

**Meeting of the Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee Meeting
June 18, 2020
Tennessee State University – Electronic**

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Voting Members: Trustees Pam Martin, Andre Johnson, Ali Sekmen, and Non-voting Member: Braxton Simpson.

Other Board Members Present: Trustees Steve Corbeil, Obie McKenzie, Tiara Thomas, Deborah Cole, Richard Lewis; Joseph Walker III

University Staff Present: President Glenda Glover; Laurence Pendleton, General Counsel and Board Secretary; Dr. Alisa Mosley, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Curtis Johnson, Chief of Staff; Dean Frank Stevenson, Assoc. Vice President of Student Affairs; Horace Chase, 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. Jerri Hayes, Dean of Department of Education; and Dr. Charlise Anderson, Director, Accreditation & Assessment; Carolyn Davis; Michael Harris; Kelli Sharpe; Robbie Melton.

Guests Present:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m. on June 18, 2020. Trustee Martin 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. Trustee Sekman seconded and the motion carried by roll call vote- Trustee Martin, Trustee Johnson, and Trustee Sekman.

II. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Board Secretary Pendleton called the roll at the committee chair’s request. Trustees Pam Martin, Andre Johnson, Ali Sekmen, and Braxton Simpson were present. Secretary Pendleton announced the presence of a quorum.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 12, 2020, COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Johnson proceeded to the approval of the March 12, 2020, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes.

Trustee Johnson moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the March 12, 2020, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes, as contained in the Board

materials for the June 18, 2020, Board meeting. Trustee Martin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call.

IV. REPORT ON COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC ACADEMIC AND STUDENT ISSUES

Trustee Martin asked President Glover and her designees to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. President Glover recognized Dr. Mosley.

Dr. Mosley spoke about the two primary areas of concern related to health and safety of the students. She stated that students were moved off campus in mid-March and moved to online courses. The help desks were set-up to ensure no students or faculty was left behind. TSU extended the withdrawal date, executed a modified grading policy to allow pass/fail after survey, there are current on-line summer offerings, and TSU used e-rate "discount" to support students taking those on-line courses. She reported that nearly 200 faculty engaged in professional development to further the online instruction.

Dean Stevenson discussed online supports provided to students. He said that TSU kept some students on campus, including accommodations for homeless students; the community was instrumental in helping to support those students; TSU moved medical withdrawals to complete online process; and provided electronic devices to some students.

Trustee Simpson discussed how students responded well to the pass/fail option. She said that the Student Government Association was able to continue programming and kept students engaged and helped with mental health of students.

Trustee Johnson thanked President Glover and staff for all the work during this unprecedented time. He said that leadership and students stepped up in a difficult time.

Trustee Sekmen discussed conversion of courses to online. He expressed several questions about Fall 2020: 1) What are accommodations for faculty in high-risk categories and others who are taking care of elderly family members? 2) what are accommodations for students in high-risk categories? He said that TSU can't force faculty to teach unless they feel safe and asked about what procedures are in place.

President Glover stated that this is a fluid situation and that TSU is making plans for the fall and are working on several scenarios. She explained that she is meeting regularly with other LGIs, UT, and TBR and Governor's office. The plan is to start on time, if it is safe. She said that new safety protocols would be in place. If returning fall, smaller class sizes, longer times between classes to allow cleaning, screen students/faculty/staff, restrictions on residence halls/dining halls are all being considered. There are various scenarios being discussed: 1) Start on time but take online until ready to return. 2) delay on campus opening. 3) offer compressed semester 4) hybrid, 5) start classes early and end at Thanksgiving without break 6) wait until January with on-line in fall. She said that TSU is making arrangements for faculty to ensure safety of students/faculty/staff and working on answers in the next two months to ensure safety of all.

Dr. Mosley added that there is a plan that has been proposed based on the Pandemic Task Force. The other critical piece is that faculty should get into the professional development plan. She explained that the students worked with administration in the spring and expect higher engagement

in fall. Professional development supports with heightened instruction. She said that there are 22 programs that are fully on-line for fall 2020.

Trustee Sekmen thanked President Glover and asked whether TSU can reduce class sizes with financial restraints and time needed to hire new faculty.

President Glover said that there is a lot of work, but TSU is up for it. Dr. Mosley added that need for more space will be available as other pieces are virtual. Everything is to accommodate students and faculty to ensure no harm to students and faculty.

Trustee Sekmen said that everything has gone well and commended President and TSU on job well done so far. He said that department chairs can come up with plans to address their needs.

President Glover said that they are meeting with each Department to get plan. Dr. Johnson is an emergency management expert and is involved.

Trustee Johnson recognized that it is not all solved but is confident that we will get there with support of faculty and students.

V. APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020 TENURE AND PROMOTION RECOMMENDATIONS

Trustee Johnson introduced the next item on the agenda as approval of academic 2019-2020 tenure and promotion recommendations. The material is included in the June 18, 2020, Board Meeting packet.

President Glover asked Dr. Mosley to present, but three names were inadvertently left off of list.

Dr. Mosley described the review of faculty tenure applications through peer driven process. She said that one name was inadvertently removed- Rakshit Sudipta in Agriculture and Environmental Science.

Secretary Pendleton provided suggestions on how to amend the motion to include additional names. Also, discussed letter from prior staff that provided additional information related to one person up for tenure. He explained the tenure review process to person who sent letter and no independent hearing on tenure recommendations. The Office of Equity and Inclusion has been involved. The tenure recommended person has met the conditions for tenure promotion.

Trustee Sekmen asked about the difference between research faculty tenure vs. regular faculty tenure. What tenure protection is provided for research faculty if based on research/grants? Dr. Mosley explained how those positions are contingent on their ability to provide continued funding. Tenure affords due process, not necessarily lifetime employment.

Trustee Johnson moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the academic year 2019-2020 tenure and promotion recommendations, as contained in the June 18, 2020, board materials with the addition of Veronica Oates to full professor, Rakshit Sudipta receiving tenure and achieving Associate Professor; and Jeffrey Tackett earning tenure and promoted to Assistant Professor. Trustee Martin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

VI. APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC PRORAMS

a. APPROVAL OF THE M.S. IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Trustee Johnson announced the next agenda item as the approval of the Master of Science in Environmental Sciences. She asked President Glover and her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. The material is included in the June 18, 2020, Board Meeting packet.

President Glover recognized Dr. Mosley. Dr. Mosley explained that this has been in the works.

Trustee Johnson moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the M.S. in Environmental Sciences, as contained in the Board materials for the June 18, 2020, board meeting. Trustee Martin seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

b. APPROVAL OF THE MASTER OF MUSIC

Trustee Johnson announced the next agenda item as the approval of the Master of Science in Environmental Sciences. She asked President Glover and her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item.

Dr. Mosley explained that this is requesting a stand-alone degree.

Trustee Johnson moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Master of Music, as contained in the Board materials for the June 18, 2020, board meeting. Trustee Martin seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

c. APPROVAL OF THE M.S. IN DATA SCIENCE

Trustee Johnson announced the next agenda item as the approval of the Master of Science in Environmental Sciences. She asked President Glover and her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. The material is included in the June 18, 2020, Board Meeting packet in Appendix A.

Dr. Mosley said that this is a letter of notification to seek fully on-line program by Ali Sekmen.

Trustee Sekmen discussed the importance of data science, saying this will bring interdisciplinary program to on-line format. This program will be open to all majors at TSU with minimal prerequisite requirements. He hopes it will bring 300 students to TSU in next few years and get started in the fall of 2021. Dr. Mosely added that this is in line with THEC master plan.

Trustee Johnson moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the M.S. in Data Sciences, as contained in the Board materials for the June 18, 2020, board meeting. Trustee Martin seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

VII. APPROVAL OF OFF-CAMPUS ACADEMIC PROGRAM SITES

Trustee Johnson announced the next agenda item as the approval of off-campus academic program sites. She asked President Glover and her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. The material is included in the June 18, 2020, Board Meeting packet.

Dr. Mosley discussed the TSU Global Online move to build partnerships with district schools to provide college credit for access to students.

Trustee Johnson moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the following Off-Campus Academic Program Sites: Clarksville County Schools, Hamilton County Schools, Hardeman County Schools, Haywood County Schools, Jackson Madison County Schools, Metro Nashville Public Schools, Robertson County Schools, Shelby County Schools, and Tifton County Schools, as contained in the Board materials for the June 18, 2020, Board meeting. Trustee Martin seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

VIII. REPORT ON ACCREDITATION MATTERS

Trustee Johnson announced the next agenda item as the report on accreditation matters. She asked President Glover and her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. Information pertaining to this agenda item is included in the June 18, 2020 board materials.

President Glover recognized Dr. Charlise Anderson. SACCOC committee came on Monday, June 15, 2020. The SACCOC Committee found that TSU is in compliance with the standard, and will forward their recommendation to their Board which meets on August 31, 2020. President Glover reported that they found no recommendations.

Trustee Sekmen said that as faculty he is extremely pleased and thanked President Glover and staff for team effort to make this happen.

Trustee Johnson thanked the President and designees and hopes that collaborate effort will continue.

IX. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

Trustee Johnson introduced the next item on the agenda as the Academic Affairs Report. Trustee Johnson asked President Glover and her designees to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item.

President Glover recognized Dr. Mosley. Dr. Mosley said that the number of bachelor degrees continues to increase. Online focus on delivery at beginning of the year has come in handy and continues to move to virtual instruction.

Trustee Johnson thanked President Glover for her team's presentation.

X. REPORT ON STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Trustee Johnson introduced the next item on the agenda as the strategic plan update. Information regarding this Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee agenda item is included in your

board materials dated June 18, 2020. Trustee Johnson asked President Glover to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item.

President Glover recognized Dr. Mosley and Dr. Jerri Hayes. Dr. Mosley discussed continued engagement with campus on revised strategic plan. Dr. Hayes discussed her excitement with the strategic plan and the collaborative support. She said the internal and external committees met in May and presentations of data were provided/made. On June 1st, the strategic Planning Committee met to establish strategic plan priorities with 16 priorities and are now working to narrow it to 4 or 5.

XI. APPROVAL OF STUDENT CONDUCT RULE

Trustee Johnson announced the next agenda item as the approval of the Student Conduct Rule. Information regarding this Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee agenda item is included in your board materials dated June 18, 2020. She asked President Glover and her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item.

President Glover recognized Dean Stevenson. Dean Stevenson thanked Attorney Harkey for work in reviewing best processes throughout state and country on student conduct. He discussed three items/areas with new rule: 1) updated notice provision with various options for notice; 2) updated interim suspension process to limit number of review committee members to three; 3) updated appeals process and timeframes.

Secretary Pendleton added that UAPA requires Rulemaking process and explained that the Board is required to approve student Conduct Rule, and explained the process that will follow.

Trustee Sekmen asked about Academic Misconduct and where it goes for review. Dean Stevenson discussed that we have committees to review academic and student misconduct separately and encouraged faculty to fill out Maxient form immediately.

Trustee Johnson moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the new Student Conduct Rule, as contained in the Board materials for the Board's June 18, 2020, meeting, including authorizing the President and her designees to make any technical corrections to these rules, including changes required by the Attorney General's Office after review. Trustee Sekmen seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote – Trustees Johnson, Martin, and Sekmen.

XII. STUDENT AFFAIRS REPORT

Trustee Johnson introduced the next item on the agenda as a Student Affairs Report. Information regarding this Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee agenda item is included in your board materials dated June 18, 2020.

Trustee Johnson asked President Glover to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item.

President Glover then designated Associate Vice President / Dean Frank Stevenson to provide the report. Dean Stevenson said that TSU had a good year.

Trustee Sekmen asked about TSU health insurance provided to students. Dean Stevenson explained that current plan is just for international students, but he is looking at expanded plans.

President Glover discussed beefed up counseling and health centers. Students take advantage of these services and the taboo over mental health concerns are gone.

Trustee Simpson said that help provided since pandemic and tensions in country have been huge for students.

VP Chase discussed that the fee increase was designated to that area to provide best services possible.

Following the discussion, Trustee Johnson thanked President Glover and her team for the presentation.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Johnson asked if there was any additional business.

Trustee Martin thanked Trustee Johnson for stepping in today. Trustee Martin thanked Dr. Mosley for her work as she is leaving the institution. Trustee Cole thanked her as well.

He then moved to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Trustee Martin which carried unanimously by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 am.