

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

**MINUTES**

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

**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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Trustee Norfleet called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**II. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**

Committee Chair Norfleet declared that all members were present, constituting a quorum. Secretary Brown conducted the roll call. The following committee members were present: Trustees Jeffery Norfleet, Terica Smith, Azana Bruce, and Artenzia Young-Seigler.

**III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**IV. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2025, STUDENT AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes from the September 18, 2025, meeting of the Student and Academic Affairs Committee were approved as submitted, with Trustee Norfleet making the motion and Trustee Smith seconding the motion. A voice vote was taken, with all Committee members present voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT**

Committee Chair Norfleet introduced the first agenda item, the Academic Affairs report, and invited Provost Melton to present on behalf of the Office of Academic Affairs. Provost Melton noted that the report consisted of informational items only and began with an update on the University’s institutional accreditation status.

At Provost Melton's request, Dr. Anderson provided an overview of the University's progress on its SACSCOC fifth-year interim report. She explained that SACSCOC is TSU's institutional accreditor, recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, and that accreditation is required for Title IV eligibility. Dr. Anderson reported that the University is ahead of schedule, having completed a fourth draft of the report. Of the 22 standards reviewed by the external consultant, 17 were found compliant, with five requiring additional clarification. She stated that final updates will incorporate Fall 2025 data and QEP outcomes, with submission to the SACSCOC portal scheduled for March 1 and committee review anticipated in April.

Provost Melton also announced that the College of Education successfully received accreditation and approval for teacher education.

Turning to student success metrics, Provost Melton provided updates on retention, progression, and graduation rates. She reported that approximately 2,754 students earned placement on the Dean's List during the most recent spring term. She explained that early progression benchmarks at 30, 60, 90, and 120 credit hours are critical to graduation outcomes and noted that targeted interventions were implemented to address students entering with fewer than 15 credit hours.

As a result of these efforts, Provost Melton reported that 78–79% of current first-time freshmen are now progressing with 15 or more credit hours, a significant improvement attributed to faculty, advisors, and student support services. She further reported continued decreases in the number of students on probation and noted that Fall 2024 suspension rates declined to 0.9%, compared to prior years when probation rates were significantly higher.

Provost Melton reported that 638 candidates are scheduled to graduate in Fall 2025, with commencement ceremonies restructured into three college-based ceremonies. She further projected that approximately 1,686 students are expected to graduate in Spring 2026, exceeding prior targets and anticipated to increase the University's graduation rate by approximately 10%.

Provost Melton also highlighted recruitment expansion efforts focused on dual enrollment and dual credit students, adult learners, and online and global programs. She concluded by highlighting academic achievements and partnerships, including national recognition of TSU's music business program, leadership in artificial intelligence education, selection to host the National Center for Digital AI Academy, and experiential learning partnerships with corporate and professional sports organizations.

Provost Melton concluded her presentation, and the Committee thanked her for the report.

## **VI. STUDENT AFFAIRS REPORT**

Committee Chair Norfleet introduced the next agenda item, the Student Affairs report, and invited Dr. Bridgett Goldman to present. Dr. Goldman provided an overview of the Division of Student Affairs and its role in supporting student retention, persistence, and holistic student development in collaboration with Academic Affairs.

Dr. Goldman reported that the University currently has 73 registered student organizations and that Student Affairs conducted proactive hazing prevention efforts, with 1,024 students completing required training. Residence Life achieved an 85% occupancy rate, housing approximately 2,900 students, and is transitioning to a new residential management software platform.

She emphasized early engagement initiatives for first-year students and noted that Student Affairs programming is structured around student success vectors, including identity development, competence, emotional well-being, independence, relationships, and purpose.

Dr. Goldman reported that Student Affairs hosted more than 300 programs during the semester, including over 160 Residence Life programs and 75 Career Services events. Career Services hosted employers such as Lowe's, FedEx, and Bank of America and conducted mock interviews, resume workshops, and classroom visits.

Dr. Goldman provided updates on student support services, noting 243 student visits through the TimelyCare platform for 24/7 medical and mental health services. Disability Services currently supports 141 registered students, Veteran Affairs serves 185 students with a veterans' lounge scheduled to open in the spring, and International Services supports 224 international students.

She also highlighted student achievements, including a career fair with 119 employers and 791 student participants, the Aristocrat of Bands' NFL halftime performance, and the New Direction Choir's recognition as Best HBCU Choir of the Year.

Dr. Goldman concluded her presentation, and the Committee thanked her for the report.

## **VII. ENROLLMENT REPORT**

Committee Chair Norfleet introduced the enrollment report and invited Dr. Eric Stokes, Vice President for Enrollment Management, to present. Dr. Stokes provided an overview of Enrollment Management functions, including admissions, recruitment, orientation, enrollment communications, data and reporting, and strategic initiatives guided by recommendations from the Strata Information Group (SIG).

Dr. Stokes reported progress on key enrollment initiatives, including expanded lead generation efforts, enhanced enrollment marketing through the Slate CRM platform, and organizational and process restructuring within Enrollment Management. He noted that the University has increased its applicant funnel through expanded data partnerships, multiple application platforms, and participation in the State of Tennessee's Direct Admit initiative. The University is also preparing to launch the Common Application, with more than 6,200 inquiries already received.

He highlighted improvements in enrollment communications and yield strategies, including targeted outreach campaigns, revised admissions decision letters, and enhanced engagement following admission. Dr. Stokes reported improvements in campus visits and recruitment activity, including more than 250 individual family visits, 43 group tours, 81 recruitment events, and over 550 attendees at the Fall Preview Day.

Dr. Stokes provided an admissions update, noting that spring applications and admits are trending upward, with enrollment expected to be comparable to or slightly above the prior year. He also reported that fall applications are up and that the academic quality of applicants and admitted students has improved, with increases in average GPA and ACT scores following updated admissions standards.

Dr. Stokes concluded with an overview of revised scholarship programs designed to improve sustainability and competitiveness. He reported that the University reduced its institutional discount rate from over 60 percent to approximately 38–42 percent and introduced restructured merit-based scholarships, including the Presidential Scholars, TSU Renaissance, 1912 Heritage, and TSU Torch Scholarships. He also noted enhancements to the MNPS Trailblazer Scholarship and ongoing efforts to evaluate future expansion to additional school districts.

Board members engaged in discussion regarding enrollment strategy timelines, recruitment footprint expansion, scholarship eligibility criteria, and admissions processing timelines. Dr. Stokes responded to questions and emphasized continued efforts to improve yield, geographic reach, and enrollment sustainability.

Dr. Stokes concluded his presentation, and the Committee thanked him for the report.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Young-Seigler moved to adjourn, with the motion seconded by Trustee Smith. A voice vote was taken, with all Committee members present voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.