

**Meeting of the Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee Meeting
November 18, 2021
Tennessee State University, Electronic**

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Trustees Pam Martin, Andre Johnson, Bill Johnson, and Tiara Thomas.

Other Board Members Present: Trustees Deborah Cole, Richard Lewis, Obie McKenzie, Van Pinnock, and Joseph Walker III.

University Staff Present: President Glenda Glover; Laurence Pendleton, General Counsel and Board Secretary; Dr. Michael Harris, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Curtis Johnson, Chief of Staff; Dean Frank Stevenson, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs; Douglas Allen, Vice President of Business and Finance; Jamie Isabel, Vice President of Institutional Advancement; Dr. Frances Williams, Associate Vice President of Research & Sponsored Programs; Terrence Izzard, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management; Gregory Robinson, Assistant Vice President and Chief of Police; Kelli Sharpe, Assistant Vice President of Public Relations & Communications; Adrian Davis, Director of Internal Audit; and Dr. Arlene Nicholas-Phillips, Liaison to the Board of Trustees.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. CST on November 18, 2021. Trustee Martin then moved to make certain findings on the records 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 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 B. Johnson seconded the motion.

II. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Board Secretary Pendleton called the roll at the Committee chair's request. Trustees Pam Martin, Andre Johnson, Bill Johnson, and Tiara Thomas were present. Secretary Pendleton announced the presence of a quorum.

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

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the September 16, 2021, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes, as contained in the Board materials for the November 18, 2021, Board meeting. Trustee A. Johnson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously by roll call vote.

IV. APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – ADMISSION STANDARDS – MASTER OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Chair Martin announced the next agenda item as the approval of an academic program modification to change the admission standards for the Master of Occupational Therapy. Chair Martin asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. The material for this agenda item is contained in the Board materials for November 18, 2021.

President Glover designated Provost Harris to present on this item. Dr. Harris presented the reasons for removing the GRE requirement from the Master of Occupational Therapy admission standards.

Chair Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the academic program modification to change the Master of Occupational Therapy admission standards, as contained in the Board materials for the November 18, 2021, Board meeting. Trustee Bill Johnson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

V. APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – ADMISSION STANDARDS – MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

Chair Martin announced the Master of Social Work Admissions Standards agenda item and asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent related information. The material for this agenda item is contained in the Board materials for November 18, 2021.

President Glover designated Provost Harris to present on this agenda item. Dr. Harris requested two modifications to the Master of Social Work admission standards: reduce the GPA requirements for admission requirements for advanced standing, and also reduce the GPA requirements for the regular program.

Chair Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of an academic program modification – a change to the Master of Social Work admission standards, as contained in the Board materials for the November 18, 2021, Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Bill Johnson and carried unanimously by role call vote.

VI. APPROVAL OF NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM – PH.D. OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

Chair Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the approval of a new academic program – a Ph.D. of Agricultural Science. She asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. The material is included in the November 18, 2021, Board materials.

President Glover designated Provost Harris to present on this item. Provost Harris reported that the Ph.D. of Agricultural Science program went through the THEC viability process and we are now seeking final approval. Initial approval to explore the potential of the program was given by the Board in March, 2020 with the requirement that the program be approved by the Board before implementation.

Chair Martin moved to recommendation to the full Board the approval of the new academic program, a Ph.D. of Agricultural Science, as contained in the Board materials for the November 18, 2021, Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Bill Johnson who then congratulated Dean Reddy. President Glover added comments

regarding the high demand in agricultural science and how the new program will add to TSU's prominence in the field. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

VII. APPROVAL OF NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM – B.S. ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Chair Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the approval of a new academic program, a B.S. in Elementary Education. Chair Martin asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item, as contained in the Board materials for the November 18, 2021, Board meeting.

President Glover designated Provost Harris to present on this item. Provost Harris asked to explore a program in Elementary Education and provide notice to THEC that such exploration will begin. If successful, the new program will be brought back to the Board for final approval. Trustee Bill Johnson commented that TSU has a rich history of preparing elementary school teachers and moving such programs into the College of Education will strengthen the program.

Chair Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval to explore the potential for a new B.S. in Elementary Education program. Bill and Andre Johnson simultaneously seconded the motion which carried unanimously by role call vote.

VIII. APPROVAL OF NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM – B.S. AFRICANA STUDIES

Chair Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as a new academic program: a B.S. in Africana Studies. Chair Martin asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item, as contained in the Board materials for the November 18, 2021, Board meeting.

President Glover designated Provost Harris to present this agenda item and commented that this program is long overdue at TSU as an HBCU. Provost Harris presented the new program and sought approval from the Board to submit the exploration of the program to THEC as a program which will be housed in a current department. If successful, the program will be brought before the Board for final approval. Chair Martin commented that she is excited about the program and thanked everyone for their hard work on the program proposal.

Chair Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval to explore the potential of a new program, B.S. in Africana Studies, as contained in the Board materials for the November 18, 2021, Board meeting. The motion was seconded simultaneously by Bill and Andre Johnson and carried unanimously by role call vote.

IX. REPORT ON SACSCOC TEN YEAR ACCREDITATION REVIEW

Chair Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the report on SACSCOC 10 year accreditation review. Chair Martin asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item, as contained in the Board materials for the November 18, 2021, Board meeting. This is an informational discussion item only so not vote is required.

President Glover designated Provost Harris to present on this agenda item and noted that Dr. Andersen would present at the upcoming March meeting. Provost Harris commented that the university's current successes and initiatives are largely a result of going through the SACSCOC process. TSU timely submitted SACSCOC-

requested materials related to standard 32 and 34 and the SACSCOC board will meet in December to make decisions and determine reaccreditation.

Trustee Martin thanked Dr. Glover and others who worked on this accreditation review for their hard work.

X. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

Chair Martin announced the next agenda item as the Academic Affairs Report. Information regarding this Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee agenda item is included in the Board materials dated November 18, 2021. Chair Martin asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. This is an informational discussion item only so no vote will be required.

Dr. Glover designated Provost Harris to comment on this agenda item. Provost Harris shared that TSU has completed the first of a Strategic Plan which will bring a more visible and focused mission and vision. The next year of the Strategic Plan will focus on data collection. Dr. Harris thanked the participants in the Strategic Plan efforts.

XI. REPORT ON CLEARY ACT CRIME STATISTICS

Chair Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the report on Clery Act crime statistics and asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. Information pertaining to this agenda item is included in the November 18, 2021, Board materials.

Dr. Glover designated Chief Robinson to present on this agenda item. Chief Robinson spoke on the importance of safety on campus and its impact on all areas of the university's operations. He then explained the Clery Act Federal Mandate to report on crime statistics. Chief Robinson reported last year's crime statistics and noted that the numbers were a steep decline from earlier reports and that TSU is in the top 8% of safest campuses in the country. Chief Robinson reported that the TSU police will not stop there and will make efforts to continue to improve.

Chair Martin noted that she has seen a difference on campus since Chief Robinson came on board and thanked him for all he has done. Trustee Cole congratulated Chief Robinson on the successful report and suggested that TSU publicize its success in this area. No other questions or comments were presented.

XII. STUDENT AFFAIRS REPORT

Chair Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the Student Affairs report. Chair Martin asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. Information pertaining to this agenda item is included in the November 18, 2021, Board materials.

Dr. Glover designated Dean Frank Stevenson to report on this agenda item. Dean Stevenson gave a review and synopsis of how the university has handled COVID-19 this semester through testing, vaccination opportunities, vaccination incentives, and other mitigation efforts. Dean Stevenson was happy to report that the university had a period of six weeks of zero positive cases on campus. Dean Stevenson also reported on recent successes with the campus food pantry, professional head shot photo booth for students, and homecoming. Dean Stevenson then reported that the Counseling Center will be increasing TSU's mental health services available to students

including telehealth and checking in on students. He thanked the Health Center staff and all they've done during the pandemic.

Dr. Glover commended Dean Stevenson and thanked the Foundation for their assistance with Homecoming and Career Services. Chair Martin thanked Dean Stevenson for all the university is doing to allow students to just focus on their education. Trustee Cole thanked Dean Stevenson and congratulated him on the success regarding COVID and thanked Dr. Glover for her leadership. Trustee Thomas thanked Student Affairs for their efforts to keep students safe, and Health Services for taking care of her when she contracted COVID. Trustee Thomas reported that Student Affairs made sure she had everything she needed, and also commented on mental health services noting that other HBCUs are adding mental health days into their academic calendars. Trustee Thomas asked if there has been any thought of adding additional time off for students. Dr. Glover responded that she has conversations with Dean Stevenson and Curtis Johnson about this subject. Dean Stevenson thanked Trustee Thomas for sharing her experience. Dr. Glover added that TSU's COVID protocol was highlighted in the New York Times and the Tribune.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Martin asked if there were any additional comments or business. Hearing none she asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee B. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting and Chair Martin seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 a.m. CST.