Meeting of the Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
Finance Committee Meeting
August 13, 2026
Tennessee State University – Virtual

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Trustees Dakasha Winton, Venkataswarup Tiriveedhi, and Dimeta Smith Knight. Other Board members present: Marquita Qualls, Dimeta Smith Knight, Terica Smith, Charles Traughber

University Staff Present: President Dwayne Tucker; Ginette Brown, Interim General Counsel and Board Secretary; April Robinson, Chief Finance Officer; Sterlin Sanders, Interim Chief Information Officer

I. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Towns called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Committee Chair Winton requested that Secretary Brown conduct the roll call. The following committee members were present: Trustees Dakasha Winton, Venkataswarup Tiriveedhi, and Dimeta Smith Knight. The committee members participating electronically confirmed that they could hear and speak with the Board and that they were alone in the room. Following the roll call, Secretary Brown determined that a quorum was present.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Committee Chair Smith Knight moved to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tiriveedhi. A roll call vote was taken, with all present Committee members voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE PARKING TRANSACTION

Committee Chair Winton introduced the agenda item concerning the proposed parking transaction between Tennessee State University and Meharry Medical College and invited Mr. Jerome Oglesby, Chief Operating Officer, to provide an overview of the proposed agreement.

Mr. Oglesby explained that Meharry Medical College had requested assistance with parking due to a temporary shortage of parking spaces associated with the construction of a new parking garage. He stated that the University proposed making up to 240 unused parking spaces in the commuter lot at 38th Street and Albion available to Meharry students. The proposed arrangement would generate approximately $140,000 in annual gross revenue, consisting of approximately $36,000 in parking revenue and $104,000 for shuttle services. The shuttle service would operate Monday through Friday during designated morning and afternoon hours.

Mr. Oglesby explained that the University had negotiated the number of spaces, pricing, and shuttle services with Meharry and was seeking authorization to enter into a 120-day bridge license agreement while the parties completed the necessary requirements for a longer-term agreement. He noted that the proposed arrangement would monetize unused University parking capacity while supporting a neighboring HBCU and institutional partner.

Committee members discussed the proposed arrangement, including the gross versus net revenue, parking logistics, insurance coverage, liability, and potential operational impacts on the University. Mr. Oglesby explained that the parking spaces were excess capacity and would not affect the University's student parking needs. He stated that the parking fee would be consistent with the rate charged to Tennessee State University students and that the shuttle fee was intended to cover the associated costs. He further explained that supplemental drivers would be used for the Meharry shuttle service and that the University's existing campus shuttle operations would not be affected.

The committee also discussed the University's insurance coverage and potential liability associated with Meharry students using the parking lot and shuttle services. Mr. Oglesby stated that the University was continuing to review its insurance coverage and contractual requirements and had not yet completed its assessment. Attorney Brown explained that the license and shuttle agreements would include provisions addressing responsibility, indemnification, and allocation of risk.

Committee members further discussed the distinction between the proposed 120-day bridge arrangement and the proposed one-year agreement. Following discussion, the committee determined that additional information, including the final insurance review and a cost analysis of the arrangement, should be obtained before consideration of a longer-term agreement.

Following discussion, Trustee Smith Knight moved to authorize the President to proceed with a 120-day parking agreement with Meharry Medical College. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tiriveedhi. A roll call vote was taken, with all present committee members voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the vote, the Committee Chair Winton expressed concern regarding the presentation of matters to the Board with material information remaining unresolved. Committee Chair Winton emphasized the importance of providing the Board with complete information and adequate lead time to review matters before action is requested, noting that unresolved questions regarding insurance, liability, and other material terms affect the Board's ability to fulfill its fiduciary and governance responsibilities.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Smith Knight moved to adjourn, with the motion seconded by Trustee Tiriveedhi. A roll call vote was conducted, with all committee members present voting in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned.