

**Meeting of the Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee Meeting
September 14, 2023
Tennessee State University – Hankal Hall**

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Trustees Pam Martin (chair), Andre Johnson (vice chair; attended by phone), Dr. Bill Johnson, Shaun Wimberly, Jr.

Other Board Members Present: Trustees Deborah Cole, Dr. Joseph Walker, Van Pinnock, Steve Corbeil, Richard Lewis

University Staff Present: President Glenda Glover; Laurence Pendleton, General Counsel and Board Secretary; Dean Frank Stevenson, Assoc. Vice President of Student Affairs; Dr. Robbie Melton, Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs; Douglas Allen, Vice President of Business and Finance; Jason Evans, Chief Operating Officer; Dr. Arlene Nicholas-Phillips, Liaison to the Board of Trustees; Ginette Brown, Associate General Counsel; Dean Chandra Reddy; Will Radford, Assistant Vice President of University Design & Construction; Renee Forbes-Williams, Director of Internal Audit; Quincy Quick, Associate VP and Chief Research Officer; Jessica Powell, Assistant VP of Customer Relations; Ciera Walker, Customer Relations Program Manager; Cynthia Howell, Assistant VP

XIII. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Pam Martin called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. on Thursday, September 14, 2023. Chair Martin recognized cabinet members and deans in attendance and thanked them for their participation. She further welcomed Student Trustee Shaun Wimberly back.

XIV. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Board Secretary Pendleton called the roll at the Committee Chair's request. Trustees Martin, Andre Johnson, and Bill Johnson were present. Secretary Pendleton announced the presence of a quorum. Trustee Martin 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. Trustee Martin 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.

XV. APPROVAL OF JUNE 15, 2023, COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the minutes from the June 15, 2023, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting, as contained in the September 14, 2023, Committee materials. Trustee B. Johnson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call vote.

XVI. REPORT ON SACSCOC AND OTHER ACCREDITATION MATTERS

President Glover asked her designee, Dr. Melton, to provide information pertaining to this informational agenda item. Dr. Melton shared that the Committee on Compliance and Reports reviewed TSU's substantive change, and a recommendation was made to move forward without monitoring.

Trustee Martin recognized Dr. Melton for being selected as one of the top 50 women leaders in education for 2023 by Women We Admire.

XVII. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

Trustee Martin asked President Glover or her designee to provide the Academic Affairs Report. Dr. Melton provided the report. Dr. Melton shared several of Academic Affairs' initiatives and opportunities, included in the Board Materials for the September 14, 2023, meeting.

XVIII. REPORT RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS

Trustee Martin asked President Glover or her designee to provide the Report on Research and Sponsored Programs ("RSP"). Dr. Quincy Quick provided the report. He stated that RSP reached \$100,031,082 in research award funding, over 224 awards. RSP awards included a \$18 million grant award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and a \$3 million grant from the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which will finance the renovation of biology teaching and research labs in Harned Hall.

XIX. STUDENT AFFAIRS – HOUSING REPORT

Dean Frank Stevenson provided a report on Student Affairs, and in particular student housing. He recognized new SGA president, Derrell Taylor. A new class of student leaders was installed last week, including a new freshman class.

Dean Stevenson reported that there are 14 departments that provide wrap-around services to students. He noted that the new school year launched with a positive student housing experience. There are 53 student organizations this year. A career fair is set to take place on-campus on September 22, 2023, with 242 companies and organizations recruiting TSU students.

With respect to housing, the University has 4,361 beds on and off campus for the fall semester, and it has placed 4,330 with no students on the waiting list. The housing application was opened earlier. There is a large sophomore class that pushes housing needs, and it's predicted that only 1 hotel will be needed moving into the spring semester. They are putting strategies into place for future planning. Communication early and often was a key, intentional focus this past year.

He noted a desire to make sure that students on and off campus have a similar experience. He met with Deputy Chief Green with the MNPD, and they have extended many services to students. A student safety plan was developed. Housing staff was put in place to make sure that they are responsive to student needs.

Chair Martin thanked Dean Stevenson for his and his team's efforts and strategic planning.

Student Trustee Wimberly asked about housing plans. Dean Stevenson noted the need for more beds. The goal is to obtain an additional 1,000 beds, and to, later, plan to replace other beds. Some buildings are at the end of their lifecycle. New beds will be brought onto campus before any beds are removed.

Trustee B. Johnson asked about engagement and use numbers. Dean Stevenson indicated that his team is working on a full report for the next Board meeting. Trustee Wimberly noted his desire to see more activities and engagement over the weekends.

XX. ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND MODIFICATIONS TO THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Trustee Martin asked President Glover or her designee to present on this item. Dr. Melton and Dean Reddy provided information regarding a modification to the College of Agriculture.

Dr. Melton reported on programming provided by Academic Affairs including tutoring 7-days per week to targeted groups, like veterans, the Band, and the Choir. This is enhancing retention. The Academic Affairs team went out to the hotels to provide services to students living off-campus.

Dr. Melton relayed that the Faculty Senate praises the Board for salary increases and the Academic Performance Pay.

Dean Chandra Reddy presented on a program modification to the College of Agriculture. His College proposed a restructuring of the academic programs in the College of Agriculture to house five new departments: Department of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Environmental Sciences, Department of Food and Animal Sciences, Department of Agricultural Business and Education, and Department of Human Sciences. Each of the departments will offer 1 master's degree and a PhD program. Dean Reddy discussed the focus area of the new departments.

The University's Agricultural programs have grown in the last decade. The University has had growth in the number of faculty and external grant funding and enrollment – a 10 times growth in enrollment. TSU is a leading Agricultural program across the land-grant system.

Trustee B. Johnson commented on Dean Reddy's excellent leadership and congratulated him for his work and thinking outside of the box.

President Glover said that TSU has changed the view of agriculture worldwide. Dean Reddy commented on his great colleagues and stated that \$700,000 in scholarships for students was recently announced.

Trustee B. Johnson made a motion to approve the academic program modification in the College of Agriculture, as contained in the materials for the September 14, 2023, Board meeting. Trustee Martin seconded the motion. Secretary Pendleton called the roll. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion on TSU's foray into artificial intelligence as a new tool. Dr. Melton discussed the SMART Center's efforts in AI as a tool. She said that TSU has been invited to sit at the table to help shape this tool. The U.S. Secretary of Labor came down and met with TSU representatives about our efforts. Dr. Melton emphasized that this is a global effort by the University.

Will Radford was asked to give a housing report. He discussed the proposed "Hilltop" housing residence, which would encompass 1,000 total beds, natural light, and amenities, like a game room, lounges, computers rooms, suites and pods. There will be parking challenges to be addressed.

A dynamic housing business plan shows Spring 2024 through Fall 2036, including the number of units to be added and removed. The bed count in 2036 would be about 6,000 beds and takes into consideration that amount of housing around the University (off-campus housing).

XXI. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Martin asked if there was any additional business. Seeing none, she moved to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Trustee B. Johnson, which carried unanimously by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.