

**Meeting of the Tennessee State University Board of Trustees  
Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee –  
August 17, 2017  
Tennessee State University – Main Campus – McWherter Administration Building,  
President’s Conference Room  
3500 John A. Merritt Blvd., Nashville, Tennessee**

**MINUTES**

**Committee Members Present:** Trustees Richard Lewis and Ali Sekmen

**Other Board Members Present:** Trustees Deborah Cole, Edith Peterson Mitchell, Obie McKenize, Stephen Corbeil, William Freeman, and Joseph W. Walker, III

**University Staff Present:** President Glenda Glover; Mr. Laurence Pendleton, University Counsel and Board Secretary; Dr. Mark Hardy, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Alisa Mosley, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Curtis Johnson, Chief of Staff; Dr. Tracey Ford, Vice President of Student Affairs

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee Vice Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 10:21 a.m.

**II. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF AQUORUM**

Trustee Lewis, who led the meeting in Trustee Martin’s absence, asked Board Secretary Pendleton to call the roll. Secretary Pendleton called the roll, which reflected that Committee members Lewis and Sekmen were present. Secretary Pendleton then announced the presence of a quorum.

**III. APPROVAL OF JUNE 15, 2017, ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Trustee Lewis announced the next item on the agenda, which was the approval of the August 17, 2017, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes. Trustee Lewis stated that the Committee meeting minutes were included in the August 17, 2017, Board materials for review. Trustee Lewis moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the August 17, 2017, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes. Trustee Sekmen seconded the motion. With no further discussion, Trustee Lewis called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

**IV. UPDATE ON SACSCOC SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE IN GOVERNANCE CAMPUS VISIT ON SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2017**

Trustee Lewis turned to the next item on the agenda – the update on SACSCOC Substantive Change in Governance Campus Visit on September 19-21, 2017. Trustee Lewis recognized President Glover to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. President Glover introduced Drs. Mark Hardy, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Elisa Mosely, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Tracey Ford, Vice President of Academic Affairs. Dr. Mosley referenced the Board materials and noted

that the organization is sending a team of reviewers to TSU in connection with the Substantive Change in Governance review process. She explained that the institution was undergoing this review due to the recent change in TSU's governance structure.

Dr. Mosley indicated that the visit will take place on September 19-21, 2017. She also noted that there would be a Peer Review team consisting of approximately three people. The team will focus on three areas: 1) Core Requirements; 2) Comprehensive Standard; and 3) Federal Requirements. Dr. Mosley also indicated that the review is being conducted to ensure TSU has met the established standards.

## **V. REPORT ON STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES**

Trustee Lewis moved to the next item on the agenda – report on Strategic Plan Priorities. Trustee Lewis then recognized President Glover to discuss this agenda item. President Glover indicated that there are five Strategic Plan Priorities: 1) Increase 4-year graduation rates; 2) Campus Health and Safety; 3) Improve Customer Service; 4) Diversify Revenue Streams; and 5) Improve Campus Infrastructure. Dr. Glover also noted the goals are to increase the transfer student rate from 6% to 15% by 2020 and increase the number of students taking the required number of hours to graduate on time. She also stated the importance of providing incentives (for graduation) to students with 90+ credit hours.

Trustee Lewis inquired about whether advisors meet with students to provide advisement. Dr. Mosley explained the requirements as it relates to advising students. TSU sets aside the first 60 hours, which requires the student to meet with their respective Advisor. Dr. Mosley also noted that there is much more connectivity in some departments than others. She also noted that TSU has Degree Works, which is a 24/7 module where the students can monitor their progress. In addition, there are various other mechanisms available to assist students such as the Success Center, Advisors for each department, Tiger Alert, Career Advancement, and much more. Trustee Lewis stated that to increase graduate rates, students need to be advised until they graduate.

Trustee McKenzie inquired about students with 4.0 GPAs and no internships, and the need for students to have real-world workday experiences in order to be ready for employment. Dr. Mosley stated that degrees with internship requirements and internships during the sophomore year are the new objectives. Trustee McKenzie also indicated the need to use technology, such as “Skype,” to connect students with professionals in the field in which they are interested in pursuing.

Dr. Ford provided additional information on the Career Center Services and the mentoring program they have established. Dr. Ford emphasized that the Career Center assists students in obtaining the soft skills they need through seminars and training sessions (dress, etiquette, and interviewing skills). Trustee Mitchell expressed the need for professional discipline (graduate school) internships, mainly in the health sciences. She also suggested the healthcare internship opportunities should be a formal process and publicized to students. The Trustees continued the discussion on internships and concluded their discussion by stating the importance for connectivity to occur early with students starting in their freshman year.

President Glover noted the priorities for the University, some of which were the following:

- TSU received \$1.9 million for safety initiatives
- Enhance our comprehensive customer service training program for faculty and staff
- Establish a campus wide set of customer service best practices to ensure a positive perception of the university
- Diversify revenue streams – Corporation streams (corporate giving)
- Enhance the overall appearance of the campus

- Enhance technology – students mainly use their cell phones to access information. We will need to ensure we are meeting their needs.
- Increase the number of students admitted with ACT scores of 21 and above, and from 18% to 25% by 2020.
- Increase the number of transfer students from neighboring community colleges from 6% to 15% by 2020

Trustee Sekmen inquired about the current graduation rate. President Glover stated that it was approximately 20% in 4 years and 40% in 6 years. Trustee Sekmen asked what TSU believes is the main reason for the low graduation rate. President Glover responded that a variety of factors play a role, some of which are financial (outstanding balances) and academic. President Glover reiterated that TSU is increasing the ACT score admission standard (current average is approximately 18.8). Trustee Sekmen discussed the need to have targeted recruitment and the need to work with the Community Colleges (Pathway 2+2 initiative). President Glover also noted that TSU is actively engaging the Community Colleges through various initiatives including the Pathway 2+2 initiative. She advised the Committee of TSU's Priority #1: Implement dual enrollment courses in magnet and high-performing high schools, and increase the strategic flow of recruitment communications, both of which are geared to increasing the graduation rates.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Trustee Lewis moved for adjournment. Trustee Sekmen seconded the motion. Trustee Lewis called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.