

**Meeting of the Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee Meeting
November 16, 2023
Tennessee State University – Hankal Hall**

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Trustees Pam Martin (chair), Andre Johnson (vice chair), Dr. Bill Johnson, Shaun Wimberly

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; Vice President 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 Garza Brown, Associate General Counsel; Dean Chandra Reddy

I. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Pam Martin called the meeting to order at 12:52 p.m. on Thursday, November 16, 2023.

II. 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.

III. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2023, COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the minutes from the September 14, 2023, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting, as contained in the November 16, 2023, Committee materials. Trustee B. Johnson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call vote.

IV. APPROVAL OF A NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM – M.S. IN NUTRITION AND WELLNESS

Trustee Martin asked President Glover or her designee to present on this item. Dr. Melton was asked to provide relevant information.

President Glover commended Dr. Melton for being selected as one of the top 50 women leaders in education for 2023 by Women We Admire, for being an artificial intelligence expert in higher education, and for being invited to Harvard University to discuss TSU's efforts in the space.

Dr. Melton shared that Daymond John from the television show “Shark Tank” invited Chair Cole to an event to share what is new in higher education. TSU was the only institution on stage before a prominent audience to talk about technology, innovation, and what we are doing academically.

A discussion took place regarding the use of artificial intelligence and University policy. Dr. Melton stated the University already had a draft AI policy statement in place that has been shared with faculty, staff, students, and federal-level representatives. Dr. Melton introduced TSU’s robotic AI dog, “Blue,” which was featured in a *Tennessean* article. Blue was programmed by TSU students. Two additional “pups” are expected to arrive at the University soon.

TSU has been selected to showcase and pilot Apple watches for its athletic teams. Apple will donate the watches for athletes, and they will analyze student wellness. The men’s basketball team, women’s volleyball team, and the tennis teams will be part of this pilot program.

Dr. Melton advised the Committee that the University is seeking approval of a proposed Master of Science in Nutrition and Wellness degree program, which will offer concentration community nutrition, human nutrition, dietetics, and other concentrations. Information about this item is on page 135 of the Board materials.

Trustee B. Johnson moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the new academic program, the Master of Science in Nutrition and Wellness. Trustee A. Johnson seconded the motion, which was carried by roll call vote.

V. REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Trustee Martin asked President Glover or her designee to present on this information discussion item. Dr. Glover asked Dr. Arlene Nicholas-Phillips to provide relevant information.

Dr. Nicholas-Phillips explained that the Office of Global Initiatives and Partnerships is a sub-unit under the Division of Academic Affairs and works in collaboration with other TSU Colleges and programs. She discussed a Caribbean, West African, and Indian Scholar Initiatives and the returns on these efforts for the University. She further discussed plans to continue expanding current relationships and building new ones. There is a five-year plan to create an appreciable international student body, with different countries represented, and a plan to identify funding sources for international students.

VI. REPORT ON SACSCOC AND OTHER ACCREDITATION MATTERS

Trustee Martin asked President Glover or her designee to present on this information discussion item. President Glover asked her designee, Dr. Melton, to provide information pertaining to this informational agenda item. Dr. Melton recognized Dr. Charlise Anderson. Dr. Melton shared that TSU is preparing for a readiness audit, as required by SACSCOC every five years. TSU has established the requisite committees and is ready for this audit.

Dr. Anderson the University has been successful in all of its accreditation matters before the SACSOC, including the substitute change visit and the verification visit. The University will

continue to be proactive. A SACSCOC Readiness Audit Team to identify any compliance gaps, focusing on 22-standards up before the SACSCOC. Seven standards are reviewed each month over the next few months. The November review report showed compliance with five standards, and partial compliance with two standards. This partial compliance will require updating documentation.

VII. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

Trustee Martin asked President Glover or her designee to provide the Academic Affairs Report. Dr. Melton provided the informational report. Dr. Melton shared several of Academic Affairs' initiatives and opportunities, as reflected in the Board Materials for the November 16, 2023.

VIII. STUDENT AFFAIRS – HOUSING REPORT

Trustee Martin asked Dr. Glover or her designee to provide information on the next agenda item. Vice President Frank Stevenson provided a report on Student Affairs. Some changes have been made to better student health and wellness services.

Dr. Sidney Collins, head of the Counseling Center, has become a fully licensed clinical psychologist. The Counseling Center has developed a triage system to reduce wait times for students. They average 50 student interactions weekly. They are taking advantage of TSU students working in certain accredited programs. They have three new student interns and one doctoral-level student working with the counseling center and providing services. They are also addressing the location of the center. They hope to be moved into a new space by February 1st. They have improved access to clinic software, with the assistance of IT. They are finalizing their Protocol contract to provide wrap-around services. They are looking to hire two new counselors in the spring. They are also looking to move the Medical Director from part-time to full-time and to add a nurse practitioner.

Dr. Stevenson said that with respect to student housing, there will not be students at the Red Roof Inn in the spring. The University is evaluating housing needs for next fall.

Dr. Stevenson further discussed student engagement. He stated that Dr. Carson created a program to support first-year students called "Build and Bloom," which has been adopted by Howard University and Widener University. Dr. Carson was recognized for her efforts.

VP Stevenson reported on fall student activities, including a "Soccer Cup" for international students, mid-term and final study halls, leadership development programs, food trucks, and a "tiny desk" event. VP Stevenson said that he will bring a presentation to the next Board meeting regarding student events.

VP Stevenson next reported on housing. Housing applications open in February, sooner than in the past. The University is predicting fall housing needs, including any off-campus housing needs. A recommendation will be made at the next Board meeting for any off-campus housing needs. Right now, it appears that we will only need one hotel for off-campus housing. VP Stevenson's

housing staff if fully staffed. They are listening to student concerns and have had fewer student complaints raised this year.

Chair Cole thanked VP Stevenson for his efforts at TSU and acknowledged his recent appointment to the board of the Nashville General Hospital.

Trustee B. Johnson requested a table showing all student activities and engagements and attendance counts.

Trustee Walker asked about wellness and the appropriate number of counselors. VP Stevenson said that a prior audit on the counseling system recommended that the University add 3-4 more counselors. VP Stevenson said that we are getting close to where we need to be by having 5 total counselors. Further discussion took place regarding wellness services.

Trustee Martin thanked VP Stevenson.

IX. 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 1:43 p.m.