

**Meeting of the Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
Governance and Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting
November 21, 2025
Tennessee State University – The Farrell Westbrook Complex (the “Barn”)**

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Trustees Terica Smith, Trevia Chatman, Leticia Towns, and Dakasha Winton. Other Board members present: Azana Bruce, Charles Traugher, Jeffery Norfleet, Marquita Qualls, Dimeta Smith Knight, Artenzia Young-Seigler.

University Staff Present: President Dwayne Tucker; Ginette Garza Brown, Interim General Counsel and Board Secretary; Dr. Robbie Melton, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs; Sterlin Sanders, Chief Information Officer; Jim Grady, Alvarez & Marsal

I. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Committee Chair Smith declared that everyone was present. Secretary Brown conducted the roll call. The following committee members were present: Trustees Terica Smith, Dakasha Winton, Leticia Towns, and Trevia Chatman.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Trustee Chatman moved to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Chair Winton. A voice vote was taken, with all Committee members present voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JUNE 12, 2025, GOVERNANCE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING.

The minutes from the June 12, 2025, meeting of the Governance and Governmental Affairs Committee were approved as submitted, with Trustee Smith making the motion and Chair Winton seconding the motion. A voice vote was taken, with all Committee members present voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Committee Chair Smith announced the first agenda item as the Legislative Update and recognized Leah Dupree Love of the Ingram Group to provide an overview of legislative matters affecting the University.

Ms. Love explained that the Ingram Group serves as Tennessee State University's state government relations firm and appears before the Board three times annually: in November to outline the upcoming legislative session, in February to review pending legislation, and in June to present a legislative wrap-up.

Ms. Love reviewed the current state budget process, noting that all public universities are presently presenting budget requests to the Governor's Office. She acknowledged President Tucker's participation in the Higher Education Committee hearing, where he represented locally governed institutions and highlighted University accomplishments, including TSU's distinction in producing the highest number of licensed cardiorespiratory care graduates.

Ms. Love addressed the University's upcoming sunset hearing, explaining that the Board of Trustees is scheduled to sunset in June 2026 as part of the State's standard review process. She clarified that the sunset does not affect the University's operations and requires the Board to appear before the legislature to present audit findings and institutional accomplishments. She reported that the Board is tentatively scheduled to appear before the Joint Education, Health, and General Welfare Subcommittee in mid-December, with Board attendance expected.

Ms. Love outlined the legislative timeline, noting that the General Assembly will convene on January 13 and proceed directly into committee hearings. She stated that the Governor's State of the State address, including the proposed budget, is anticipated in early February. She further noted that trustee confirmations will occur during February and March, including confirmation of newly appointed Trustee Towns.

Ms. Love reviewed recent statutory changes expanding public university boards from ten to twelve voting members, adding appointments by the Speaker of the House and the Speaker of the Senate while reducing gubernatorial appointees. She reported that the Board currently has two vacancies and that appointments and confirmations are expected later in the session.

Ms. Love noted that University leadership will appear before legislative committees for budget hearings during February and March and encouraged Board members to attend in support. She also advised that TSU Day on the Hill is anticipated during the same timeframe.

Ms. Love concluded by explaining that the Ingram Group will continue monitoring legislation impacting higher education throughout the session, with a full legislative summary to be presented at the June Board meeting. She also provided a brief federal update regarding the resignation of Congressman Mark Green and the upcoming special election affecting the University's congressional district.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair Smith stated that she would consider a motion to adjourn. Chair Winton moved to adjourn, and Trustee Towns seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, with all Committee members present voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.