

**Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting – March 17, 2022
Tennessee State University – Electronic**

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Trustees Deborah Cole, Andre Johnson, Bill Johnson, Obie McKenzie, Richard Lewis, Stephen Corbeil, Pam Martin, and Tiara Thomas.

University Staff Present: President Glenda Glover; Laurence Pendleton, General Counsel and Board Secretary; Dr. Michael Harris, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Douglas Allen, Vice President of Finance and Budget; Dr. Curtis Johnson, Chief of Staff; Dean Frank Stevenson, Assoc. Vice President of Student Affairs; Dr. Quincy Quick, 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 the Board.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cole called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., CDT on March 17, 2022. Chair Cole 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 Pam Martin seconded and the motion carried.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Board Chair welcomed the attendees, and Dean Frank Stevenson gave the invocation. Chair Cole also asked for a moment of silence on the recent passing of Mr. Steve Harris, newly elected Chairman of the Foundation Board. President Glover stated that he will be greatly missed.

III. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Chair Cole asked the Board Secretary, Laurence Pendleton, to call the roll. The following Trustees were present during roll call: Trustee Deborah Cole, Andre Johnson, Bill Johnson, Richard Lewis, Tiara Thomas, Steve Corbeil, Obie McKenzie, and Pam Martin. Board Secretary Pendleton announced the presence of a quorum.

Chair Cole asked the Board members to state now if any of the Board members cannot hear or speak with each other. No Board members answered in the affirmative. Chair Cole 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 NOVEMBER 18, 2021, BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chair Cole introduced the first action item – the approval of the minutes of the November 18, 2021, Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Bill Johnson moved to approve the minutes and Trustee Steve Corbeil seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

B. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

As Audit Committee Chair, Chair Cole informed the Board that the Audit Committee met to take action on one agenda item and received reports on three other items before going into Executive Session to discuss items deemed confidential under state law. The Audit Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the November 18, 2021, Audit Committee meeting minutes. Chair Cole added that the Audit Committee reviewed and discussed the completed Internal Audit reports, outstanding audit issues and the University's Risk Assessment process.

I. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2021, AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Chair Cole moved to approve the minutes of November 18, 2021, Audit Committee meeting as contained in the Board materials for the March 17, 2022, Board meeting. Trustee Obie McKenzie seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Chair Cole announced that this concluded the Audit Committee report and moved on to the next agenda item.

C. FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Lewis of the Finance and Budget Committee stated that the Committee met to act on two action items and received reports on seven other items. The Finance and Budget Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the November 18, 2021, Finance and Budget Committee meeting minutes and the approval of the University's Travel Card Policy. The Finance and Budget Committee heard reports and updates from President Glover and her team on the fiscal year 2022 institutional budget, the Governor's FY23 proposed budget allocation for TSU, CARES Act funding, and finance and budget facilities report. The Committee also heard reports on enrollment, institutional development, and athletics.

I. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2021, FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Lewis moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the November 18, 2021, Finance and Budget Committee meeting minutes, as contained in the Board materials for the March 17, 2022, board meeting. Trustee McKenzie seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call vote.

II. APPROVAL OF THE UNIVERSITY'S TRAVEL CARD POLICY

Trustee Lewis moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the University's Travel Card Policy, as contained in the Board materials for the March 17, 2022, Board meeting. Trustee Martin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Chair Cole thanked Trustee Lewis for his work and that of the Finance and Budget Committee members.

D. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Martin reported that the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee met to consider and vote on nine agenda items and to receive reports on three other agenda items.

Trustee Pam Martin stated that the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the November 18, 2021, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes; approval of a new Academic Program – Graduate Certificate in Biotechnology; approval of an Academic Program Modification – Admission Standards – Master's in Business Administration; approval of an Academic Program Modification – Admission Standards – PhD in Public Policy and Administration; approval of an Academic Program Modification – Admission Standards – Doctorate of Education; and approval of an Academic Program Modification – Admission Standards – Master's in Education. Trustee Pam Martin also shared that the Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of an Academic Program Modification – Admission Standards – Post-Master's Level Educational Specialist in Instructional Leadership; approval of a New Mode of Delivery of an Academic Program – Bachelor's in Business Administration; and approval of a Program Offering at Avon Williams Campus Location – Master's in Business Administration (MBA).

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 NOVEMBER 18, 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 November 18, 2021, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting, as contained in the Board materials for the March 17, 2022, Board meeting. Trustee Bill Johnson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

II. APPROVAL OF A NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM – GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Pam Martin moved to approve a new Academic Program – Graduate Certificate in Biotechnology recommendation as contained in the Board materials for the March 17, 2022, Board meeting. Trustee Bill Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

III. APPROVAL OF THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – CHANGE OF ADMISSION STANDARDS – MASTER’S IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Martin moved to approve the Academic Program Modification – Change of Admission Standards – Master’s in Business Administration recommendation, as contained in the Board materials for the March 17, 2022, Board meeting, Trustee Bill Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

IV. APPROVAL OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – CHANGE IN ADMISSION STANDARDS – PHD IN PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Martin moved to approve an Academic Program Modification – Change in Admission Standards – PhD in Public Policy and Administration recommendation, as contained in the Board materials for the March 17, 2022, Board meeting. Trustee McKenzie seconded and the motion to approve was carried unanimously by roll call vote.

V. APPROVAL OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – CHANGE IN ADMISSION STANDARDS – DOCTORATE IN EDUCATION

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Martin moved to approve an Academic Program Modification – Change in Admission Standards – Doctorate in Education recommendation, as contained in the Board materials for the March 17, 2022, Board meeting. Trustee B. Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

VI. APPROVAL OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – CHANGE IN ADMISSION STANDARDS – MASTER’S IN EDUCATION

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Pam Martin moved to approve an Academic Program Modification – Change in Admission Standards – Master’s in Education recommendation, as contained in the Board materials for the March 17, 2022, Board meeting. Trustee B. Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

VII. APPROVAL OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – CHANGE IN ADMISSION STANDARDS – POST-MASTER’S LEVEL EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST IN INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Pam Martin moved to approve an Academic Program Modification – Change in Admission Standards – Post-Master’s Level Educational Specialist in Instructional Leadership recommendation, as contained in the Board materials for the March 17, 2022, Board meeting. Trustee B. Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

VIII. APPROVAL OF A NEW MODE OF DELIVERY OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM – BACHELOR’S IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Pam Martin moved to approve a New Mode of Delivery of an Academic Program – Bachelor’s in Business Administration recommendation, as contained in the Board materials for the March 17, 2022, Board meeting. Trustee B. Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

IX. APPROVAL OF A PROGRAM OFFERING AT AVON WILLIAMS CAMPUS LOCATION – MASTER’S IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (MBA)

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Pam Martin moved to approve a Program Offering at Avon Williams Campus Location – Master’s in Business Administration (MBA) recommendation, as contained in the Board materials for the March 17, 2022, Board meeting. Trustee B. Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Trustee Pam Martin concluded the Academic and Student Affairs report.

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

E. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Cole 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 November 18, 2021, Executive Committee meeting minutes, as contained in the Board materials for the March 17, 2022, Board meeting.

Chair Cole also stated that the Executive Committee heard reports on the President’s Annual Performance Review process, and a report from Secretary Pendleton.

I. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2021, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Chair Cole moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2021, Executive Committee meeting, as contained in the Board materials for the March 17, 2022, Board meeting. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion and it was approved by roll call vote.

Chair Cole concluded the Executive Committee report.

V. REPORT ON THE GOVERNOR’S FY23 PROPOSED BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Chair Cole called on President Glover to present information regarding this agenda item. President Glover asked VP Business and Finance, Mr. Doug Allen, to report on the Governor’s FY23 Budget Allocation for Tennessee State University.

VP Allen shared that the Governor has allocated \$250 million towards capital outlay for strategic initiatives at TSU. Also allocated was \$8 million for construction maintenance and \$60 million for

a new engineering classroom building. This represented a total of \$318 million.

President Glover thanked the Governor as well as all the Trustees and anyone else who worked to get this allocation for TSU. She specifically mentioned Rep. Harold Love and Leah Dupree Love and their efforts in helping to secure this for TSU.

Chair Cole thanked President Glover, and VP Allen for the good news.

VI. REPORT ON ATHLETICS

Chair Cole called on President Glover to present information regarding this agenda item, the Report on Athletics. President Glover called on Athletic Director, Dr. Mikki Allen to make this report.

Dr. Allen thanked the Board for the opportunity to represent the Athletic program with the 230 athletes and 15 NCAA sponsored sports programs. He stated that he would address speculation about TSU conference affiliation and also the Southern Heritage Classic.

Dr. Allen stated that there was an announcement that the Big South Conference and the OVC will form an alliance in 2023. He noted that several schools including TSU, UT Martin, Tennessee Tech and others will join this alliance. As he explained, the purpose of forming this alliance was to combine the football membership and give both conferences championship access to the FCS playoffs. He went on to explain some of the procedures regarding game schedules and additional costs associated with playing these other games. He noted that the Big South and the OVC were looking into ways to supplement some of these additional costs. Dr. Allen pointed out that he did form a committee comprising of university leaders, coaches and alumni to evaluate TSU's position in the conference and future conference alignment.

Regarding the Southern Heritage Classic, Dr. Allen stated that this year would be the 33rd year for this event. He explained that earlier Jackson State University announced that they were terminating future participation with this historic match up with TSU. President Glover stated her disappointment at the decision and the importance of the Classic to the Memphis economy. JSU then decided that they will play this year but not in 2023 and 2024 calendar years. There continues to be on-going discussions around the future of the SHC and whether it will move from Memphis or even other classics coming to Nashville or Atlanta.

Chair Cole thanked Dr. Allen for this information and for the great report.

VII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Chair Cole called on President Glover to present information regarding this agenda item, the President's Report.

President Glover provided reports on various items contained in the Board materials for the March 17, 2022, Board meeting and her President's Report PowerPoint slides. She announced that the reports were all good and proceeded to share reports on: SACSCOC accreditation being reaffirmed; a clean audit report with most deficiencies being corrected; enrollment being up for both undergraduate and graduate; R2 Carnegie Research classification maintained; historic growth in endowment; a historic high in research funding; and the Governor's inclusion of TSU in his budget recommendation.

The COVID-19 update included the fact that the university operated in-person and online. Faculty were prepared to transition to online delivery if the pandemic conditions required it. The omicron and delta variants were closely monitored. Students, faculty and staff continue to wear masks at all times while indoors but the University will continue to monitor this requirement. Tele-counseling services were available for students 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Tele-health services are also being offered. COVID testing was being performed regularly. Health and safety protocols continued to be observed with face coverings being worn at all times on campus when in public places; social distancing implemented at all times; and temperature checks being conducted. Plexiglass desk shields were installed throughout the campus.

Although the University did not have a vaccination mandate, President Glover noted that the institution was strongly stressing vaccinations among our students, staff and faculty. Aggressive testing is still being performed. Over 60% of students residing on campus had been vaccinated while 80% of employees had been vaccinated.

President Glover reminded the Board that the SACSCOC Board of Directors met in December and voted to reaffirm TSU's accreditation for another 10 years. TSU will submit a monitoring report in September 2022. President Glover shared that regarding the audit update, the University is correcting all deficiencies noted in the audit reports. She also provided updates on enrollment and recruitment, sharing that enrollment was up this year for both graduate and undergraduate students. She shared the areas of increased recruitment including dual enrollment and the addition of Dr. Arlene Nicholas-Phillips to assist the Office of International Affairs in recruiting internationally. She also noted that a retention plan was developed to assist and improve returning students.

President Glover also indicated that the CARES Act provided funding for paying off prior student balances and this helped with the returning students' numbers. She reminded the Board of the two new Residence Halls that will open Fall 2022 and the new Health Sciences building that was opened in June 2021 on campus. She shared that the University continues to make repairs, handle building maintenance across campus, and perform major upgrades of technology across campus.

President Glover reiterated the record amount awarded for Grants and Research funded in FY 20-21 at \$70.7 Million. She mentioned that TSU was the top HBCU receiving USDA funds from NIFA, and also the fact that TSU ranks in the top 5 HBCUs in receiving research funding. She pointed out that FY21-22 to date, the University has been awarded almost as much as the entire year for past years. Special mention was made of our corporate partners and those who donated \$1 million or more to TSU.

President Glover further noted that TSU's forensic team continues to reign as the national champion and the Aristocrat of Bands continues to make us all proud. President Glover concluded with an update on the Land Grant funding that is owed to TSU. She shared that TSU was included in the Governor's budget and will receive \$250 million for infrastructure and another \$68 million for other needs. She reiterated the need for the University to move from R2 Carnegie Classification to an R1 institution.

President Glover thanked everyone and the Board. Trustee Lewis requested an opportunity to tour the new buildings on campus.

Chair Cole thanked President Glover for her report.

VIII. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Cole thanked Dr. B. Johnson, Student Trustee Tiara Thomas, and faculty. She stated that she hoped special attention was paid to President Glover's report on all that was going on at TSU including the new programs, athletics, etc. and expressed her appreciation for all that was being done at the University. She also thanked President Glover for putting TSU on the national and international stage.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cole moved to adjourn which was seconded by Trustee Lewis and Trustee Pinnock. The motioned carried by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m. CDT.