

**Meeting of the Tennessee State University  
Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting  
November 22, 2024  
Tennessee State University – the Barn**

**MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Trustees Trevia Chatman, Jeffery Norfleet, Marquita Qualls, Terica Smith, Dimeta Smith Knight, Charles Traughber, Dwayne Tucker, Dakasha Winton, Artenzia Young-Seigler, Tyler Vazquez

**University Staff Present:** Interim President Ronald Johnson; Dr. Robbie Melton, Acting Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs; Attorney Laurence Pendleton, General Counsel & Board Secretary; Daaryl Burnette, Interim VP of Finance and Budget; Dr. Quincy Quick, Assoc. Vice President of Research & Sponsored Programs; Dr. Arlene Nicholas-Phillips, Liaison to the Board

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Winton called the meeting to order at 12:47 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

Board Secretary Laurence Pendleton conducted the roll call. The following committee members were present: Trustees Trevia Chatman, Jeffery Norfleet, Marquita Qualls, Terica Smith, Dimeta Smith Knight, Charles Traughber, Dwayne Tucker, Dakasha Winton, Artenzia Young-Seigler, Tyler Vazquez. A quorum was present.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Chair Winton moved to approve the agenda with one addition to add a discussion following the day's Audit meeting. Trustee Smith moved to approve the agenda with the additional item. Trustee Norfleet seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

**IV. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the below meetings of the Board and its Committees were approved as submitted, with Trustee Winton making the motion and Trustee Young-Seigler seconding the motion. The motion passed with a voice vote.

November 22, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes

January 31, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2024, Audit Committee Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2024, Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

November 22, 2024, Student and Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes  
November 21, 2024, Ad Hoc Presidential Search Committee Meeting Minutes  
November 22, 2024, Governance and Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

## **V. Chair's Introduction and Remarks**

Chair Winton thanked those who were present for the meeting. She expressed her gratitude for her fellow trustees and their partnership. Chair Winton outlined their expectations for the remainder of 2024 and progress in 2025. She said they are working to ensure excellence and accountability. The State Building Commission raised concerns stemming from several audits, issues related to enrollment, layoffs and consulting contracts. Chair Winton said that all facilities must be evaluated before any action can be taken by this Board. To date, she believes that the Board and State leaders have not received enough information to make the informed and critical decisions needed going into 2025. She has requested a comprehensive memorandum from Interim President Johnson by Friday, December 26, 2024, addressed to the Board of Trustees and State Building Commission summarizing the accomplishments under the 100 Day Action Plan and provide data-backed recommendations regarding enrollment and programming adjustments. Any potential adjustments to academic programming are taken seriously by the Board and they will determine whether, and if any, financial exigency is the appropriate course of action. She further stated that by Monday, November 25, 2024, she would like for the President's team to compile and submit all documents, payments, and deliverables related to the immediate past president's work since June 30, 2024. This Board has not approved any agreements with the immediate past president.

Chair Winton indicated that we must operate with transparency. She is confident that progress has been made and will continue to be made.

Chair Winton congratulated the December 2024 graduates and said that these are the type of people employers should consider for their teams due to their resilience. They have thrived.

## **VI. President's Remarks**

Interim President Johnson next shared a video message that he prepared in which he discussed his Trajectory Change Initiative. The TCI included financial actions and an enrollment and student success plan. He stated that TSU and the State of Tennessee need each other. He noted the great people at TSU.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

Chair Winton introduced the next agenda item, which was committee reports.

### **A. Ad Hoc Presidential Search Committee**

Trustee Qualls reported that the Ad Hoc Presidential Search Committee met to receive a report on one item, an update on the Presidential Search Process. They had a discussion regarding the timeline, process and a brief statement of qualifications. No further action was taken.

## **B. Finance Committee Report**

Trustee Tucker reported that the Finance Committee met over two days to receive updates and reports on the budget shortfall, the financial action plan, enrollment, and institutional development fundraising. The committee decided to roll the FY25 Revised Budget item to the full Board meeting.

## **C. Audit Committee Report**

Trustee Smith Knight reported that the Audit Committee met to discuss two items and to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed confidential by state law. The Committee discussed internal and external audits and outstanding audit issues and corrective measures implemented by the institution.

## **D. Governance and Governmental Affairs Committee Report**

Trustee Smith presented the Governance and Governmental Affairs Committee Report. She stated that the committee met this morning and received a report from Ms. Leah Dupree Love from the Ingram Group regarding legislative matters affecting TSU.

## **E. Student and Academic Affairs Report**

Trustee Norfleet reported that the Student and Academic Affairs met to consider and vote on one agenda item and to receive reports on four other agenda items. The committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of a new TSU Policy Governing Institutional Accreditation. In addition, the committee received a SACSCOC accreditation update and reports on Retention and Student Affairs report. The committee discussed low-performing academic programs and charged the University administration with taking a deeper dive into that to determine its niche for higher education.

# **VIII. Action Items**

## **A. FY 25 TSU Revised Budget**

The Finance Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Fiscal Year 2025 TSU Revised Budget as contained in the November 22, 2024, Board materials. Dr. Young-Seigler moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 TSU Revised Budget, and the motion was seconded by Trustee Traugher. Trustees Winton, Norfleet, Qualls, Smith, Traugher, and Tucker voted in favor of the motion, and Trustee Smith Knight and Chatman voted against it. The motion passed.

## **B. TSU Policy Governing Institutional Accreditation**

Trustee Norfleet, on behalf of the Student and Academic Affairs Committee, moved to approve the TSU Policy Governing Institutional Accreditation, as contained in the Board materials for the November 22, 2024, Board meeting. Trustee Tucker seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**C. Action Following from Audit Meeting Discussion**

Chair Winton made a motion to recommend to Interim President Johnson to take action to terminate the contract with former president Glover and strongly recommended to Interim President Johnson to take action to terminate the relationship with General Counsel Pendleton. They expect this review to be completed by the end of day on Monday, November 22 [sic], 2024. Trustee Chatman seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

**IX. Adjournment**

Trustee Tucker moved to adjourn, with the motion seconded by Trustee Young-Seigler. The motion carried by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.