

Tennessee State University Board of Trustees

Policy No. 003: Delegation of Authority to the President

The Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-8-203 outlines the powers and duties of the Board of Trustees (“Board”) of Tennessee State University (the “University” or “TSU”). As provided in the Focus on Colleges and University Success (FOCUS) Act, and stated in the Board’s Bylaws, the Board may delegate to the “chief executive officer of each respective institution such powers and duties as are necessary and appropriate for the efficient administration of the institution and its programs.”

I. Purpose. This policy sets forth the Board’s express retained authority, provides the general parameters for the President’s authority in the operation of the University, and delegates specific authorities to the President.

II. Board’s Retained Authority.

A. General Board Authority. The Board retains approval authority for any actions or responsibilities that that specifically require the Board to act upon.

B. Specific Reserved Board Powers. The Board’s reserved powers include, but are not limited to:

1. Approval of any matter that specifically requires board approval, pursuant to law, rules, or governmental directives;
2. Approval of the budget;
3. Approval of tuition and fees;
4. Purchase, sale, exchange, or gifts of real property, except as provided herein;
5. Personnel matters directly involving the President; and
6. Designation of a name for University buildings or facilities.

III. Delegation of Authority to the President. The Board delegates to the President the following authority:

- A.** Carry out the day-to-day operations, management, and control of the University, including all actions incidental thereto;
- B.** Make necessary expenditures, personnel decisions, including the hiring and termination of personnel, and execute contractual and other obligations on behalf of the University, except as expressly reserved for the Board;

- C.** Approve the granting of honorary degrees;
- D.** Establish and approve policies and procedures for the educational program and other operations of the University, except the Board reserves exclusive authority to approve the following policies:

 - 1. Policies that directly involve the Board, including the Board of Trustees Code of Ethics and Conduct/Conflict of Interest policy, and Standing Committees policy;
 - 2. Policies related to student fees, refunds, or deferred payment plans;
 - 3. Policies related to capital projects;
 - 4. Policies related to banking, depository, or investment contracts;
 - 5. Policies related to academic freedom, faculty roles and responsibilities, faculty dismissal, faculty appointments, and faculty tenure and promotion;
 - 6. Policies related to notification requirements for academic actions, establishing new academic programs, modification of existing programs, or establishing new academic units or new off-campus instructional sites;
 - 7. Policies related to admission requirements, residency requirements, degree requirements, academic retention standards, grading and examination, confidentiality of student records, and honorary degrees;
 - 8. Policies related to student academic misconduct and disciplinary action; and
 - 9. Policies related to distance education and online degree programs and requirements.
- E.** As to Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) policies, which, by law, are expressly deemed to be University policies, unless revised or rescinded by the Board, the President is authorized to approve and carry out such duties and responsibilities reserved for the Chancellor under said policies, except as to matters expressly reserved for the Board.
- F.** Notwithstanding the Board's reservation of authority to approve specific policies referenced herein, the President is authorized to establish and approve institutional policies that are required to ensure compliance with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

(SACSCOC) accreditation standards. With respect to any policy approved by the President under this provision that falls within one of the policy categories enumerated in III.D.1-9 of this policy, the President shall report the approval of said policies at the next scheduled meeting of the Board.

Citation of Authority for Policy: T.C.A. § 49-8-201(f) (8) (B); T.C.A. § 49-8-203 (a) (1) (E).

Document History:

- Adopted by the Board of Trustees: April 13, 2017
- Revised by Board of Trustees: June 18, 2020