

**Tennessee State University
Board of Trustees**



**Academic Affairs
and
Student Affairs
Committee Report**

**TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

Tennessee State University
Thursday, November 18, 2021
8:30 a.m. CST

Board Committee Meetings Via Zoom
Live Stream: www.tnstate.edu/board/livestream.aspx

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call/Declaration of a Quorum
- III. Approval of the September 16, 2021, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
- IV. Approval of Academic Program Modification – Admissions Standards – Master of Occupational Therapy
- V. Approval of Academic Program Modification – Admissions Standards – Master of Social Work
- VI. Approval of New Academic Program – Ph.D. of Agricultural Science
- VII. Approval of New Academic Program – B.S. Elementary Education
- VIII. Approval of New Academic Program – B.S. Africana Studies
- IX. Report on SACSCOC Ten Year Accreditation Review
- X. Academic Affairs Report
- XI. Report on Clery Act Crime Statistics
- XII. Student Affairs Report
- XIII. Adjournment

Tennessee State University

Board of Trustees



TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ACTION ITEM

DATE: November 18, 2021

ITEM: Approval of the September 16, 2021, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval

PRESENTED BY: Chair of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee,
Trustee Pamela Martin

The document reflecting the minutes from the September 16, 2021, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting is included in the November 18, 2021, Board materials.

MOTION: To approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees' September 16, 2021, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting, as contained in the Board materials for the Board's November 18, 2021, meeting.

**Meeting of the Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee Meeting
September 16, 2021
Tennessee State University – Electronic
MINUTES**

Committee Members Present: Trustees Pam Martin, Andre Johnson (later joined), Bill Johnson and Tiara Thomas.

Other Board Members Present: Trustees Deborah, Van Pinnock and Joseph Walker III

University Staff Present: President Glenda Glover; Laurence Pendleton, General Counsel and Board Secretary; Dr. Michael Harris, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Curtis Johnson, Chief of Staff; Dean Frank Stevenson, Assoc. Vice President of Student Affairs; Douglas Allen, 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, Graduate School Dean and Assoc. Vice President and Dr. Arlene Nicholas-Phillips, Liaison to the Board of Trustees.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Martin called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. on September 16, 2021. She formally welcomed Dr. William Johnson to the Board and to the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, as the new Faculty Trustee. Trustee Martin then 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 Committee is set to take up important 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 Committee meeting is necessary for the safety of Board members, staff, and guests.

II. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Board Secretary Pendleton called the roll at the committee chair’s request. Trustees Pam Martin, Bill Johnson and Tiara Thomas were present. Secretary Pendleton announced the presence of a quorum.

III. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 17, 2021, COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Martin proceeded to the approval of the June 17, 2021, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes.

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the June 17, 2021, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes, as contained in the Board materials for the September 16, 2021, Board meeting. Trustee B. Johnson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call.

IV. APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – ADMISSION STANDARDS – PH.D. IN BIOLOGY

Trustee Martin announced the next agenda item as the approval of academic program modification – a change to the Ph.D. in Biology Admission Standards. She asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. The material for this agenda item is contained in the Board Meeting materials for September 16, 2021.

President Glover called on Provost Harris to respond to this item. Provost Harris stated that they were asking for the GRE requirement to be removed so that it would no longer be needed for admission to the program.

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the academic program modification – a change to the Ph.D. in Biology admission standards, as contained in the Board materials for the September 16, 2021, board meeting. Trustee B. Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

V. APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – A CHANGE TO THE M.S. PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING ADMISSION STANDARDS

Trustee Martin announced the next item on the agenda is the approval of an academic program modification – a change to the M.S. Professional School Counseling admission standards. She asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. The material for this agenda item is contained in the September 16, 2021, Board Meeting materials.

President Glover asked Provost Harris to respond to this agenda item. Provost Harris again stated that they were requesting the removal of the GRE and MAT as requirements for admission to the stated program.

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of an academic program modification – a change to the MS Professional School Counseling admission standards, as contained in the Board materials for the September 16, 2021, board meeting. Trustee Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

VI. APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – METHOD OF INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY VIA ONLINE – MASTER IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Trustee Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the approval of the academic program modification – change to the method of instructional delivery via online – Master in Business Administration in the College of Business. She asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. The material is included in the September 16, 2021 Board Meeting materials.

President Glover again asked Provost Harris to present on this item. Provost Harris explained that they were asking permission from the Board to approve the online delivery of the Master of Business Administration in the College of Business.

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of an academic program modification – a change to the method of instructional delivery via online – Master in Business Administration, as contained in the Board materials for the September 16, 2021, board meeting. Trustee B. Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

VII. APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – METHOD OF INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY VIA ONLINE – MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

Trustee Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the approval of the academic program modification – change to the method of instructional delivery via online – Master of Science in Agricultural Science in the College of Agriculture. She asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. The material is included in the September 16, 2021 Board Meeting materials.

President Glover asked Provost Harris to once again present on this item. Provost Harris stated that they were asking permission from the Board to approve the online delivery of the Master of Science in Agricultural Science from the College of Agriculture.

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of an academic program modification – a change to the method of instructional delivery via online – Master of Science in Agricultural Science, as contained in the Board materials for the September 16, 2021, board meeting. Trustee B. Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

VIII. APPROVAL OF A NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM – GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION LEADERSHIP

Trustee Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the approval of a new academic program – Graduate Certificate in Higher Education Administration Leadership. She asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. The material is included in the September 16, 2021 Board Meeting materials.

President Glover asked Provost Harris to present on this item. Provost Harris explained that they were asking permission from the Board to approve a new academic program – a Graduate Certificate in Higher Education Administration Leadership (H.E.A.L.) in the College of Education.

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of a new academic program – a Graduate Certificate in Higher Education Administration Leadership in the College of Education, as contained in the Board materials for the September 16, 2021, board meeting. Trustee B. Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

IX. APPROVAL OF A NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM – GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Trustee Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the approval of a new academic program – a Graduate Certificate in Public Health. She asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. The material is included in the September 16, 2021 Board Meeting materials.

President Glover asked Provost Harris to present on this item. Provost Harris said that they were asking permission from the Board to approve the new academic program – the Graduate Certificate in Public Health in the College of Public Health.

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of an academic program – a Graduate Certificate in Public Health in the College of Health, as contained in the Board materials for the September 16, 2021, board meeting. Trustee B. Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

X. APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL AY 2020-2021 TENURE RECOMMENDATIONS

Trustee Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the approval of additional AY 2020-2021 Tenure Recommendations. Trustee Martin asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item, as contained in the Board materials for the September 16, 2021, Board Meeting.

President Glover asked Provost Harris to present on this item. Provost Harris explained that we were asking permission from the Board to approve the Tenure Recommendations for two additional faculty members who were inadvertently left off the previous list presented to the Board. He assured the Board that these two additional faculty did meet the necessary requirements for Tenure and had earned it.

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the additional AY 2020-2021 Tenure Recommendations, as contained in the Board materials for the September 16, 2021, board meeting. Trustee B. Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

XI. REPORT ON SACSCOC ACCREDITATION REVIEW MATTERS

Trustee Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the report on SACSCOC accreditation review matters. Trustee Martin asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item, as contained in the Board materials for the September 16, 2021, Board Meeting. This is an informational discussion item only so no vote will be required.

President Glover called on Provost Harris to give information relating to this agenda item. Dr. Harris stated that the University received the Report of the Reaffirmation Committee on April 30, 2021 and all Standards were found to be compliant with two exceptions: Standard 13.2 – Financial Documents; and

Standard 13.4 – Control of Finances. An outline of these Standards could be found in the Board Materials on page #122. He went on to advise that the University was currently preparing its Response Report which was due to SACSCOC on September 30, 2021. He then described the next steps, stating that the SACSCOC Board of Trustees will review the University’s Response as well as the Report of the Reaffirmation Committee in December, 2021. The Reaffirmation Decision will be made by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees by December 4-7, 2021.

President Glover added that the audits for Standard 13.2 and 13.4 were almost complete and will be ready to be sent off to SACSCOC soon. Upon submission we would have met the outstanding requirements.

Trustee Martin then thanked Dr. Anderson for her role in getting the University to this point. She also thanked Provost Harris and President Glover. President Glover clarified a question by Trustee B. Johnson noting that our work was complete and sent on to the Auditors. As soon as they are through, we will be submitting our reports to SACSCOC.

XII. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

Trustee Martin announced the next agenda item as the Academic Affairs Report. Information regarding this Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee agenda item is included in your board materials dated September 16, 2021. Trustee Martin asked President Glover and her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. This is an informational discussion item only so no vote will be required.

President Glover asked Provost Harris to comment on this agenda item. Provost Harris detailed the outline found on pages #125 through #127 in the September 16, 2021, Board Meeting materials. He gave highlights of the UNIV1000 course changes and the new procedure regarding Transfer Advising Holds. He added that we were making strides to strengthen the bond between freshman students and the University. He shared some of the academic program planning as it related to the proposed Ph.D. in Agriculture, B.S. in Africana/Black Studies, Ph.D. in Higher Education, and the Online MBA.

Provost Harris then went on to briefly mention the implementation of the strategic plan “The Pathway to Excellence 2025”, the quality enhancement plan “CADENCE” and professional development opportunities for faculty and staff. Provost Harris stressed that the changes and revisions made were all strategic and intentional.

Several other comments were made by Trustee B. Johnson, and Trustee Pinnock regarding programs and the strategic plan. Trustee Martin then thanked President Glover, Provost Harris and all others for the report. She also thanked everyone for their comments.

XIII. REPORT OF RESEARCH FUNDING AND PROGRAMS

Trustee Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the report of research funding and programs. Trustee Martin asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this

agenda item. Information pertaining to this agenda item is included in the September 16, 2021 board materials.

President Glover asked AVP Frances Williams to provide the information related to this agenda item. Since this was an informational discussion item, no vote was required. Dr. Williams then excitedly shared that the TSU faculty and staff were awarded a record \$70.7 million for FY2021. This represented a 28% increase over FY2020. She reminded the Board that in FY2020 the funding received was at \$55.2 million. She stated that this increase in grant and contract awards illustrated the growth of TSU as a research institution, and demonstrates President Glover's commitment to the scholarly achievement of our researchers. She thanked the faculty and staff for their hard work, even during a pandemic, in submitting the highest number of proposals. She also thanked the RSP staff for their diligence in working with supporting the investigators in getting these proposals submitted timely. Details of the awarded grants and contracts can be found on pages #130/131 of the Board materials dated September 16, 2021.

Trustee Martin congratulated President Glover and everyone for the work that was done in getting the University to this point of funding and research awards. Trustee Walker also added his support.

XIV. REPORT ON STUDENT HOUSING

Trustee Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the report on student housing. Trustee Martin asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. Information pertaining to this agenda item is included in the September 16, 2021 board materials.

President Glover asked Dean Stevenson to provide the information related to this agenda item. The detailed outline is included in the Board materials on pages #134 to 135. Dean Stevenson proceeded to share that over the past 5 years the housing need was at 105% over capacity. This year the housing need was 112% over capacity. He pointed out that among other factors, he was faced with the following: there were 1600 Freshman students; COVID protocols; last minute surge of applicants. There were 350 students added to a waiting list. Dean stressed that with the completion of the new state-of-art, Residence Halls next fall, there will be an added 700 beds which will reduce this issue of over-capacity. These new Halls will offer live and learn opportunities to our students. He thanked President Glover and the State Building Commission for approving the use of several off-campus facilities in order to house all of the students. Rooms at several hotels were leased for this purpose.

Dean shared that with the new Residence Halls, TSU will once again offer Graduate Housing, as well as year-round housing to our students. Several of our students have a need for year-round housing. He thanked the housing staff who "really leaned in" to ensure that all of our students were accommodated.

President Glover added that she wanted, on behalf of TSU, to thank the Governor, the legislators and the State Building Commission for the swift action taken in assisting TSU. They added TSU to the meeting agenda at the last minute, and called a special hearing so that we could get the funding needed to secure the long-term lease which was signed with an off-campus vendor. Also she wanted to thank the Congressional Black Caucus for us getting the CARES funding and other necessary funding to help with this housing issue. Because of these efforts we were able to accommodate all of our students.

Trustee Thomas added her special ‘Thank You’ to President Glover and Dean Stevenson for the extra effort made to assist the students. She added a request from the students to improve the technology on campus with the new residence halls and across campus. President Glover assured her that discussions were already being held regarding improving technology and VP Allen confirmed that \$2 million was already air-marked for improving technology on campus.

XV. STUDENT AFFAIRS REPORT

Trustee Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as a Student Affairs report. Trustee Martin asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. Information pertaining to this agenda item is included in the September 16, 2021 board materials.

President Glover asked Dean Frank Stevenson to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. Since this was an informational discussion item, no vote was required. Dean Stevenson shared that overall it was exciting walking through campus and seeing students back on campus. He thanked all of the ‘front line’ workers, namely the housing staff and Residence Life, the TSU Police Department and those working the IQ Zones. He shared that there was a high level of excitement among the students and staff, mentioning specifically that the new student leadership was to be sworn in that evening: SGA President, Derek Sanders (Cincinnati, OH); SGA Vice President, Jabari Jefferson (Memphis, TN); Ms. TSU, Mallory Moore (Huntsville, AL); and Mr. TSU, Mark Davis (Cincinnati, OH). He made mention to the upcoming Career Fair, where over 140 employers were scheduled to participate. He also mentioned that he was getting calls from other institutions asking about our Tele-Health model, where students can access health advice virtually. Dean Stevenson then proceeded to review the COVID-19 protocols for students. A detailed outline can be found in the Board materials on pages #138/139. He wanted the Board to be aware that since school started TSU has had 100 positive cases and presently only 7 students were positive. He stressed that when compared to the other institutions, TSU has performed very well in keeping the case numbers down and protecting our students. This was in part to the students being responsible, wearing their masks and socially distancing themselves. Dean Stevenson credited the introduction of the “Gift Card” incentive with getting the high number of students vaccinated. He reported that presently an excess of 50% of the student population was vaccinated. He commended the students for coming forward to be tested and stated that we were averaging approximately 1,000 students per week being tested. He mentioned that will be adding a dashboard where these numbers would be publicly reported.

Trustee Martin had some questions whether or not the incentive was still being used, to which Dean Stevenson confirmed that it was. He mentioned that students were able to get vaccinated on campus and he also credited some of our local partners for their assistance in this process, namely Meharry Medical Center and Metro Nashville Health.

Trustee Martin reached out to Trustee Thomas for any ideas in encouraging more students to get vaccinated. Trustee Thomas added that she thought the “Gift Card” incentive was an amazing idea and maybe attendance at some events should be restricted to only those who are vaccinated, this way, students who did not want to “miss out” will get the vaccine so that they could be in attendance. Trustee B. Johnson congratulated President Glover and Dean Stevenson for the great work done surrounding this pandemic. He thought that it was a great time to let the HBCU community and others know the good and positive things that are going on at TSU.

Dr. Cole took the opportunity to thank Dr. Glover, Dean Stevenson and the Student Affairs staff for the fantastic job they did during the pandemic and keeping everyone safe. Trustee Walker added to that sentiment.

President added that incentive cards were also given to faculty and staff who were vaccinated. In doing this, we gauged over 800 faculty and staff were vaccinated, another very high percentage when comparing other institutions. Trustee Martin publicly thanked President Glover and the administration.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Martin asked if there was any additional business. Seeing none, she moved to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson which carried unanimously by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 am.

**Tennessee State University
Board of Trustees**



**Approval of
Academic Program
Modification
–Admissions Standards–
Master of Occupational
Therapy**

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ACTION ITEM

DATE: November 18, 2021

ITEM: Approval of Academic Program Modification –
Admissions Standards – Master of Occupational Therapy

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval

PRESENTED BY: Chair of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs
Committee, Trustee Pamela Martin

The University, with the support of the College of Health Science (Master of Occupational Therapy) requests approval to proceed with revised admission standards. This admission standard is outlined below:

Master of Occupational Therapy

- **One Modification to the Admission Criteria is Proposed:**
 - a. **Remove the GRE as a requirement for admission**, based on lack of research evidence that these are significant predictors of completion of the degree.

Pursuant to TSU's Academic Programs, Units and Modifications process, which includes revised admission standards, the department chair initiates the process. The Dean, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and the President must ultimately approve the submissions.

Pursuant to the FOCUS Act, the Board's Bylaws, and the Board's Delegation of Authority to the President Policy, the Board must approve the revision of admissions standards.

MOTION: To approve an academic program modification by revising the admission standards for the Master of Occupational Therapy, as contained in the Board materials for the Board's November 18, 2021, meeting.

Tennessee State University

Board of Trustees



**Approval of
Academic Program
Modification
– Admissions Standards –
Master of Social Work**

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ACTION ITEM

DATE: November 18, 2021

ITEM: Approval of Academic Program Modification – Admissions Standards – Master of Social Work

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval

PRESENTED BY: Chair of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Pamela Martin

The University, with the support of the College of Public Service (Master of Social Work) requests approval to proceed with revised admission standard. This admission standard is outlined below:

Master of Social Work

• **Two Modifications to the Admission Criteria are Proposed:**

Lower GPA Admission Requirement – 1) Lower the admissions GPA requirement for Advanced Standing from 3.0 to 2.75 and 2) lower the admissions GPA requirement for our Regular program from 2.75 to 2.65.

- We have found there are strong MSW program candidates in the application pool for both programs who do not meet the current admissions GPA requirement. Not only will this reduction in GPA make it more streamlined for our admissions process, it will likely attract additional applicants to our MSW program who would otherwise, not apply.

Pursuant to TSU's Academic Programs, Units and Modifications process, which includes revised admission standards, the department chair initiates the process. The Dean, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and the President must ultimately approve the submissions.

Pursuant to the FOCUS Act, the Board's Bylaws, and the Board's Delegation of Authority to the President Policy, the Board must approve the revision of admissions standards.

MOTION: To approve an academic program modification by changing the admission standards for the Master of Social Work, as contained in the Board materials for the Board's November 18, 2021, meeting.

**Tennessee State University
Board of Trustees**



TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ACTION ITEM

DATE: November 18, 2021

ITEM: Approval of New Academic Program – Ph.D. of
Agricultural Science

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval

PRESENTED BY: Chair of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs
Committee, Trustee Pamela Martin

The University, with the support of the College of Agriculture, requests approval to proceed with approval of its Ph.D. in Agricultural Sciences.

Pursuant to TSU’s Academic Programs, Units and Modifications process, which includes new academic programs, academic departments may seek the establishment of a new academic program initiating an internal review process. The department initiates the review process by developing and proposing the new/revised academic program for review at the departmental committee, college, and University levels. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and the President must ultimately approve the submissions.

Background

The number of minority doctoral degree holders in Agricultural Sciences, especially in the State of Tennessee, is very low. TSU, being an 1890 Land Grant institution, has a history of producing a large number of minority master’s degree holders in Agricultural Sciences and the Natural Resources. Thus, the PhD degree in Agricultural Sciences would also increase the number of minority doctoral graduates in the Agricultural Sciences and at the same time enable TSU to enhance its Land Grant Programmatic thrust in teaching and research

The initial concept for this academic program was proposed and approved by the TSU Board of Trustees on March 12, 2020. The department and college developed a proposal for the program and worked with THEC using a comprehensive process. An external reviewer, in conjunction with our THEC Academic Affairs Bureau, conducted a virtual review of the proposed program. At the conclusion of the visit, our external reviewer provided this summation:

“We recommend approval of the proposed program. It is our view that the DAES has demonstrated a clear need for the program and has documented that there is an adequate and sustainable number of students with interest in the program. There is adequate demand in the marketplace to support the level of anticipated graduates from the program, and the applied nature of the degree program will position students to provide needed expertise in the workforce. The DAES has an outstanding faculty with the expertise needed to train PhD students, and they

are absolutely committed to the success of all their students. The admission requirements are adequate to ensure high quality students will enter the program, and the curriculum provides a sound basis for instruction over a wide range of agricultural disciplines. The department has both the lab and farm infrastructure to support the program and program quality research programs for the students. The department, college, and university already have in place adequate support services for the program, and there is clear administrative support at the department, college, and university levels for the program. Importantly, the new program has potential to attract minority students into agricultural and environmental sciences fields.”

Pursuant to the FOCUS Act, the Board’s Bylaws, and the Board’s Delegation of Authority to the President Policy, the Board must approve the preliminary and final iteration of proposed academic programs.

MOTION: To approve a new program to offer a Ph.D. of Agricultural Science, as contained in the Board materials for the Board’s November 18, 2021, meeting.

**Tennessee State University
Board of Trustees**



**Approval of
New Academic Program –
B.S. Elementary Education**

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ACTION ITEM

DATE: November 18, 2021

ITEM: Approval of New Academic Program – B.S. Elementary Education

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval

PRESENTED BY: Chair of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Pamela Martin

The University, with the support of the College of Education, requests approval to proceed with the offering of its Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education.

Pursuant to TSU’s Academic Programs, Units and Modifications process, which includes new academic programs, academic departments may seek the establishment of a new academic program initiating an internal review process. The department initiates the review process by developing and proposing the new/revised academic program for review at the departmental committee, college, and University levels. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and the President must ultimately approve the submissions.

Pursuant to the FOCUS Act, the Board’s Bylaws, and the Board’s Delegation of Authority to the President Policy, the Board must approve the offering of a new academic program. Upon approval by the Board, THEC must provide final approval.

Background

The College of Education herewith seeks approval to submit to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) a Letter of Notification (LON) for the proposed Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. The Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education prepares teachers to identify their students' strengths and weaknesses. Based on those insights, teacher candidates will tailor content, instruction, and assessments that meet diverse student needs and interests. Teacher candidates will receive culturally responsive teaching strategies to promote diversity and inclusive teaching and learning best practices in the classroom. The program of study is designed to prepare highly effective teacher candidates to meet the academic challenges in inclusive elementary education K-5 classrooms. The program consists of 120 credit hours of general education courses, education courses, electives, and a year-long residency path with an on-campus course length of 16 weeks and an online course length of 7 weeks, leading to an elementary education licensure degree program. The program integrates coursework (reading/language, mathematics, science, social studies, art, music, physical education, and applications) with virtual and in-person field experiences with a year residency that prepares teacher candidates for the challenges and rewards of real-world classroom environments. The

curriculum aligns with state elementary education certification requirements, including both theory and practice. Teacher candidates will learn how to differentiate instruction, implement trauma-informed practices, and utilize social and emotional learning strategies, be responsive to culturally and linguistically diverse students, implement inclusion strategies to prepare elementary education teacher candidates to teach in an inclusive environment. The BS in Elementary Education degree curriculum at TSU includes lesson planning and development, methods for teaching English Learners, strategies teaching students with disabilities, early and adolescent development, reflective practice, and research-based and evidence-based best practices in teaching and learning.

With the Board's approval of this program, the item will be submitted to THEC for approval before the Board grants final approval for the program.

MOTION: To approve a new program to offer a B.S. Elementary Education, as contained in the Board materials for the Board's November 18, 2021, meeting.

**Tennessee State University
Board of Trustees**



**Approval of
New Academic Program –
B.S. Africana Studies**

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ACTION ITEM

DATE: November 18, 2021

ITEM: Approval of New Academic Program – B.S. Africana Studies

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval

PRESENTED BY: Chair of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Pamela Martin

The University, with the support of the College of Liberal Arts, requests approval to proceed with the offering of its Bachelor of Science in Africana Studies.

Pursuant to TSU's Academic Programs, Units and Modifications process, which includes new academic programs, academic departments may seek the establishment of a new academic program initiating an internal review process. The department initiates the review process by developing and proposing the new/revised academic program for review at the departmental committee, college, and University levels. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and the President must ultimately approve the submissions.

Pursuant to the FOCUS Act, the Board's Bylaws, and the Board's Delegation of Authority to the President Policy, the Board must approve the offering of a new academic program. Upon approval by the Board, THEC must provide final approval.

Background

The College of Liberal Arts herewith seeks approval to submit to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) a Letter of Notification (LON) for the proposed Bachelor of Science in Africana Studies. The Bachelor of Science in Africana Studies prepares graduates to conduct research and analysis designed to foster intellectual inquiry into the origin, evolution and development of the peoples of Africa and the African Diaspora and the discipline of Africana Studies. Graduates will be prepared for graduate and professional school as well as to pursue careers having substantial contact with people of African descent, such as ambassadors to African countries, translators for the United Nations, lawyers, or serving locally as public servants, policy makers, community leaders, and teachers in African American communities.

The proposed program will include completion of the University's General Education curriculum (41 hours) and an Africana Studies major curriculum (36 hours). The major curriculum includes major core requirements (21 hours) and major electives (15 hours) supporting specific concentrations and career paths. The concentrations include Africana Community and Family

Studies, African Cosmology, Ontology and Psychology, and Africana Political Thought and Social Justice.

With the Board's approval of this program, the item will be submitted to THEC for approval before the Board grants final approval for the program.

MOTION: To approve a new program to offer a Bachelor of Science in Africana Studies, as contained in the Board materials for the Board's November 18, 2021, meeting.

**Tennessee State University
Board of Trustees**



**Report on
SACSCOC
Ten Year
Accreditation Review**

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INFORMATION ITEM

DATE: November 18, 2021

ITEM: Report on SACSCOC Ten Year Accreditation Review

RECOMMENDED ACTION: None

PRESENTED BY: Chair of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee,
Trustee Pamela Martin

The President and/or designee will provide a report on the SACSCOC Ten Year Accreditation Review.

SACSCOC

University's Reaffirmation of Accreditation

The SACSCOC On-Site Reaffirmation Committee conducted its virtual on-site visit March 16-18, 2021. The University received the Report of the Reaffirmation Committee on April 30, 2021, and all standards were found to be compliance with the following two (2) exceptions:

Standard 13.2 *Financial Documents*: Recommendation 1: The On-Site Reaffirmation Committee recommends that the institution provide an institutional audit (or Standard Review Report for those institutions audited as part of a system-wide or statewide audit) for FY2019 and FY2020.

Standard 13.4 *Control of Finances*: Recommendation 2: The On-Site Reaffirmation Committee recommends that the institution document that it exercises appropriate control over all its financial resources.

The university submitted its Response Report to the Visiting Committee to address the two recommendations in the Report of the Reaffirmation Committee. It included two clean audits FY2019 and FY2020 and the plan for exercising appropriate control over all its financial resources.

The Report was submitted timely and received by SASCOC by the established deadline of September 30, 2021.

Next Steps and Timeline

- December 2021 – The Report of the Reaffirmation Committee and the university's Response to any formal recommendation contained in the Committee's Report will be reviewed by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees.
- December 4-7, 2021 - SACSCOC Board of Trustees Reaffirmation Decision.

**Tennessee State University
Board of Trustees**



**Academic Affairs
Report**

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INFORMATION ITEM

DATE: November 18, 2021

ITEM: Academic Affairs Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION: None

PRESENTED BY: Chair of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee,
Trustee Pamela Martin

The President and/or designee will provide a report on Academic Affairs.

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INFORMATION ITEM
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT
November 18, 2021

Over the past two months, Academic Affairs successfully transitioned to the fall semester. Academic Affairs continues to seek to promote and elevate educational excellence through the pursuit of program review, faculty development opportunities, process design, tenure and promotion, and student outreach and mentoring. The Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs has a foundation of collaboration and institutional effectiveness built on the individual, programmatic, and division-wide strengths of the faculty, staff, and students.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Tennessee State University Strategic Plan, *Pathways to Excellence 2025*, (the “Plan”) was crafted with five goals, and twenty-four (24) objectives. The Annual Strategic Plan Evaluation Report was submitted and approved by Provost and President. The evaluation of Year One’s implementation was guided by an evaluation which proposed further tapering of the Plan. The Plan was evaluated using the SMART model (Specific - simple, sensible, significant; Measurable - meaningful, motivating; Achievable - agreed, attainable; Relevant - reasonable, realistic and resourced, results-based; Time bound - time-based, time limited, time/cost limited, timely, time sensitive) with an eye toward focusing the plan on achievable directions. The reduction in the number of objectives and strategies enables the ability to concentrate the focus of the Plan toward achievable targets. Adoption of modifications to the Plan for year two have been approved and will reduce the objectives from 24 to 19 and the strategies from 55 to 37.

The Year Two implementation of the TSU Strategic Plan will focus on guiding departments in the assessment of and data collection for established strategies. Staff are meeting with departments to 1) update them on the reductions in the plan and 2) ensure they are collecting data in preparation for the June data collection and reporting period.

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN – CADENCE

In partnership with various departments on campus, we launched the Student Satisfaction Inventory survey, which will give us important data and perspectives from students regarding their experiences, to help guide the implementation of CADENCE. The survey had a 21% response rate (829 students).

CADENCE staff has organized two workshops for university stakeholders in collaboration with EAB, to provide insights and guidance related to implementing Academic Advising, Coordinate Care and Career Development.

We have successfully added the University Counseling Center as a user to EAB Navigate and we are working with deans to provide faculty with an introduction/refresher training for EAB Navigate. Currently, our team is working with TSU IT and web design professionals to boost the presence of CADENCE on TSU webpages and create consistency across access to EAB Navigate.

OAA UPDATES

Faculty Development

Academic Affairs continues to offer new opportunities for faculty development. Below are some of the development opportunities and initiatives available to TSU faculty initiated by the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

- **Thurgood Marshall College Fund & the Association of College and University Educators** – The Office of the Provost was awarded a grant valued at over \$100,000 to offer 60 TSU faculty with a yearlong training intensive on online pedagogy and classroom development. This program began in August 2021 and feedback from participants has been overwhelming including one participant calling it the best professional development she has ever received at TSU.
- **National Council of Faculty Development and Diversity** – The Office of the Provost initiated a partnership with NCFDD which offers any full-time, part-time, post-doc, and graduate student access to professional development workshops, writing groups, seminars, and other resources. On October 1st, the Office of the Provost hosted “Every Semester Needs a Plan” with NCFDD which was attended by over 45 TSU faculty.
- **Georgia International Studies Consortium** – The Office of the Provost initiated a partnership with the Consortium which offers ten cost-free slots to TSU faculty each month to attend conferences with scholars, researchers, and practitioners focused on integrating global perspectives across the curriculum.
- **Hanover** – Through a collaboration with Hanover, TSU faculty have access to free resources on the Hanover research website. These include resources aimed at program improvement, curriculum design, and market-based content assessment.

STUDENT OUTREACH

The Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs continues to work directly with students. These efforts include the following:

- **Major Fair** – A Major Fair was held on October 15th, 2021. The virtual Major Fair was attended by over 300 students. The fair provides students with information on each academic program – its requirements, employment preparation, and structure.
- **Georgia International Studies Consortium** – As part of our partnership with the Consortium, students have the opportunity to attend sessions with international leaders free of charge. Thus far, TSU students have been invited to attend two sessions – one with the Swiss Consulate in Atlanta and the other with executives from Coca-Cola.
- **Student Satisfaction Inventory Survey** – In order to assess student satisfaction as part of the Quality Enhancement Plan – CADENCE, students were given the opportunity to respond to a Student Satisfaction Survey in October 2021. This data will allow TSU to analyze its strengths and opportunities for improvement in relation to student success.
- **National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)** - NSSE identifies certain opportunities institutions make available to students as high-impact practices covering several traits, such as those which demand student time and effort, learning outside of classroom, or

meaningful interactions with faculty. Compared to pre-established comparison groups please note the following highlights:

- a. Service Learning – First Year Students: TSU scored higher compared to comparison groups by 14 – 28 percentage points. Seniors: TSU students scored higher compared to comparison groups by 1-10 percentage points.
- b. Research with Faculty – First Year Students: TSU scored higher compared to comparison groups by 5-6 percentage points. Seniors: TSU students scored higher compared to comparison groups by 7-10 percentage points.
- c. Culminating Senior Exp. – TSU scored higher compared to comparison groups by 10-21 percentage points.
- d. Study Abroad – TSU scored higher compared to comparison groups by 10-21 percentage points.

The Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs worked diligently through the pandemic to engage and, subsequently, enhance the student experience at TSU. This work continues.

**Tennessee State University
Board of Trustees**



**Report on
Clery Act
Crime Statistics**

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INFORMATION ITEM

DATE: November 18, 2021

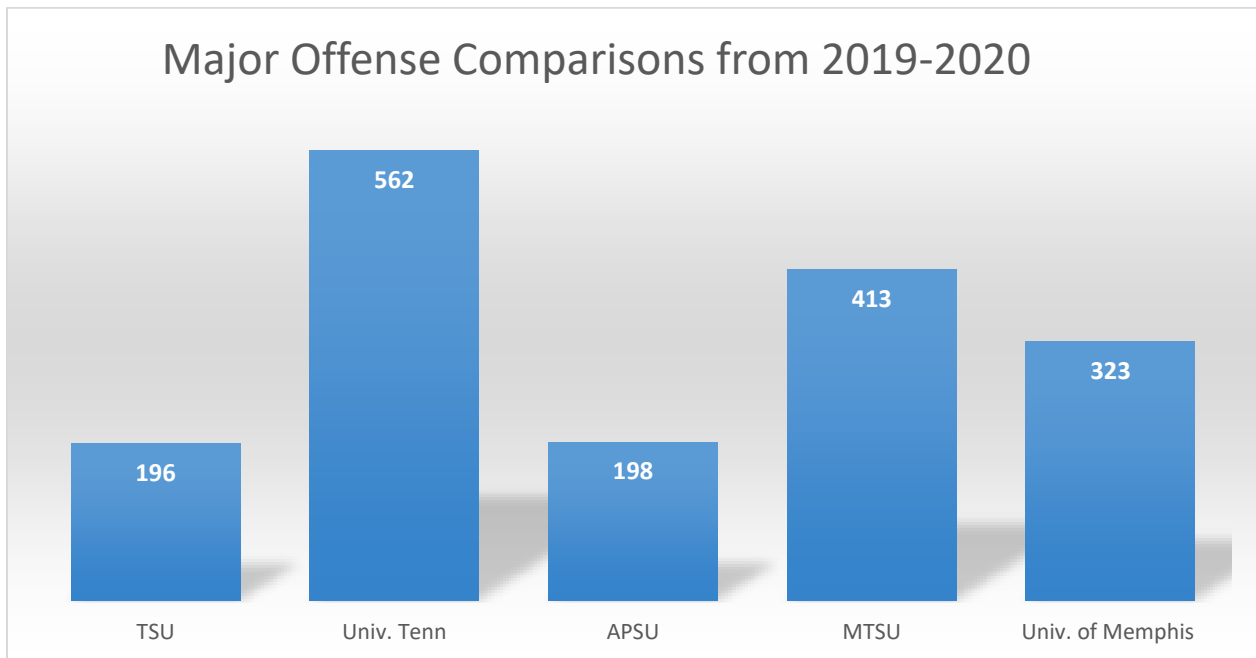
ITEM: Report on Clery Act Crime Statistics

RECOMMENDED ACTION: None

PRESENTED BY: Chair of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee,
Trustee Pamela Martin

The President and/or designee will provide a report on Clery Act crime statistics.

In 2020, TSU reported a total of 63 Major Crimes; this is in contrast to 133 reported in 2019, totaling 196. This decrease in reported Major crimes comes at a 52.63% clip from 2019-2020. There are many reasons for the decline including COVID-19, but this still does not remove the fact that diligence continues to be a factor in our success. We continue to ride on the success from 2019 where Tennessee State University was ranked in the top 8% of safest colleges in America. I continually state that “in this business, anything can happen on any given day.” Still, we have done an excellent job minimizing victimization opportunities and continue to strive to be even better. Below are some combined numbers from selected universities and selected crimes that show our continued progress in combating crime.



To give some specifics, in 2019, we had a reported number of assaults at 46, but last year, those numbers dropped to 18, meaning there was a reduction in assaults of 60.87%. Larceny went from 59 to 15, a decrease of 74.58%. And sexual assaults declined by 33.33%. We continue to make every effort to combat opportunities on our campus. With the help of our many stakeholders, we continue to do everything we possibly can to provide the safest environment possible on our campus here at Tennessee State University.

**Tennessee State University
Board of Trustees**



**Student Affairs
Report**

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INFORMATION ITEM

DATE: November 18, 2021
ITEM: Student Affairs Report
RECOMMENDED ACTION: None
PRESENTED BY: Chair of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee,
Trustee Pamela Martin

The President and/or her designee will provide a report on Student Affairs.

Division of Student Affairs Board Report

November 2021

Tennessee State University Division of Student Affairs Fall 2021 Semester Highlights

COVID-19 Response

The Tennessee State University Health Services team remain the primary testing source for students, faculty, and staff on campus and have continued to test regularly throughout the week for COVID-19. As was last year, the Isolation and Quarantine Zone (I/Q Zone) was established again this semester and moved to the Sleep Inn Suites Hotel to accommodate our students either with or exposed to COVID-19. At our highest in early fall, our COVID-19 positive rates for student infections were running between 22-30 students per week who were immediately sent home or housed in the IQ Zone while recovering. The DSA is happy to report over the last 5 weeks of the semester, we have received no reports of COVID-19 positives for our student population. Both the Mask Up initiative and continued education, along with compliant students have all contributed to lowered rates and instances of COVID-19 infections on campus and continue to keep Tennessee State University's community rates of infection quite low, particularly in comparison to our counterparts across the State.

Tiger Food Pantry

On October 7, 2021 Tennessee State University and Kroger celebrated the grand opening of the newly expanded and relocated Tiger Food Pantry. The DSA staff worked tirelessly to get this initiative moved forward and celebrated with the ribbon-cutting ceremony that took place outside Wilson Hall on the campus of TSU. The new TSU Tiger Pantry is the result of a partnership between Kroger and TSU to help continue to address food insecurity on campus. The College and University Food Bank Alliance estimates that 30 percent of college students in the U.S. are food insecure. The Tiger Pantry will offer TSU students in need access to shelf stable food items, frozen meals, and fresh product at no cost. The pantry will be open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11am – 3pm, and will be staffed in part by student volunteers.

Iris Booth (Professional Photo Booth)

On October 6th, 2021 the Career Development Center hosted a grand opening celebration for the arrival of the Iris Booth. The Iris Booth is a self-service high-quality studio lighting and photography equipment that allows users to have a perfect professional headshot picture taken either contactless (using a QR Code) or using a touch screen. Users can crop, touch up blemishes, whiten teeth, and apply filters instantly delivering digital photos directly to the user's email. This booth is an immediate career solution that demonstrates the universities commitment to offer

Division of Student Affairs Board Report November 2021

resources to our current students, as well as alumni. Students will own the rights to professional quality headshots pictures which will also prepare them for competitive internships and full/part-time jobs. Currently the booth is used by corporations and hospitals in North America, Europe and Asia. Tennessee State university is the 6th school to own the booth and the first HBCU.

Homecoming 2021, October 24-31

Tennessee State University *Homecoming 2021 The Return* was a success! The DSA along with the TSU community hosted a week of amazing activities and events well attended by students, faculty, staff, and alumni! Specifically, the DSA kicked off Homecoming week with College Sunday hosted by Associate Vice-President and Dean of Students Frank Stevenson, where student organizations and leaders were acknowledged and awarded for service. This was followed up by a well-attended gospel concert featuring Tye Tribitt, Earnest Pugh, and Lisa Knowles-Smith. The remaining week activities hosted by DSA included:

- *Monday- The first Jazz on the Lawn* featuring multiple student-led bands and featuring our own Brassville (made up primarily of TSU Band Staff).
- *Tuesday-TSU Stamped in Time-* the time capsule ceremony initiated by our own Student Board trustee Ms. Tiara Thomas, and beautifully documented the 2020 year and the University's COVID-19 response.
- *Wednesday- Courtyard Wednesday* was well attended by students and included multiple vendors, activities, artist, etc. The *Mr and Miss TSU Coronation* Celebration of Miss Mallory Moore and Mr. Mark Davis along with our remaining campus Queens and Kings was beautifully done and held inside of Kean Hall with a well-attended audience along with the support of Fisk University and Meharry College students, as well as other community organizations.
- *Thursday- Homecoming Concert* featuring both local and national artist. This event was well-attended and without incident!
- *Friday- Stomp the Yard* the annual NPHC step show went off without a hitch, showcasing all of Tennessee State University's Black Greek Organizations.
- *Saturday- TSU Parade* was an all-hands-on deck effort with many DSA staff working directly with the Homecoming committee for this event. Even in the rain, the parade was well-attended.

Overall, this remains an exciting time at Tennessee State University and for the Division of Student Affairs as we continue to expand and improve our services to our student population.