

**Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting – September 16, 2021
Tennessee State University – Electronic**

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Trustees Deborah Cole, Andre Johnson, Pam Martin, Bill Johnson, Steve Corbeil, Joseph Walker III, Van Pinnock, and Tiara Thomas.

University Staff Present: President Glenda Glover; Laurence Pendleton, General Counsel and Board Secretary; Dr. Michael Harris, Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs; Douglas Allen, VP of Finance and Budget; Dr. Curtis Johnson, Chief of Staff; Dean Frank Stevenson, Assoc. Vice President of Student Affairs; Dr. Frances Williams, Assoc. Vice President of Research & Sponsored Programs; Terrence Izzard, Assoc. Vice President of Enrollment Management; Dr. Robbie Melton, Dean of Graduate School; and Dr. Arlene Nicholas-Phillips, Liaison to BOT.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cole called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., CDT on September 16, 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 Corbeil seconded and the motion carried.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Board Chair welcomed the attendees, giving a special welcome to the new Faculty Trustee, Dr. Bill Johnson, a Professor in the Department of Human Performance and Sport Science. Dr. Johnson also serves as the Director of the HCA Scholars Program and the Director of the HPSS Graduate Programs. Trustee Johnson will also serve as a member of the academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee.

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, Pam Martin, Bill Johnson, Tiara Thomas, Steve Corbeil, 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 JUNE 17, 2021, BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chair Cole introduced the first action item – the approval of the minutes of the June 17, 2021, Board meeting. Chair Cole moved to approve the board meeting minutes and Trustee Martin seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

B. APPROVAL OF THE 2022 TSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING CALENDAR

Chair Cole announced the next agenda item as the approval of the 2022 TSU Board of Trustees Meeting Calendar as presented in the September 16, 2021, Board materials.

Chair Cole moved to approve the 2022 TSU Board of Trustees Meeting Calendar dates as reflected and contained in the Board Materials for the September 16, 2021, Board Meeting. Trustee Martin seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

C. 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. The Audit Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the June 17, 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 JUNE 17, 2021, AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Chair Cole moved to approve the minutes of June 17, 2021, Audit Committee meeting as contained in the board materials for the September 16, 2021, board meeting. Trustee Martin 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.

D. FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Corbeil, Vice Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee, stated that the Committee met to act on one action item and received reports on five other items. The Finance and Budget Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the June 17, 2021, Finance and Budget Committee meeting minutes. The Finance and Budget Committee heard reports from President Glover and her team on the University budget update, construction and facilities update, CARES Act funding, finance and budget overall report, and enrollment.

i. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 17, 2021, FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Corbeil moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the June 17, 2021, Finance and Budget 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 vote.

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

E. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Trustee Martin stated that the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the June 17, 2021, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes; approval of an Academic Program Modification – a Change to the Ph.D. in Biology admission standards; approval of an Academic Program Modification – a change to the M.S. in Professional School Counseling admission standards; approval of an Academic Program Modification – an additional method of instructional delivery of the Master in Business Administration via online; approval of an Academic Program Modification – an additional method of instructional delivery of the Master of Science in Agricultural Science via online. Trustee Martin also shared that the Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of a new Academic Program – a Graduate Certificate in Higher Education Administration Leadership; the approval of a new Academic Program – a Graduate Certificate in Public Health, and the approval of additional AY 2020-2021 Tenure Recommendations.

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

i. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 17, 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 June 17, 2021, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting, 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.

ii. APPROVAL OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – A CHANGE TO THE PH.D. IN BIOLOGY ADMISSION STANDSRDS

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Martin moved to approve the academic program modification – a Change to the Ph.D. in Biology admission standards recommendation 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.

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

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Martin moved to approve the academic program modification – a change to the M.S. in Professional School Counseling admission standards recommendation, as contained in the Board materials for the September 16, 2021, Board meeting, Trustee Pinnock seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

iv. APPROVAL OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – AN ADDITIONAL METHOD OF INSTRUCTION DELIVERY OF THE MASTER IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION VIA ONLINE

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Martin moved to approve an academic program modification – an additional method of instruction delivery of the Master in Business Administration via online recommendation, 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 AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – AN ADDITIONAL METHOD OF INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY OF THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE VIA ONLINE

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Martin moved to approve an academic program modification – an additional method of instruction delivery of the Master of Science in Agricultural Science via online recommendation, 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.

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

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Martin moved to approve an academic program modification – a graduate certificate in Higher Education Administration Leadership recommendation, 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 A NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM – A GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Martin moved to approve an academic program modification – a graduate certificate in Public Health recommendation, 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 ADDITIONAL AY 2020-2021 TENURE RECOMMENDATIONS

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Martin moved to approve 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.

Trustee 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.

F. 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 June 17, 2021, Executive Committee meeting minutes, as contained in the Board materials for the September 16, 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 JUNE 17, 2021, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Chair Cole moved to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2021, Executive Committee meeting, as contained in the Board materials for the September 16, 2021, Board meeting. Trustee Martin seconded the motion and it was approved by roll call vote.

Chair Cole concluded the Executive Committee report.

V. REPORT ON STUDENT HOUSING AND RESEARCH FUNDING

Chair Cole called on President Glover to present information regarding this agenda item, the report on Student Housing and Research Funding. President Glover first asked Dean Stevenson, Dean of Students and Associate VP for Student Affairs, to report on Student Housing.

Dean Stevenson shared 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 freshmen students; COVID protocols; and a last minute surge of applicants. There were 350 students added to a waiting list. Dean Stevenson stressed that with the completion of the new 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 the students. Rooms at several hotels were leased for this purpose.

Dean Stevenson 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 our students were accommodated.

President Glover thanked the Governor, the legislators and the State Building Commission for the swift action taken in assisting TSU. They added TSU to the meeting agenda and assisted us in getting the long-term lease signed with an off-campus vendor, so that we could accommodate all our students. She then called on VP Frances Williams to report on Research Funding.

Dr. Williams 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.

Chair Cole thanked President Glover, Dean Stevenson and Dr. Williams for their hard work and wonderful reports. She reiterated the increase in students and the increase in funded awards.

VI. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Chair Cole congratulated President Glover for her recent appointment to the Airport Authority Board and stressed the significance of that appointment. She made mention of former TSU Trustee, Mr. Bill Freeman who was now Chairman of the Nashville Airport Authority Board. Chair Cole then recognized President Glover to present the President’s Report.

President Glover provided reports on various items contained in the board materials for the September 16, 2021, Board Meeting and 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 by Thanksgiving. Classes are in a hybrid format, as well as in-person and online. All safety protocols including face masks, hand sanitizing, temperature checks and other health measures have been adhered to throughout the university. Tele-counseling services are available for students 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. COVID testing is being performed regularly and plexiglass desk shields were installed throughout the campus. Although TSU did not have a vaccination mandate, she indicated that the institution strongly stressed vaccinations among our students, staff and faculty. Almost 60% of students residing on campus had been vaccinated.

President Glover also noted that TSU offered gift cards as incentives to encourage vaccinations. Regarding SACSCOC, she shared that we have corrected all of the deficiencies noted on the audit reports. She stated that TSU has updated its financial processes and implemented proper training for both the University and the Foundation. The institution also made staffing and other organizational changes. President Glover announced that the follow-up report addressing standards 13.2 and 13.4, the two standards relating to the audits, would be submitted by September 30, 2021. She 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 and the new Health Sciences building on campus. President Glover reiterated the record amount awarded for Grants and Research funded. 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. 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. Now that the report has been submitted, she stated that we were hoping that parts of the arrearage will be included in the budget for next year.

President Glover thanked everyone and the Board.

Chair Cole thanked President Glover for her report.

VII. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Cole again welcomed Trustee Bill Johnson to the Board, Coach Eddie George to TSU and VP Doug Allen as the new Vice President of Budget and Finance and any other new members of the TSU family. She thanked President Glover and the leadership team for all the new programs being introduced and recognized the Dr. Levi Watkins, Jr. Institute and its collaboration with Meharry Medical College. She also thanked the Foundation for its efforts relative to TSU.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cole moved to adjourn which was seconded by Trustee Corbeil. The motioned carried by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m. CDT.