

**Tennessee State University Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting – September 26, 2019  
Tennessee State University – Main Campus – Hankal Hall.  
3500 John A. Merritt Blvd., Nashville, Tennessee**

**MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Dr. Joseph Walker, III, Dr. Deborah Cole, Mr. Stephen Corbeil, Dr. Richard Lewis, Mr. William Freeman, Ms. Pam Martin, Dr. Edith Peterson Mitchell, Dr. Ali Sekmen, Dr. Obie McKenzie, and Ms. Braxton Simpson.

**University Board Staff Present:** President Glenda Glover, General Counsel and Board Secretary, Laurence Pendleton, Arlene Nicholas-Phillips, Board Liaison.

**Guests:** Members of the President's Cabinet, Members of the Deans' Council, Representatives of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC), Dr. Joseph Silver, Consultant from Silver & Associates, and other university staff.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Walker called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 2:05 p.m., CST on September 26, 2019.

**II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Board Chair welcomed the attendees. Mr. Terrance Izzard gave the invocation.

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

Chair Walker asked the Board Secretary, Laurence Pendleton, to call the roll. The following Trustees were present during roll call: Dr. Deborah Cole, Mr. Stephen Corbeil, Dr. Obie McKenzie, Dr. Richard Lewis, Mr. William Freeman, Ms. Pam Martin, Dr. Edith Peterson Mitchell, Dr. Ali Sekmen, Dr. Joseph Walker, III, and Ms. Braxton Simpson. Board Secretary Pendleton announced the presence of a quorum.

**IV. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 13, 2019, BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Chair Walker introduced the first action item – the approval of the minutes of the June 13, 2019, board meeting. Trustee Mitchell moved to approve the June 13, 2019 board meeting minutes and Trustee Freeman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**B. APPROVAL OF 2020 BOARD MEETING CALENDAR**

Chair Walker stated that the Board materials for board meeting dated September 26, 2019 contained the proposed meeting calendar for the Board meetings in calendar year 2020. They were March 12, June 18, September 24, and November 19.

Chair Walker then moved to approve the 2020 Board meeting calendar, as contained in the Board materials for the September 26, 2019, meeting. Trustee Mitchell seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

### **C. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chair Walker asked the Trustee Cole to give the Audit Committee report.

Trustee Cole informed the board that the audit committee met to take action on one item, received a report on one other item, and voted to go into executive session to discuss items deemed confidential under state law.

Trustee Cole stated that the Audit Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the September 26, 2019, Audit Committee meeting minutes. The Committee also received a report on the completed Internal Audits from Internal Audit Director Davis.

#### **I. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 13, 2019, AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Trustee Cole moved to approve the minutes of June 13, 2019, audit committee meeting as contained in the board materials for the September 26, 2019, board meeting. Trustee Martin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Trustee Cole concluded the Audit Committee report.

### **D. FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT**

Trustee Corbeil stated that the Finance and Budget Committee met today to take action on two items and receive reports on three items. The Finance and Budget Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the June 13, 2019, Finance and Budget Committee meeting minutes, and authorization for President Glover to act to facilitate two real estate projects.

The Finance and Budget Committee heard reports from President Glover and her team on the TSU's finances and budget, enrollment, and an update on the institution's enrollment, marketing and student recruitment plan.

#### **I. APPROVAL OF JUNE 13, 2019, FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

On behalf of the Finance and Budget committee, Trustee Corbeil moved to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2019, Finance and Budget Committee meeting, as contained in the Board materials for the September 26, 2019, Board meeting. Trustee Sekmen seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by a roll call vote.

## **II. AUTHORIZATION FOR PRESIDENT TO FACILITATE TWO REAL ESTATE PROJECTS**

On behalf of the Finance and Budget committee, Trustee Corbeil moved to recommend to the full Board, authorization for President Glover to facilitate two real estate projects, as contained in the September 26, 2019, Board materials. Trustee Freeman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by a roll call vote.

Trustee Corbeil concluded the Finance and Budget Committee report.

## **E. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Trustee Martin reported that the academic affairs and student affairs committee met to consider and vote on three agenda items and received information on four other agenda items.

Trustee Martin stated that the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the June 13, 2019, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes, the approval of an academic program modification involving the Certificate in Professional Chemistry, and the approval of an academic program name change in Family and Consumer Sciences.

Trustee Martin added that the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee received reports on the SACSCOC accreditation update, academic affairs, College and Department advisory boards at TSU, and student affairs.

## **I. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 13, 2019, ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Martin moved to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2019, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting, as contained in the Board materials for the September 26, 2019, Board meeting. Trustee Corbeil seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

## **II. APPROVAL OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION INVOLVING THE CERTIFICATE IN PROFESSIONAL CHEMISTRY**

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Martin moved to approve an academic program modification involving the Certificate in Professional Chemistry, as contained in the Board materials for the September 26, 2019, Board meeting. Trustee Freeman seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

## **III. APPROVAL OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM NAME CHANGE FROM “FASHION MERCHANDISING” TO “FASHION DESIGN AND MERCHANDISING” CONCENTRATION WITHIN THE B.S. IN FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES**

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Martin moved to approve an academic program name change from “Fashion Merchandising” to “Fashion Design and Merchandising” Concentration within the B.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences, as contained in the Board materials for the September 26, 2019, Board meeting.

Trustee Cole seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

## **F. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chair Walker stated that the Executive Committee met today to discuss and vote on one committee agenda item. The Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the June 13, 2019, Executive Committee meeting minutes.

Chair Walker also stated that the Executive Committee heard reports on the institution's strategic plan, the President's annual performance review process, the board's self-assessment process, and heard a report from Secretary Pendleton.

## **I. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 13, 2019, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Chair Walker moved to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2019, Executive Committee meeting, as contained in the Board materials for the September 26, 2019, Board meeting. Trustee Mitchell seconded the motion and it was approved with a roll call vote.

## **V. REPORT ON SACSCOC ACCREDITATION MATTERS**

Chair Walker asked President Glover to present the report on the SACSCOC Accreditation matters.

President Glover explained that TSU was currently preparing two required SACSCOC reports: the 5<sup>th</sup> year monitoring report, which is due on March 2, 2020 and the 10 year report (Decennial report) which is due in September, 2020. She also indicated that TSU was scheduled for two SACSCOC visits pertaining to these reports: (1) March 31 – April 2, 2020 re. the 5<sup>th</sup> year monitoring report and (2) March 22 – March 25, 2021 re. decennial report.

President Glover announced that although the decennial report has been delayed a year, from 2020 to 2021, TSU will continue working on it. This report fulfils a requirement that all institutions accredited by SACSCOC must undergo a review for reaffirmation of accreditation every 10 years. Institutions must demonstrate compliance with the standards of the Principles of Accreditation and with SACSCOC policies.

The 5<sup>th</sup> year monitoring report is also required by each member institution and demonstrates compliance with select SACSCOC standards on the effects of the implementation of its QEP on student learning.

President Glover then reviewed the list of the SACSCOC standards, pointing out again, that it was only one of the twenty-five accreditation standards (8.2a) that TSU had been cited on. She explained that in June, 2019, TSU was placed on probation by SACSCOC for not demonstrating complete compliance with this standard. She made it very clear that TSU remains fully accredited and that a plan of action was in place to remedy the deficiency that was cited. She shared the list of meetings and communiques that were held with several stakeholders.

President Glover then reassured everyone that we will be removed from this probationary status once we have submitted the necessary additional information to SACSCOC and it is accepted! She did announce, “We are fixing this and fixing it now”.

Chair Walker thanked Dr. Glover for this SACSCOC update report.

## **VI: UPDATE ON THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY AND APPLE, INC.**

Chair Walker next asked for the President’s update on the collaboration between Tennessee State University and Apple, Inc. President Glover appointed her designee, Dr. Robbie Melton to report on this agenda item.

President Glover mentioned that Dr. Melton is spearheading this initiative and had recently been featured on Channel 2 where she did a very complimentary demonstration and represented TSU very well. Dr. Melton then announced that APPLE, Inc. had named TSU as the SMART National Innovation Center for HBCUs. With the ‘HBCU C<sup>2</sup>: Everyone Can Code, Everyone Can Create’ initiative, TSU will now be training other HBCUs across the country on how to code. TSU will train their faculty, employees, and community participants. TSU is the first HBCU that APPLE, Inc. has partnered with on the scale.

Dr. Melton proceeded to demonstrate the power of coding. She introduced everyone to her coded apparel including her fingernails, her earrings and her shirt. She pointed out that this initiative will cause TSU to be the fore-runner and a leader among other HBCUs.

Following her excited presentation, Chair Walker thanked her and President Glover for this innovative collaboration with APPLE, Inc.

## **VII. PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Glover continued to share the excitement of the APPLE, Inc. partnership. She shared how wonderful it was for TSU to be the one selected to train other on how to code.

President Glover shared a ‘tweet’ from APPLE, Inc. CEO, Mr. Tim Cook, *“Anything is possible when people come together with a shared vision, Thank you to @TSUedu for your leadership and enthusiasm in bringing coding to you community and HBCUs nationwide”*.

She also shared that TSU was partnering with Amazon. Amazon had endowed a computer science professor in the amount of \$800,000 which meant \$200,000 in scholarships to students. She stated that the objective was to enhance the STEM talent pipeline. Since Amazon’s headquarters for its logistics group will be in Nashville, and its Operations Center of Excellence will also be in Nashville, TSU will assist in provide skilled employees for their Operations Center.

President Glover announced the expanded list of dual enrollment partnerships. She named five community colleges with one even located in Alabama, and three public school systems in the state of Tennessee.

President Glover reviewed our enrollment data. She pointed out that several factors contributed to the decline in our enrollment: the introduction of TN Promise, the change in student loan funding, also the fact that we raised our admission standards. She noted that although the FTEs are not where we want them to be, they are getting there.

She went on to state that several different strategies are being implemented to boost enrollment and to keep it up. She mentioned the diverse populations that we were focusing on now, and the emphasis on the 250-mile radius students.

Mention was made of the increased graduating class numbers and the increased incoming freshman class numbers. She also mentioned the talent of our students that was being recognized, both locally and nationally, with regards to the New Direction Gospel Choir appearing on national television, and the AOB performing at an NFL halftime show. Our students were also excelling academically with record numbers being hired as Legislative interns, and being invited to the CBCF Annual HBCU Summit.

The Graduate School revamped its admission and application processing which led to an increase in enrollment. The Graduate School increased to over 2,200 for the first time ever.

The business and finance department continues to ensure that TSU remains in sound financial condition. Several plans are in place to this effect. Meanwhile, TSU was named in the top 8% of safest colleges and universities in the nation.

She noted that there had been expanded emphasis on our customer service. We are also focusing on better promoting our accomplishments as a University. She congratulated TSU on winning first place in the Retool your School Campaign. There has also been new TSU signage in the Titan Stadium. President Glover mentioned that there has been a noticable increase in the number of stories that were picked up nationally.

In summary President Glover announced that TSU is in a strong position academically, financially, and operationally and thanked everyone for their continued support in making TSU the premier choice for our students.

## **VIII. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Walker thanked the President for her report and the positive direction the institution is headed. He also commented on the robust discussions that occurred in the board committee meetings earlier that day. Chair Walker thanked the Board members for their work on behalf of TSU.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The chair called for a motion to adjourn, which was made by Trustee Mitchell and seconded Trustee Cole. The motioned carried unanimously by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m. CST.