

**Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting – June 17, 2021
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, Van Pinnock, 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; Douglas Allen, VP of Finance and Budget; Dr. Curtis Johnson, Chief of Staff; Dean Frank Stevenson, Assoc. Vice President of Student Affairs; 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 June 17, 2021. 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 Corbeil 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, Van Pinnock, and Joseph Walker III. Board Secretary Pendleton announced the presence of a quorum.

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

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 11, 2021, BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chair Walker introduced the first action item – the approval of the minutes of the March 11, 2021 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. APPOINTMENT/ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR

Chair Walker then announced the next agenda item as the election of the Board Chair. Chair Walker opened the floor for nominations and nominated the current Vice Chair, Dr. Deborah Cole for Board Chair. No other nominations were entered and so Vice Chair, Dr. Deborah Cole was named the new Board Chair, effective July 1, 2021. The motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.

Chair Walker stated that it was an honor to serve as the inaugural Board Chair and to work with this President and Board. He stated that he was humbled by the stewardship of the Office and to pass the gavel to the new Chair, Dr. Deborah Cole.

C. APPOINTMENT/ELECTION OF BOARD VICE-CHAIR

Chair Walker announced the next agenda item as the election of the Board Vice Chair. Chair Walker opened the floor for nominations for Board Vice Chair and nominated Trustee Pamela Martin for the two-year term. No other nominations were entered and so Trustee Pamela Martin was named the new Board Vice Chair, effective July 1, 2021. The motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.

Chair Walker welcomed Trustee Martin as the new Vice Chair.

D. APPOINTMENT OF AT-LARGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair Walker stated the next agenda item as the appointment of at-large Executive Committee members. Chair Walker reminded all that the Board's Executive Committee was comprised of the Board Chair, Board Vice Chair, and at least one at-large voting member elected by the Board. Members of the Executive Committee serve for a term of two years. Historically, the Chairs of each Board committee have served as the at-large members of the Executive Committee. With expiration of the terms of the current and inaugural Board Chair and Board Vice Chair, under this proposal, the Executive Committee would be comprised of the committee chairs and the currently serving and soon-to-be former Board Chair as the at-large members of the Executive Committee.

Chair Walker then made a motion to appoint Trustee Lewis and the currently serving and soon-to-be Board Chair to serve as the at-large members of the Executive Committee for a two-year term. Trustee Cole accepted the motion and Trustee McKenzie seconded it. The motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.

Chair Walker then congratulated Trustee Lewis and announced that he looked forward to working alongside him on this committee.

E. APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair Walker then announced the next agenda item as the approval of the appointment of the Audit Committee members. In compliance with state law and Board policy, and in consultation with the Audit Committee Chair, Chair Walker selected the following Trustees to serve a two-year term on the Audit Committee, subject to Board approval: Trustee Deborah Cole, Trustee Obie McKenzie, and Trustee Van Pinnock.

Chair Walker made the motion for this approval, which was seconded by Trustee Martin. The motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.

F. APPROVAL OF REAPPOINTMENT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR

Chair Walker then announced the next agenda item as the approval of the reappointment of the Audit Committee Chair, Trustee Deborah Cole, to serve another one-year term, as noted in the Board materials for June 17, 2021, Board meeting.

The motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote and Trustee Deborah Cole was renamed the Chair of the Audit Committee.

G. APPOINT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE

Chair Walker then announced the next agenda item as the appointment of the Student Trustee.

After President Glover had conducted several interviews of the recommended candidates, she decided to recommend the reappointment of Ms. Tiara Thomas to serve another term as the Student Trustee. Having done an exceptional job serving during the unprecedented 2020-2021 academic year, Chair Walker moved to reappoint Trustee Thomas to serve another one-year term as Student Trustee on the TSU Board of Trustees. Trustee Martin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote and Trustee Tiara Thomas was reappointed as Student Trustee for another one-year term.

H. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Cole informed the Board that the Audit Committee met to take action on two agenda items and received reports on three other items. The Audit Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the March 11, 2021, Audit Committee meeting minutes and the approval of the fiscal year 2021-22 Audit Plan. Trustee Cole added that the Audit Committee reviewed and discussed the annual report on the Audit Office's Audit Activities, and completed Internal Audit reports and the Audit Office's Internal Quality assessment.

i. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 11, 2021, AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Cole moved to approve the minutes of March 11, 2021, Audit Committee meeting as contained in the Board materials for the June 17, 2021, Board meeting. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ii. APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 AUDIT PLAN

Trustee Cole stated that the Audit Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the FY 2021-2022 Audit Plan as contained in the June 17, 2021, Board materials. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Chair Walker thanked Trustee Cole and the Audit Committee for their work.

I. FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Lewis stated that the Finance and Budget Committee met this morning to act on six items and received reports on three other items. The Finance and Budget Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the March 11, 2021, Finance and Budget Committee meeting minutes; approval of Fiscal Year 2021-22 Tuition and Mandatory Fee Increase of 1.9%; approval of Institutional Budgets – Estimated Budget FY21, Proposed Budget FY22; approval of FY21 Supplemental Compensation Payment to Eligible Employees; approval of the Institution’s Fiscal Year 2021-22 Compensation Plan; and approval of the Institution’s FY 2021-22 Capital Construction Plan. In addition, the Finance and Budget Committee heard reports from President Glover and her team on finance and budget, enrollment, marketing and student recruitment plan, and TSU Athletics.

i. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 11, 2021, FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Lewis moved to approve the March 11, 2021 Finance and Budget Committee meeting minutes, as contained in the Board materials for the June 17, 2021, Board meeting. Trustee Martin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ii. APPROVAL OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 TUITION AND MANDATORY FEE INCREASE OF 1.9 PERCENT

On behalf of the Finance and Budget Committee, Trustee Lewis moved to approve the fiscal year 2021-2022 tuition and mandatory fee increase of 1.9%, as contained in the Board materials for the June 17, 2021, Board meeting. Trustee Martin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call vote.

iii. APPROVAL OF THE INSTITUTIONAL BUDGETS

Trustee Lewis moved to recommend to the full Board, the approval of the institutional budgets, as contained in the Board materials for the June 17, 2021, Board meeting. These reflect the estimated budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 and the proposed budget for fiscal year 2021-2022. Trustee Martin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call vote.

iv. APPROVAL OF THE INSTITUTION’S FISCAL YEAR 2021 SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT TO ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES

On behalf of the Finance and Budget Committee, Trustee Lewis moved to approve the institution’s fiscal year 2021 supplemental payment to eligible employees, as contained in the Board materials

for the June 17, 2021 Board meeting. Trustee Martin seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**v. APPROVAL OF THE INSTITUTION'S FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022
COMPENSATION PLAN**

On behalf of the Finance and Budget, Trustee Lewis moved to approve the institution's fiscal year 2021-2022 compensation plan, as contained in the Board materials for the June 17, 2021, Board meeting. Trustee Martin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**vi. APPROVAL OF THE INSTITUTION'S FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022
CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PLAN**

On behalf of the Finance and Budget, Trustee Lewis moved to approve the fiscal year 2021-2022 Capital Construction Plan, as contained in the Board materials for the June 17, 2021, Board meeting. Trustee Pinnock seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Trustee Lewis concluded the Finance and Budget report.

Chair Walker thanked the Finance Committee for their work.

J. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Martin reported that the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee met to consider and vote on six agenda items and to receive reports on three 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 March 11, 2021, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes; approval of the AY 2020-2021 Tenure and Promotion Recommendations; and the approval of an Academic Program Modification – a Change to the MS Psychology, Counseling Psychology Concentration Admission Standards. The committee also voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Academic Program Modification – a Change to the MS Biology Admission Standards, and the approval of the TSU Intellectual Property policy.

The agenda item, Academic Program Modification – a Move of the Department of Criminal Justice from the College of Liberal Arts to the College of Public Service, was tabled at the request of the administration.

Trustee Martin added that President Glover and her team provided reports on the SACSCOC Ten Year accreditation review, Academic Affairs, and Student Affairs.

**i. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 11, 2021, 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 March 11, 2021, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting, as contained in the Board materials for the June 17, 2021, Board meeting. Trustee McKenzie seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ii. APPROVAL OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-2021 TENURE AND PROMOTION RECOMMENDATIONS

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Martin moved to approve the academic year 2020-2021 Tenure and Promotion recommendations as contained in the Board materials for the June 17, 2021, Board meeting. Trustee Pinnock seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

iii. APPROVAL OF THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – A CHANGE TO THE M.S. PSYCHOLOGY, COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY CONCENTRATION ADMISSION STANDARDS

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Martin moved to approve the academic program modification – a change to the M.S. Psychology, Counseling Psychology Concentration Admission Standards, as contained in the Board materials for the March 11, 2021, Board meeting, Trustee Cole seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

vi. APPROVAL OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – A CHANGE TO THE M.S. BIOLOGY ADMISSION STANDARDS

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Martin moved to approve an academic program modification – a change to the M.S. Biology Admission Standards, as contained in the Board materials for the June 17, 2021, Board meeting. Trustee Sekmen seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

v. APPROVAL OF THE TSU INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Martin moved to approve the TSU Intellectual Property policy, as contained in the Board materials for the June 17, 2021, Board meeting. Trustee Cole 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.

K. 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 March 11, 2021, Executive Committee meeting minutes, as contained in the Board materials for the June 17, 2021 Board meeting.

Chair Walker also stated that the Executive Committee heard reports on Board committee assignments, and a report from Secretary Pendleton.

i. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 11, 2021, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Chair Walker moved to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2021, Executive Committee meeting, as contained in the Board materials for the June 17, 2021, Board meeting. Trustee McKenzie seconded the motion and it was approved by roll call vote.

Chair Walker concluded the Executive Committee report.

V. REPORT AND UPDATE ON TSU ATHLETICS

Chair Walker called on President Glover to present information regarding this agenda item, the report and update on TSU Athletics. President Glover asked the Athletic Director, Dr. Mikki Allen to report on this agenda item.

Dr. Allen pointed out that since the hiring of the 22nd Head Coach, Mr. Eddie George, there had been an extremely high amount of excitement, alumni engagement and exposure surrounding the football program at TSU. He pointed out that TSU had been on various forms of national media, including print and digital platforms. He listed several television stations and broadcast outlets with whom he and his team had been invited to participate. AD Allen thanked AVP Kelli Sharpe for reaching out to these outlets.

At this time Coach Eddie George had confirmed his staff which consisted of 10 assistant coaches and 6 support staff members. He noted that their profiles could be found on TSUTigers.com. AD Allen emphasized that the new leadership in our football program has had an increased effect on recruiting students in addition to great athletes. He mentioned the recent ‘roar city mega camp’ held on campus and the excess of 500 prospects that were in attendance.

AD Allen proudly mentioned the fact that they now had \$2.3 million in gift commitments for the Athletics Department. He thanked Mr. Jamie Isabel and his Institutional Advancement team for their assistance in these efforts. He took the opportunity to thank, former Board member, Mr. Bill Freeman and his wife, Barb, for their gift of \$300,000.00 to the Athletics Department which was used to transform the 3rd floor of Hankel Hall, the home of the football department. Another major gift recently received was \$300,000.00 from Mr. Paul Wieck (CEO – Western Express) and his family. This gift is to support the Athletics Department with a new weight room and locker room, for football and both men’s and women’s track & field. AD Allen expressed how thrilled and excited everyone was about the enhancements. He pointed out that there had been increased corporate interest in the Athletics programs. He also addressed the reorganizing of the department and the conversations of new programs such as, ice hockey (an extension to our relationship with the Predators), baseball and soccer. Presently feasibility studies are underway.

AD Allen reiterated that these are exciting times in Athletics at TSU and thanked everyone who assisted in getting the Athletics program back on top.

Chair Walker thanked Dr. Mikki Allen and President Glover for this report and shared how excited everyone was about the direction that the Athletics Department was headed. He thanked President Glover for hiring Coach Eddie George.

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 June 17, 2021, Board Meeting and her President's Report PowerPoint slides. She provided reports on: COVID-19, SACSCOC, enrollment and recruitment, CARES Act funding, and Land Grant funding. President Glover's COVID-19 update included the fact that the university will be open this Fall for in-person operations. She stated that faculty will return on August 9th, while administration and staff will return to campus with staggering dates beginning July 1st. Classes will be held both in-person and online. President Glover stressed that we are not relaxing our safety protocols and are requiring face masks, temperature checks and other health measures. We are strongly stressing vaccinations among our students, staff and faculty. We will be going to the residence halls to offer vaccinations.

Regarding SACSCOC, President Glover noted that the institution has corrected all of the deficiencies noted on the audit reports and have made staffing and other organizational changes. She also provided updates on enrollment and recruitment, explaining some factors that positively impacted the enrollment, such as expanding into other major markets such as, first-year students, veterans and non-traditional students; expanded the Dual Enrollment partnerships; opened a new Health Science building; and two new residence halls coming in the Fall 2022; and grants awarded and research funded. President Glover mentioned the impact of the establishment of the Dr. Levi Watkins, Jr. Institute and the historic partnership with Meharry Medical College. She also shared her excitement about CARES Act funding and all the extra funding that TSU will receive. President Glover briefly reminded everyone about the excitement surrounding our Athletic program and concluded with an update on the Land Grant funding that is owed to TSU and assured the committee that TSU would not be backing down until we get what is owed to TSU.

President Glover thanked everyone and the Board.

VII. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Walker thanked Trustee Sekmen for his work on the Board and wished him all the best as he continues to work for TSU. He then welcomed the new Faculty Trustee to the Board, Dr. William Johnson. Chair Walker acknowledged the new Board Chair, Dr. Deborah Cole and then thanked everyone for the opportunity that he has had as the Chair. Chair Walker thanked President Glover for her leadership. He thanked Provost Harris and all others.

Trustee Sekmen added his thanks to the Board and stated that it was an honor to serve on the Board of Trustees. He reminded everyone that we all work for one goal – TSU. He took the opportunity to thank all faculty, staff and administrators for all their hard work. He especially thanked President Glover and Provost Harris.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Walker thanked everyone for supporting the students. Everyone was then invited to the Ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new Health Sciences building.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Walker moved to adjourn which was seconded by Trustee McKenzie. The motioned carried by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m. CST.