

**Tennessee State University Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting – November 19, 2020  
Tennessee State University – Electronic**

**MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Trustees Deborah Cole, Obie McKenzie, Richard Lewis, Andre Johnson, Pam Martin, Ali Sekmen, Steve Corbeil; Joseph Walker III, and Tiara Thomas.

**University Staff Present:** President Glenda Glover; Laurence Pendleton, General Counsel and Board Secretary; Dr. Michael Harris, Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Curtis Johnson, Chief of Staff; Dean Frank Stevenson, Assoc. Vice President of Student Affairs; Horace Chase, Vice President of Business and Finance; Dr. Frances Williams, Assoc. Vice President of Research & Sponsored Programs; Terrence Izzard, Assoc. Vice President of Enrollment Management; Dr. Robbie Melton, Dean of Graduate School and Dr. Arlene Nicholas-Phillips, Liaison to BOT.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Walker called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., CST on November 19, 2020. Chair Walker moved to make certain findings on the record regarding the necessity for conducting the meeting electronically without a physical quorum present due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Board is scheduled to take up important and timely matters. Participation by electronic means is necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic and accompanying guidance from the Center for Disease Control (“CDC”) and the State of Tennessee to limit face-to-face contact whenever possible. Electronic participation for the Board meeting is necessary for the safety of Board members, staff, and guests. Trustee Cole seconded and the motion carried.

**II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Board Chair welcomed the attendees and 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: Trustee Deborah Cole, Obie McKenzie, Richard Lewis, Andre Johnson, Pam Martin, Ali Sekmen, Tiara Thomas, Steve Corbeil, and Joseph Walker III. Board Secretary Pendleton announced the presence of a quorum.

Chair Walker asked the Board members to state now if any of the members cannot hear or speak with each other. No Board members answered in the affirmative. Chair Walker also asked the Board members to indicate if someone is present with them from the location in which they are calling. No Board members indicated there was anyone present.

**IV. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2020, BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Chair Walker introduced the first action item – the approval of the minutes of the September 24, 2020 board meeting. Chair Walker moved to approve the board meeting minutes and Trustee

Martin seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

## **B. APPROVAL OF THE TSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2021 MEETING CALENDAR**

Chair Walker introduced the next action item as the approval of the TSU Board of Trustees 2021 meeting calendar, as contained in the Board materials of November 19, 2020. He then moved to approve March 11, June 17, September 16 and November 18, 2021, as the meeting dates for the TSU Board of Trustees in the calendar year 2021, as contained in the Board materials for the board's November 19, 2020 meeting. Trustee Corbeil seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

## **C. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Trustee Cole informed the Board that the Audit Committee met to take action on one item and received reports on two other items. The Audit Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the September 24, 2020, Audit Committee meeting minutes. Trustee Cole added that the Audit Committee reviewed and discussed completed internal and external audits and outstanding audit issues.

### **I. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2020, AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Trustee Cole moved to approve the minutes of September 24, 2020, Audit Committee meeting, as contained in the board materials for the November 19, 2020, board meeting. Trustee Martin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Trustee Cole concluded the Audit Committee report.

Chair Walker thanked the Audit Committee for their work.

Chair Walker then introduced a Board Resolution in response to the Sunset Performance Audit Report:

#### **Board Resolution A**

As the Governing Board for TSU, the Board of Trustees is charged with the fiduciary duty to ensure that Tennessee State University conducts itself in a financially and fiscally responsible manner. In response to the Sunset Performance Audit released on November 17, 2020, the Board of Trustees hereby resolves that it is imperative that the university corrects its deficiencies as identified in the 2020 Performance Audit report, in a timely manner in accordance with the State Audit Policy. Accordingly, the Board of Trustees directs President Glover and the senior management of Tennessee State University to take all appropriate measures to execute the tasks for phase one and other remediation plans and corrective actions, no later the December 31, 2020, and to provide a report to the Board regarding same.

Chair Walker then moved to approve the Board Resolution A as stated in the record. Trustee Sekmen seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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

Trustee Lewis stated that the Finance and Budget Committee met this morning to take action on three items and received reports on six other items. The Finance and Budget Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the September 24, 2020, Finance and Budget Committee meeting minutes, the approval of FY21 Revised Institutional Budget (with no more than \$9.5 million reduction in the reserves) and the approval of the Revised Collection of Accounts Receivable Policy. In addition, the Finance and Budget Committee heard reports from President Glover and her team on the CARES Act funding related to COVID-19, the voluntary employee separation program (VESP), enrollment, and the enrollment, marketing and recruitment plan.

#### **I. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2020 FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Trustee Lewis moved to approve the September 24, 2020 Finance and Budget Committee meeting minutes, as contained in the board materials for the November 19, 2020, board meeting. Trustee Corbeil seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call vote.

#### **II. APPROVAL OF FY21 REVISED INSTITUTIONAL BUDGET**

On behalf of the Finance and Budget Committee, Trustee Lewis moved to approve the FY21 Revised Institutional Budget, with the added comments that there be no more than \$9.5 million reduction to Reserves, as contained in the Board Materials for the November 19, 2020 Board meeting. Trustee Corbeil seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

#### **III. APPROVAL OF REVISED COLLECTION OF ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE POLICY**

On behalf of the Finance and Budget Committee, Trustee Lewis moved to approve the Revised Collection of Accounts Receivable Policy, as contained in the Board materials for the November 19, 2020, Board meeting. Trustee Cole seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Trustee Lewis concluded the Finance and Budget report.

Chair Walker thanked the Finance Committee for their work.

#### **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 to receive reports 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 September 24, 2020, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes; approval of the academic program modification – discontinuance of the Bachelor of Science degree completion in Dental Hygiene, and the approval of the Title IX Emergency Rule.

Trustee Martin added that the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee also received reports on COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic Academic and Student Issues, SACSCOC accreditation review matters, academic affairs, and student affairs.

### **I. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2020, 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 September 24, 2020, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting, as contained in the Board materials for the November 19, 2020, Board meeting. Trustee Sekmen seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

### **II. APPROVAL OF THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – DISCONTINUANCE OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE COMPLETION IN DENTAL HYGIENE**

Trustee Martin moved to approve the academic program modification – discontinuance of the Bachelor of Science degree completion in dental hygiene, as contained in the Board materials for the November 19, 2020, Board meeting. Trustee Sekmen seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

### **III. APPROVAL OF THE TITLE IX EMERGENCY RULE**

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Martin moved to approve the Title IX Emergency Rule, as contained in the Board materials for the November 19, 2020, Board meeting, and grants the President the authority to make any appropriate technical or legal changes, including changes required through the State legal process. Trustee Sekmen seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Trustee Martin concluded the Academic and Student Affairs report.

Chair Walker thanked Trustee Martin and the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee for their work.

### **F. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chair Walker stated that the Executive Committee met today to discuss and vote on specified committee agenda items. The Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of

the September 24, 2020, Executive Committee meeting minutes, as contained in the Board materials for the November 19, Board meeting.

Chair Walker also stated that the Executive Committee heard an update from Vice Chair Cole on the President's Annual Performance Review, and a report from Secretary Pendleton.

#### **I. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2020, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Chair Walker moved to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2020, Executive Committee meeting, as contained in the Board materials for the November 19, 2020, Board meeting. Trustee Corbeil seconded the motion and it was approved by roll call vote.

Chair Walker concluded the Executive Committee report.

#### **V. UPDATE ON COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC ISSUES AFFECTING THE TSU COMMUNITY**

Chair Walker called on President Glover to present the update on COVID-19 issues affecting the TSU community. President Glover asked Mr. Laurence Pendleton to report on this item.

Secretary Pendleton called on Trustee Tiara Thomas, a junior Political Science major from Olive Branch, MS to speak on this item. She was joined by freshman student Jazmyn Wall, a biology major from Detroit, MI. These two ladies spoke on the resilience of the students during COVID-19 and of the ease with which they were able to adapt to the virtual learning on campus. Trustee Thomas, a 4.0GPA student, spoke about the many virtual events held during the semester, namely the Virtual Homecoming, the socially distanced sessions with the Aristocrat of Bands and her sorority involvements. She commended Provost Harris and the administration on being a leader among universities with regards to the level of safety and precautionary measures taken during the pandemic in order to provide a safe space for the students. She noted that she was tested at least once weekly. Ms. Wall praised the administration for keeping the library open and available to the students. She mentioned the extensive measures taken by the library to ensure the health and safety of all the students.

President Glover praised these two exemplary students for their optimism amidst such challenging times.

Chair Walker thanked President Glover and her team for the update.

#### **VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Chair Walker recognized President Glover to present the President's Report, including an update on COVID-19.

President Glover provided reports on various items contained in the board materials for the November 19, 2020, Board Meeting. She provided reports on: COVID-19 including the changes in instruction and student adjustments; health, safety and cleaning protocols and SACSCOC Update including the upcoming On-Site visit by the Accreditation Committee scheduled for March 22-25, 2021. She also provided updates on enrollment and recruitment, explaining some factors that impacted the 2020 enrollment; CARES Act Funding for higher education institutions and for HBCUs; Grants awarded and Research funded. President Glover announced the establishment of the Dr. Levi Watkins, Jr. Institute and the historic partnership with Meharry Medical College. She commented that this collaboration creates a pipeline for early entry into medical school. Students applying must have a minimum GPA 3.5 and ACT 28. She also shared her excitement about the \$70 billion pledged to HBCUs by the Biden-Harris administration. Several additional partnerships were highlighted including the Robert Covington Foundation and the Payton Manning Foundation.

President Glover thanked everyone and the Board.

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

Chair Walker thanked President Glover for her leadership. Chair Walker thanked Provost Harris and stated that he was excited by the direction the institution was headed.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Walker thanked everyone for supporting the students particularly during this time of the pandemic and of social unrest. He thanked the corporations and alumni who have been partnering with TSU towards the advancement of our students.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Walker moved to adjourn which was seconded by Trustee Lewis. The motion carried by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m. CST.