

**Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
Executive Committee Meeting – November 16, 2023,
Hankal Hall, Tennessee State University Campus**

MINUTES

Executive Board Members Present: Trustees Deborah Cole, Pam Martin, Richard Lewis, and Joseph Walker, III.

Other Board Members Present: Trustees Steve Corbeil, Andre Johnson, William Johnson, Obie McKenzie, Van Pinnock, and Shaun Wimberly

University Staff Present: President Glenda Glover; Laurence Pendleton, General Counsel and Board Secretary; Dean Frank Stevenson, Vice President of Student Affairs; Dr. Robbie Melton, Graduate School Dean and Assoc. Vice President; Doug Allen, Vice President of Finance and Budget; Jason Evans, Chief Operating Officer; Dr. Arlene Nicholas-Phillips, Liaison to the Board of Trustees; Curtis Johnson, Vice President for Administration; Ginette Garza Brown, Associate General Counsel.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cole called the Executive Committee meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. CDT on November 16, 2024.

II. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Chair Cole asked the Board Secretary, Mr. Laurence Pendleton, to call the roll. The following Executive Committee Trustees were noted as present: Trustees Cole, Lewis, Martin, and Walker.

Secretary Pendleton announced the presence of a quorum.

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

Chair Cole introduced the first order of business — the approval of the September 14, 2023, Executive Committee meeting minutes. Chair Cole informed the Committee that the minutes for the Executive Committee’s September 14, 2023, meeting are included in the Board materials for the November 16, 2023, Board meeting.

Chair Cole moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the September 14, 2023, Executive Committee meeting minutes, as contained in the Board materials for the November 16, 2023, Board meeting. Trustee Martin seconded the motion. With there being no discussion, Chair Cole called for a roll call vote. Secretary Pendleton called the roll and the motion carried unanimously.

IV. REPORT ON STATUS OF BOARD RESOLUTION ITEMS

Chair Cole indicated that due to time constraints, the report on the status of Board Resolution items will be made in the full Board meeting, where it is also on the calendar.

V. UPDATE ON PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH PROCESS

Chair Cole then moved to the next agenda item – the update on the Presidential search process. Chair Cole noted that per the Board’s charge at the September 14, 2023, board meeting, a search firm has been retained to support and advise the search committee and the Board in the presidential search process. Academic Search is one of the nationally recognized leaders in searches involving higher education institutions and related non-profits. Another search firm, ApTask Global, will work with Academic Search and assist in the search process to ensure a broad pool of candidates from various sectors. Chair Cole indicated that she met with the search consultants and emphasized the overall objective is to retain the best person for the position and maintain confidentiality of the search process. Chair Cole noted that the first meeting of the search committee would be held the week after Thanksgiving.

Chair Cole commented that the general makeup of the Committee includes – Board Executive Committee members and Trustee Corbeil, fourteen from the TSU family, five from the community, three student representatives, and one council member. Chair Cole reiterated that no decision has been made on the selection of the President. She also noted this is a transparent process, the search will align with the prescribed process, and the necessity to protect the confidentiality of the applicants participating in the search process. Chair Cole also commented on her communication with the Governor’s office as to keeping the Governor’s office apprised of the search developments.

Chair Cole also indicated that there would be listening sessions conducted to include members of the TSU community to aid in the development of the Presidential Profile. Chair Cole concluded her comments by emphasizing that the Board of Trustees will make the final decision as to the selection of a new President.

VI. SECRETARY’S REPORT

Chair Cole asked Secretary Pendleton to provide a report to the Board.

Secretary Pendleton indicated that in the interest of time, he would limit his comments. Secretary Pendleton noted the prospect of modifying the Board Committee meeting times and he would be following up with Chair Cole as to that item.

Secretary Pendleton noted the recent occurrences on campus involving conflicts between Jewish, Muslim, Palestinian students, and other student. He indicated the Biden Administration issued a Dear Colleague Letter to provide more guidance on balancing first amendment rights with protection from harassment. Secretary Pendleton indicated there had not been any issues on the

TSU campus but that he, President Glover and Dean Stevenson would continue to monitor this situation.

Chair Cole thanked Secretary Pendleton for his report.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cole opened the floor for any additional business. With no further business, Chair Cole moved for adjournment. Trustee Martin seconded the motion. With there being no discussion, Chair Cole called for a roll call vote. Secretary Pendleton called the roll and the motion carried unanimously. Chair Cole adjourned the meeting at 12:17 p.m. CDT.