

Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting – November 15, 2018
Tennessee State University – Main Campus – Hankal Hall.
3500 John A. Merritt Blvd., Nashville, Tennessee
MINUTES

Board Members Present: Dr. Joseph Walker, III, Dr. Deborah Cole, Mr. Stephen Corbeil, Mr. William Freeman, Dr. Edith Peterson Mitchell, Dr. Ali Sekmen, Ms. Pam Martin, and Ms. Braxton Simpson.

University Board Staff Present: President Glenda Glover, General Counsel and Board Secretary, Laurence Pendleton, Arlene Nicholas-Phillips, Board Liaison

Guests: Members of the President's Cabinet, Members of the Deans' Council, Representatives of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC), and university staff.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Walker called the November 15, 2018, Board of Trustees meeting to order at 1:39 p.m., CST.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Board Chair welcomed the attendees. Dr. John Cade 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: Dr. Deborah Cole, Mr. Stephen Corbeil, Mr. William Freeman, Dr. Richard Lewis, Ms. Pam Martin, Dr. Edith Peterson Mitchell, Dr. Ali Sekmen, Dr. Joseph Walker, III, and Ms. Braxton Simpson. Board Secretary Pendleton announced the presence of a quorum.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2018, BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chair Walker introduced the first action item – the approval of the minutes of the September 20, 2018, board meeting. Trustee Lewis moved to approve the September 20, 2018, board meeting minutes and Trustee Freeman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously (8 Ayes/ 0 Nays).

B. APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES' 2019 MEETING CALENDAR

Chair Walker directed the board members to the proposed Board of Trustees' 2019 Meeting calendar as provided in the board materials for the November 15, 2018, board meeting. Trustee Freeman moved to adopt the proposed 2019 Board of Trustees meeting calendar. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (8 Ayes/ 0 Nays).

C. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee and Audit Committee Chair Cole provided the report of the September 20, 2018, Audit Committee meeting.

Trustee Cole reported that the Audit Committee met to take action on one item, discussed two items, and voted to go into executive session to discuss litigation and other items deemed confidential by state law.

I. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2018, AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Cole reported that the Audit Committee voted to recommend approval of the September 20, 2018, Audit Committee meeting minutes to the full board as contained in the materials for the November 15, 2018, Board materials and moved to approve the minutes. Trustee Mitchell seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously (8 Ayes/ 0 Nays).

D. FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Corbeil reported that the Finance and Budget Committee had three action items for approval, including the Finance and Budget Committee minutes from the November 15, 2018, committee meeting, the institutional revised budget, and the Notice of Intent from TSU to sever from the TBR on the capital management function. Trustee Corbeil also reported that the committee discussed two additional items including a report on enrollment and student recruitment and the associated marketing plan.

Trustee Corbeil noted that the Committee deferred to a later date the TSU foundation report because the committee had a robust discussion about student enrollment and noted that the committee will reconvene on January 22, 2019. Trustee Corbeil refreshed the committee's recollection that the university revises the budget several times during the fiscal year. He noted that those revisions consist of a proposed budget, which is produced in late summer to early fall and is a preliminary budget based on the initial projections, the revised budget prepared in mid to late fall and is submitted for the November Board meeting, and the estimated budget, which is produced late in the fiscal year.

Trustee Corbeil further noted that the university makes revisions as it obtains more information such as enrollment numbers, expenses, and funding from state appropriations. Trustee Corbeil reiterated that the committee had a very long discussion about the revised budget, the projections of some short-term and long-term mitigating factors, and preparations in the event of a shortfall.

I. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2018, FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Corbeil moved to approve the minutes from the September 20, 2018, Finance, and Budget committee meeting as contained in the November 15, 2018, board materials. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously (8 Ayes/ 0 Nays).

II. APPROVAL OF THE INSTITUTIONAL REVISED BUDGET

Trustee Corbeil moved to approve the Institutional Revised Budget as contained in the November 15, 2018, board materials. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion. Secretary Pendleton noted for the board that a roll call vote was required because the approval concerned a budget item. Trustee Mitchell seconded the motion. The chair called for discussion. Trustee Sekmen requested the floor to make a comment regarding the budget as the Faculty Representative. The chair acknowledged Trustee Sekmen. Secretary Pendleton advised the board that the chair should determine whether Trustee Sekmen's comments would be suitable for the full board meeting. Chair Walker asked Trustee Sekmen whether his comments were the same as comments previously made in the committee meeting. Trustee Sekmen stated that he wanted to make comments from

the faculty perspective on the revised budget. Chair Walker clarified that he intended to conserve time, noted that the Finance and Budget Committee had a robust conversation, that the committees were the preferred venue to work through issues, and declined to yield the floor to Trustee Sekmen. Chair Walker verified that 30-45 minutes had been spent discussing the revised budget in the Finance and Budget Committee. Trustee Sekmen reminded the board that he is not a member of the Budget and Finance Committee and thus is not entitled to motions. Secretary Pendleton clarified that all board members are invited to attend the committee meetings and that while Trustee Sekmen cannot make motions in the Finance and Budget committee meeting, Trustee Sekmen was able to request that someone make a motion on his behalf related to any item. Trustee Freeman moved to vote on the previous question. Trustee Lewis seconded Trustee Freeman's motion. The chair called for the vote, which passed with Trustee Sekmen voting no (7 Ayes/ 1 Nay).

III. AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE NOTICE OF INTENT FOR TSU TO SEVER FROM THE TENNESSEE BOARD OF REGENTS ON CAPITAL MANAGEMENT FUNCTION

Trustee Corbeil stated that the Finance and Budget Committee voted to recommend to the full board the authorization for the university to execute a notice of intent to sever from TBR on the capital management function as provided in the materials for the November 15, 2018, board meeting. Trustee Corbeil moved to approve the authorization for TSU to execute a notice of intent to sever from TBR on the capital management function. The chair called for the vote, which passed unanimously. (8 Ayes/ 1 Nay.)

E. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Chair yielded the floor to Trustee Martin to provide the report from the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee. Trustee Martin reported that the committee voted to recommend to the full board the approval of the September 20, 2018, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs committee meeting minutes, as well as the approval of an off campus academic dual enrollment program at Knowledge Academies charter school. The Academic Affairs and Student Affairs committee also received reports on SACSCOC Ten Year Reaffirmation review, the College of Health Sciences nurses program, and general reports on Academic Affairs and Student Affairs. Trustee Martin noted that the Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Mosley, updated the committee on the institution's efforts to enhance its rankings in general higher education publications and HBCU rankings.

I. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2018, ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Martin moved for the full board to approve the committee minutes from the September 20, 2018, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs committee meeting. Trustee Mitchell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (8Ayes/ 0 Nays).

II. APPROVAL OF OFF-CAMPUS ACADEMIC DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM AT KNOWLEDGE ACADEMIES CHARTER SCHOOL

Trustee Martin moved for the full board to approve an off campus academic dual enrollment program at Knowledge Academies Charter School as contained in the board materials for the November 15, 2018, board meeting. Trustee Martin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (8 Ayes/ 0Nays.)

The chair thanked Trustee Martin and the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee for their continued efforts.

F. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Walker reported that the Executive Committee met to discuss and vote to recommend to the full board the approval of the September 20, 2018, Executive Committee meeting minutes and the approval of Board policy 006, the policy Governing Board Consideration of Tuition and Mandatory Fee Increases. Chair Walker also informed the board that the committee heard an update from Vice Chair Cole on the President's annual performance review and a report from Secretary Pendleton.

I. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2018, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Chair Walker moved for the full board to approve the September 20, 2018, Executive Committee meeting minutes, as contained in the board materials for the November 15, 2018, board meeting. Trustee Cole seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (8Ayes/ 0 Nays).

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 006 – POLICY GOVERNING BOARD CONSIDERATION OF TUITION AND MANDATORY FEE INCREASES

Chair Walker moved for the full board to approve the Board Policy 006 Policy Governing Board Consideration of Tuition and Mandatory Fee Increases as contained in the board materials for the November 15, 2018, board meeting. Trustee Martin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (8Ayes/ 0 Nays).

V. REPORT ON ATHLETICS

Theresa Phillips, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, reported on her tenure with the university. Director Phillips overviewed TSU's legacy of excellence in academia and in athletics, its three iconic coaches: John McClendon, father of the fast-break offense, legendary coach John Merritt and the players he sent to the NFL, and the famed Edward S. Temple, Olympic coach, and member of the national Hall of Fame.

Director Phillips also reported that Tennessee State is a member of the NCAA, the National Collegiate Athletics Association, and the Ohio Valley Conference. She discussed the Athletics department budget and its funding sources and ranking amongst other OVC schools. Director Phillips listed the sports offered to women and men students of TSU as well as cheerleading and dance, which are also offered under athletics.

Director Phillips detailed how the athletics department supports the academic progress report of its athletes and the resultant graduation rate that is 10% above the federal average. Director Phillips lauded the men's basketball team on its award of Defensive Player of the Year, the women's track and field group that won 24 medals last year, women's tennis win of the HBCU national championship tournament last year, OVC Medal of Honor winners, and athletes that achieved a grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

Director Phillips then discussed the administrative safeguards Athletics provides to ensure its athletes conform to regulatory oversight while matriculating at the university. Director Phillips discussed the media relations arm of the Athletics department, auxiliary services provided to the student athletes for uniforms, personal protection gear, infectious disease monitoring and prevention, sport medical care, the university's medical affiliates, and the university's

neurologist's role in caring for Christian Abercrombie, the university's affiliation with Ticket Master, and the department's purchasing staff.

VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Glover reported on the GPAs of the institution's incoming freshman, which increased from 2.8 to 3.07 and reiterated that the university has a robust plan to increase enrollment with a recruiting ground game. The president reported that 900 students were not admitted this past fall despite the requests of their parents and that the enrollment is currently hovering around 8,000 students. President Glover stated that a reason for decreased enrollment is that TSU does not have the funding to give students full-packages and that she and Dr. Cade have worked out opportunities for some students to obtain more funding.

President Glover outlined the strategic marketing plan the university has developed as well as the effects of the 250-mile radius in-state tuition plan.

The President discussed the capital improvements and new buildings with a marketing emphasis on social media and e-recruiting, mobile applications and application completion assistance for admission candidates and need based scholarships offered by the Office of Institutional Advancement.

The President commented on the effects of Tennessee promise and marketing of TSU's graduate school to TSU students and the TSU Alumni. President Glover informed the board that outreach efforts are under way to reenroll former graduate students who have not completed their advanced degrees.

The President assured the board that the fiscal health of the university is sound and that fears that the university, as an HBCU, is close to extinction are unfounded jargon. The President acknowledged that the university derives a large portion of its revenues from student tuition and fees and that our operating budgets fluctuate according to the enrollment numbers. She presented an plan to endure the current fiscal environment.

The President noted that the institution can decrease expenses and would adopt a ten percent reduction in the operating budget. The President outlined that the budget reduction will include a hiring freeze of state-funded positions including temporary personnel and an institutional review by outside independent consultants to seek cost savings. The President emphasized for the board that the cost reduction measures will not include faculty layoffs and she highlighted that she has reorganized the strategic team and processes. Dr. Glover outlined the strategic priorities including increasing the four-year graduation rates, improvements in campus health and safety, improvements in customer service, diversification of the institution's revenue streams, and campus infrastructure improvements.

The President highlighted past strategic actions such as the across-the-board salary increases, effective July 1, 2018, the faculty salary increases of two percent, the staff salary increases of one and a half percent, increase in the PhD faculty salary floor of \$55,000, increase in the department head salary floor of \$90,000, and zero pay increases for cabinet members. The President commented on SACSCOC rules and accreditation, Global Competitiveness proposals, and others career readiness thrusts scheduled to be operational by the end of the semester.

The President touched on the physical therapy, public administration, and nursing program accreditation statuses. The President then highlighted for the board the capital projects underway

including the ground breaking on two residence halls, an alumni house, and Welcome Center. The President noted that the day prior to the board meeting, representatives Ms. Gilmore and Mr. Love toured the campus and discussed legislation that would touch and concern the institution. President Glover expressed thanks in observation of the 2018 Thanksgiving holiday and for TSU's alumni.

VII. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Walker acknowledged that he felt incredibly blessed for the extraordinary composition of the board. The chair lauded the five-point strategy to increase enrollment and bolster the university's operating budget and reiterated his support for raising the academic standards for the institution's candidates for admission. Chair Walker noted the board's concern and focus on the institution's deferred maintenance and capital construction programs. The chair also noted the importance of the board's committees and their work and accomplishments. The chair acknowledged Dr. Edith Mitchell, who received the Thomas Jefferson Award in Philadelphia as the first person of color and woman to receive the award. The chair also acknowledged President's Glover's receipt of the Thurgood Marshall HBCU President of the Year award. The chair thanked everyone in attendance for their support and presence. At the request of the President, the chair yielded the floor for President Glover to acknowledge Governor Haslam and the governor elect for his anticipated support of the university.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The chair called for a motion to adjourn, which was made by Trustee Freeman and seconded Trustee Mitchell. The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m. CST.