

**Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting – November 18, 2021
Tennessee State University – Electronic**

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Trustees Deborah Cole, Andre Johnson, Bill Johnson, Obie McKenzie, Richard Lewis, 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; and Dr. Robbie Melton, Dean of Graduate School.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cole called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., CST on November 18, 2021. 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 Bill Johnson seconded and the motion carried.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Board Chair welcomed the attendees, and Trustee Bishop Walker gave the invocation.

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, Van Pinnock, and Joseph Walker III. Board Secretary Pendleton announced the presence of a quorum.

Chair Cole 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 Cole 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 SEPTEMBER 16, 2021, BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chair Cole introduced the first action item – the approval of the minutes of the September 16, 2021 board meeting. Trustee Bill Johnson moved to approve the board meeting minutes and Trustee Richard Lewis 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 two other items before going into Executive Session to discuss items deemed confidential under state law. Chair Cole indicated that the Audit Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the September 16, 2021, Audit Committee meeting minutes. Chair Cole added that the Audit Committee reviewed and discussed the completed Internal and External Audit reports and reviewed outstanding audit issues.

I. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2021, AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Chair Cole moved to approve the minutes of September 16, 2021, audit committee meeting as contained in the Board materials for the November 18, 2021, Board meeting. Trustee Bill Johnson 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 September 16, 2021, Finance and Budget Committee meeting minutes and the approval of the Fiscal Year 2022 Institutional Revised Budget. Trustee Lewis also indicated that the Finance and Budget Committee heard reports from President Glover and her team on capital planning and facilities, CARES Act funding, and finance and budget. He further noted the Committee also heard reports on the Land Grant Study committee, federal HBCU funding, enrollment and institutional development.

I. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2021, FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Lewis moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the September 16, 2021, Finance and Budget Committee meeting minutes, as contained in the Board materials for the November 18, 2021, Board meeting. Trustee Pinnock seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call vote.

II. APPROVAL OF THE FY 22 INSTITUTIONAL REVISED BUDGET

Trustee Lewis moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the FY 22 Institutional Revised Budget, as contained in the Board materials for the November 18, 2021, Board meeting. Trustee McKenzie 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 A. Johnson reported that the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee met to consider and vote on six agenda items and to receive reports on four other agenda items.

Trustee A. Johnson stated that the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the September 16, 2021, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes; approval of an Academic Program Modification – a Change to the Master of Occupational Therapy admission standards; and approval of an Academic Program Modification – a change to the Master of Social Work admission standards. Trustee A. Johnson also shared that the Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of a new Academic Program – a PhD of Agricultural Science; approval of a new Academic Program – Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education; and approval of a new Academic Program – Bachelor of Science in African Studies.

Trustee A. Johnson added that President Glover and her team provided reports on the SACSCOC Ten Year accreditation review, Academic Affairs, Clery Act crime data and Student Affairs.

I. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2021, ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee A. Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2021, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting, as contained in the Board materials for the November 18, 2021, Board meeting. Trustee Pinnock seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

II. APPROVAL OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – A CHANGE TO THE MASTER OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ADMISSION STANDARDS

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee A. Johnson moved to approve the Academic Program Modification – a Change to the Master of Occupational Therapy admission standards recommendation as contained in the Board materials for the November 18, 2021, Board meeting. Trustee McKenzie seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

III. APPROVAL OF THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – A CHANGE TO THE M.S. IN SOCIAL WORK ADMISSION STANDARDS

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee A. Johnson moved to approve the Academic Program Modification – a change to the M.S. in Social Work admission standards recommendation, as contained in the Board materials for the November 18, 2021, Board meeting, Trustee Bill Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

IV. APPROVAL OF A NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM – A PH.D. IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee A. Johnson moved to approve a New Academic Program – a Ph.D. of Agricultural Science recommendation, as contained in the Board materials for the November 18, 2021, Board meeting. Trustee B. Johnson seconded and commented that there two approvals by this Board, first to explore and second for THEC to implement. The motion to approve was carried unanimously by roll call vote.

V. APPROVAL OF A NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM – A B.S. IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee A. Johnson moved to approve a New Academic Program – a B.S. in Elementary Education recommendation, as contained in the Board materials for the November 18, 2021, Board meeting. Trustee B. Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

VI. APPROVAL OF A NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM – A B.S. IN AFRICANA STUDIES

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee A. Johnson moved to approve a New Academic Program – a B.S. in Africana Studies recommendation, as contained in the Board materials for the November 18, 2021, Board meeting. Trustee B. Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Trustee A. Johnson concluded the Academic and Student Affairs report.

Chair Cole thanked Trustee A. Johnson for filling in for Trustee Pam Martin, and also thanked 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 September 16, 2021, Executive Committee meeting minutes, as contained in the Board materials for the November 18, 2021 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 SEPTEMBER 16, 2021, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Chair Cole moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2021, Executive Committee meeting, as contained in the Board materials for the November 18, 2021, 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 CLERY ACT CRIME STATISTICS

Chair Cole called on President Glover to present information regarding this agenda item, the report on Clery Act Crime Statistics. President Glover asked Chief Gregory Robinson, to report on the Clery Act Crime Statistics.

Chief Robinson proudly reported that TSU had a 53% decline in crime last year. He reminded the Board that this came on the ‘heels of another great year’ since in 2019 TSU ranked in the top 8% of safest campuses in the nation. Chief thanked everyone for their support and reported that this ranking needed to be applauded. He stated that if we felt safe on campus, the feeling of safety then resonated throughout. He promised to do everything to keep these positive statistics and will continue to provide a safe environment on campus.

Chair Cole thanked President Glover, and Chief Robinson for their hard work and wonderful reports.

VI. REPORT ON FEDERAL HBCU FUNDING

Chair Cole called on President Glover to present information regarding this agenda item, the report on Federal HBCU Funding.

President Glover explained her role in the negotiation of HBCU funding from the Biden administration. She expressed that she met several times with Vice President Kamala Harris, the Black Caucus and the Biden Team. She pointed out that President Biden met with her as President of an HBCU (TSU) and also as a Divine 9 President (Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.). She was instrumental in the negotiations regarding the President’s “Build Back Better” Act. She was asked to testify to the House Education Committee on the funding needs of HBCUs and was later appointed by President Biden as the Vice Chair of the White House Advisory Board on HBCUs. President Glover was asked to assist HBCUs who now hold Research 2 status and are seeking to become R1 (highest research classification). There are 11 such R2 institutions in the country and TSU is one of those. After much advocacy and negotiation, President Glover explained that money in the amount of \$10 Billion, will be made available to minority serving institutions (MSI) who are seeking to move from R2 to R1 and become ‘research magnets.’ She stated that \$4 Billion would be used for Research and Development and Infrastructure, while \$6 Billion would be used for need-based financial aid to low income students.

President Glover thanked Chair Cole for the opportunity to share information on the funding update. Chair Cole commended President Glover on her roles as both President of TSU and President of AKA as she wielded her influence to help TSU and other HBCUs on the national stage.

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 November 18, 2021, Board Meeting and in her President’s report PowerPoint slides. She provided reports on: COVID-19 update including the fact that the university operated in-person this fall.

Classes started on August 16th and will end on November 19th. In-person Commencement will be held on November 20th. 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 we did not have a vaccination mandate, we strongly stressed vaccinations among our students, staff and faculty. Vaccinations were offered during Homecoming at several events. Over 60% of students residing on campus had been vaccinated while 80% of employees had been vaccinated. TSU trended lower than our peer institutions regarding the number of cases on campus. We had less than 100 cases for the entire semester and went 6 weeks where there were no cases reported. We offered gift cards as incentives to encourage vaccinations.

President Glover shared that regarding the audit update, we had corrected all deficiencies noted in the audit reports. We had received an unmodified or clean opinion on the audit for both 2020 and 2019.

Regarding SACSCOC, we have updated our financial processes and implemented proper training for both the University and the Foundation. She announced that the follow-up report addressing standards 13.2 and 13.4, the two standards relating to the audits, were submitted by September 29, 2021. She reminded the Board that the SACSCOC Board of Directors will meet in December and will announce the final results then.

President Glover also provided updates on enrollment and recruitment, sharing that enrollment was up this year for both graduate and undergraduate students. A retention plan was developed to assist and improve returning students. 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. 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, we have been awarded almost as much as the entire year for past years.

President Glover concluded with an update on the Land Grant funding that is owed to TSU. She shared that the report was submitted to the Joint Land Grant Institutions Funding Study Committee on September 1, 2021. The Committee had charged TSU, THEC, and the Commissioner of Finance to identify TSU's needs related to the funding arrears. The committee was now preparing for the 2022 legislative session where the amount in arrears presented as \$544 Million.

President Glover thanked everyone and the Board.

Chair Cole thanked President Glover for her report.

VII. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Cole thanked Dr. Williams for the fabulous work she was doing regarding the proposals and awards received. She then again welcomed Trustee Bill Johnson to the Board.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cole moved to adjourn which was seconded by Trustee Lewis. The motioned carried by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m. CST.