr. Levi Watkins Institute creates pipeline for students to become doctors and dentists. Apple – National Technology Innovation Center will serve as home to several technology initiatives that seek to bring coding and creativity (known as C2) experiences to historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and the Nashville community. Oprah Winfrey served as the commencement speaker in the spring. The student profile has been elevated. The most recent entering freshman class enrolled with an average GPA of 3.999, up from 2.8 five years ago.

With respect to housing, there are 4,368 total beds available for Fall 2023. On-campus availability is 3,680, the House of God provides 150 beds, supplemental beds equal 102, and there are 436 hotel beds available.

TSU provided salary increases of 5.5% to faculty and staff effective July 1, 2023. An additional salary pool is established for faculty to engage in productivity initiatives. She thanks those who contributed efforts to establish the salary pool.

Dr. Glover reviewed the University's financial position, which remains strong. TSU is in sound financial condition as evidenced by a Composite Financial Index composite score of 3.42. TSU exceeds the industry standard for public higher education institutions. Total University Reserves equal \$64,192,671. TSU received an unmodified or "clean" opinion for the fiscal year ended June 20, 2021. The June 30, 2022, audit is currently being performed. All prior audit findings have been corrected. TSU has a different management team in the Division of Finance with five CPAs, including the Vice President and Controller. Policies were implemented to ensure the reconciliations are performed and reviewed monthly.

The Office of the Comptroller conducted a performance audit and issued a report. Work is being done on various aspects of that report. The Board adopted a 12-point Board Resolution to respond to the Comptroller's report. The Chair of the Senate and Ways and Means Committee requested and received approval of \$2 million for a forensic audit of TSU, which is expected to commence in July.

A summary of University reserves and the endowment is \$161.8 million. Dr. Glover continues to applaud Governor Bill Lee and the General Assembly for prioritizing TSU in its budget last year with a \$215 million allocation. The University appreciates them.

Trustee B. Johnson recognized President Glover and the Board for their support and dedication for salary increases and performance incentives.

## **IX. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Cole expressed hope that others will be happy with the efforts of the Board at this meeting.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee B. Johnson moved to adjourn, with the motion seconded by Trustee Martin. The motion carried by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.