

**Meeting of the Tennessee State University Board of Trustees  
Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee Meeting  
September 16, 2021  
Tennessee State University – Electronic  
MINUTES**

**Committee Members Present:** Trustees Pam Martin, Andre Johnson (later joined), Bill Johnson and Tiara Thomas.

**Other Board Members Present:** Trustees Deborah, 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, Assoc. Vice President of Student Affairs; Douglas Allen, 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. Robbie Melton, Graduate School Dean and Assoc. Vice President and Dr. Arlene Nicholas-Phillips, Liaison to the Board of Trustees.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Trustee Martin called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. on September 16, 2021. She formally welcomed Dr. William Johnson to the Board and to the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, as the new Faculty Trustee. Trustee Martin then 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.

**II. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**

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

**III. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 17, 2021, COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Trustee Martin proceeded to the approval of the June 17, 2021, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes.

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the June 17, 2021, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs 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.

**IV. APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – ADMISSION STANDARDS – PH.D. IN BIOLOGY**

Trustee Martin announced the next agenda item as the approval of academic program modification – a change to the Ph.D. in Biology Admission Standards. She 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 Meeting materials for September 16, 2021.

President Glover called on Provost Harris to respond to this item. Provost Harris stated that they were asking for the GRE requirement to be removed so that it would no longer be needed for admission to the program.

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the academic program modification – a change to the Ph.D. in Biology admission standards, 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 ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – A CHANGE TO THE M.S. PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING ADMISSION STANDARDS**

Trustee Martin announced the next item on the agenda is the approval of an academic program modification – a change to the M.S. Professional School Counseling admission standards. She 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 September 16, 2021, Board Meeting materials.

President Glover asked Provost Harris to respond to this agenda item. Provost Harris again stated that they were requesting the removal of the GRE and MAT as requirements for admission to the stated program.

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of an academic program modification – a change to the MS Professional School Counseling admission standards, as contained in the Board materials for the September 16, 2021, board meeting. Trustee Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**VI. APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – METHOD OF INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY VIA ONLINE – MASTER IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

Trustee Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the approval of the academic program modification – change to the method of instructional delivery via online – Master in Business Administration in the College of Business. She asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. The material is included in the September 16, 2021 Board Meeting materials.

President Glover again asked Provost Harris to present on this item. Provost Harris explained that they were asking permission from the Board to approve the online delivery of the Master of Business Administration in the College of Business.

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of an academic program modification – a change to the method of instructional delivery via online – Master in Business Administration, 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 ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – METHOD OF INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY VIA ONLINE – MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE**

Trustee Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the approval of the academic program modification – change to the method of instructional delivery via online – Master of Science in Agricultural Science in the College of Agriculture. She asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. The material is included in the September 16, 2021 Board Meeting materials.

President Glover asked Provost Harris to once again present on this item. Provost Harris stated that they were asking permission from the Board to approve the online delivery of the Master of Science in Agricultural Science from the College of Agriculture.

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of an academic program modification – a change to the method of instructional delivery via online – Master of Science in Agricultural Science, 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 A NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM – GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION LEADERSHIP**

Trustee Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the approval of a new academic program – Graduate Certificate in Higher Education Administration Leadership. She asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. The material is included in the September 16, 2021 Board Meeting materials.

President Glover asked Provost Harris to present on this item. Provost Harris explained that they were asking permission from the Board to approve a new academic program – a Graduate Certificate in Higher Education Administration Leadership (H.E.A.L.) in the College of Education.

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of a new academic program – a Graduate Certificate in Higher Education Administration Leadership in the College of Education, 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.

## **IX. APPROVAL OF A NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM – GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH**

Trustee Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the approval of a new academic program – a Graduate Certificate in Public Health. She asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. The material is included in the September 16, 2021 Board Meeting materials.

President Glover asked Provost Harris to present on this item. Provost Harris said that they were asking permission from the Board to approve the new academic program – the Graduate Certificate in Public Health in the College of Public Health.

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of an academic program – a Graduate Certificate in Public Health in the College of Health, 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.

## **X. APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL AY 2020-2021 TENURE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Trustee Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the approval of additional AY 2020-2021 Tenure Recommendations. Trustee Martin asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item, as contained in the Board materials for the September 16, 2021, Board Meeting.

President Glover asked Provost Harris to present on this item. Provost Harris explained that we were asking permission from the Board to approve the Tenure Recommendations for two additional faculty members who were inadvertently left off the previous list presented to the Board. He assured the Board that these two additional faculty did meet the necessary requirements for Tenure and had earned it.

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of 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.

## **XI. REPORT ON SACSCOC ACCREDITATION REVIEW MATTERS**

Trustee Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the report on SACSCOC accreditation review matters. Trustee Martin asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item, as contained in the Board materials for the September 16, 2021, Board Meeting. This is an informational discussion item only so no vote will be required.

President Glover called on Provost Harris to give information relating to this agenda item. Dr. Harris stated that the University received the Report of the Reaffirmation Committee on April 30, 2021 and all Standards were found to be compliant with two exceptions: Standard 13.2 – Financial Documents; and

Standard 13.4 – Control of Finances. An outline of these Standards could be found in the Board Materials on page #122. He went on to advise that the University was currently preparing its Response Report which was due to SACSCOC on September 30, 2021. He then described the next steps, stating that the SACSCOC Board of Trustees will review the University’s Response as well as the Report of the Reaffirmation Committee in December, 2021. The Reaffirmation Decision will be made by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees by December 4-7, 2021.

President Glover added that the audits for Standard 13.2 and 13.4 were almost complete and will be ready to be sent off to SACSCOC soon. Upon submission we would have met the outstanding requirements.

Trustee Martin then thanked Dr. Anderson for her role in getting the University to this point. She also thanked Provost Harris and President Glover. President Glover clarified a question by Trustee B. Johnson noting that our work was complete and sent on to the Auditors. As soon as they are through, we will be submitting our reports to SACSCOC.

## **XII. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT**

Trustee 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 your board materials dated September 16, 2021. Trustee Martin asked President Glover and her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. This is an informational discussion item only so no vote will be required.

President Glover asked Provost Harris to comment on this agenda item. Provost Harris detailed the outline found on pages #125 through #127 in the September 16, 2021, Board Meeting materials. He gave highlights of the UNIV1000 course changes and the new procedure regarding Transfer Advising Holds. He added that we were making strides to strengthen the bond between freshman students and the University. He shared some of the academic program planning as it related to the proposed Ph.D. in Agriculture, B.S. in Africana/Black Studies, Ph.D. in Higher Education, and the Online MBA.

Provost Harris then went on to briefly mention the implementation of the strategic plan “The Pathway to Excellence 2025”, the quality enhancement plan “CADENCE” and professional development opportunities for faculty and staff. Provost Harris stressed that the changes and revisions made were all strategic and intentional.

Several other comments were made by Trustee B. Johnson, and Trustee Pinnock regarding programs and the strategic plan. Trustee Martin then thanked President Glover, Provost Harris and all others for the report. She also thanked everyone for their comments.

## **XIII. REPORT OF RESEARCH FUNDING AND PROGRAMS**

Trustee Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the report of research funding and programs. Trustee 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 September 16, 2021 board materials.

President Glover asked AVP Frances Williams to provide the information related to this agenda item. Since this was an informational discussion item, no vote was required. Dr. Williams then 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.

Trustee Martin congratulated President Glover and everyone for the work that was done in getting the University to this point of funding and research awards. Trustee Walker also added his support.

#### **XIV. REPORT ON STUDENT HOUSING**

Trustee Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the report on student housing. Trustee 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 September 16, 2021 board materials.

President Glover asked Dean Stevenson to provide the information related to this agenda item. The detailed outline is included in the Board materials on pages #134 to 135. Dean Stevenson proceeded to share 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 Freshman students; COVID protocols; last minute surge of applicants. There were 350 students added to a waiting list. Dean stressed that with the completion of the new state-of-art, 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 of the students. Rooms at several hotels were leased for this purpose.

Dean 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 of our students were accommodated.

President Glover added that she wanted, on behalf of TSU, to thank the Governor, the legislators and the State Building Commission for the swift action taken in assisting TSU. They added TSU to the meeting agenda at the last minute, and called a special hearing so that we could get the funding needed to secure the long-term lease which was signed with an off-campus vendor. Also she wanted to thank the Congressional Black Caucus for us getting the CARES funding and other necessary funding to help with this housing issue. Because of these efforts we were able to accommodate all of our students.

Trustee Thomas added her special ‘Thank You’ to President Glover and Dean Stevenson for the extra effort made to assist the students. She added a request from the students to improve the technology on campus with the new residence halls and across campus. President Glover assured her that discussions were already being held regarding improving technology and VP Allen confirmed that \$2 million was already air-marked for improving technology on campus.

## **XV. STUDENT AFFAIRS REPORT**

Trustee Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as a Student Affairs report. Trustee 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 September 16, 2021 board materials.

President Glover asked Dean Frank Stevenson to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. Since this was an informational discussion item, no vote was required. Dean Stevenson shared that overall it was exciting walking through campus and seeing students back on campus. He thanked all of the ‘front line’ workers, namely the housing staff and Residence Life, the TSU Police Department and those working the IQ Zones. He shared that there was a high level of excitement among the students and staff, mentioning specifically that the new student leadership was to be sworn in that evening: SGA President, Derek Sanders (Cincinnati, OH); SGA Vice President, Jabari Jefferson (Memphis, TN); Ms. TSU, Mallory Moore (Huntsville, AL); and Mr. TSU, Mark Davis (Cincinnati, OH). He made mention to the upcoming Career Fair, where over 140 employers were scheduled to participate. He also mentioned that he was getting calls from other institutions asking about our Tele-Health model, where students can access health advice virtually. Dean Stevenson then proceeded to review the COVID-19 protocols for students. A detailed outline can be found in the Board materials on pages #138/139. He wanted the Board to be aware that since school started TSU has had 100 positive cases and presently only 7 students were positive. He stressed that when compared to the other institutions, TSU has performed very well in keeping the case numbers down and protecting our students. This was in part to the students being responsible, wearing their masks and socially distancing themselves. Dean Stevenson credited the introduction of the “Gift Card” incentive with getting the high number of students vaccinated. He reported that presently an excess of 50% of the student population was vaccinated. He commended the students for coming forward to be tested and stated that we were averaging approximately 1,000 students per week being tested. He mentioned that will be adding a dashboard where these numbers would be publicly reported.

Trustee Martin had some questions whether or not the incentive was still being used, to which Dean Stevenson confirmed that it was. He mentioned that students were able to get vaccinated on campus and he also credited some of our local partners for their assistance in this process, namely Meharry Medical Center and Metro Nashville Health.

Trustee Martin reached out to Trustee Thomas for any ideas in encouraging more students to get vaccinated. Trustee Thomas added that she thought the “Gift Card” incentive was an amazing idea and maybe attendance at some events should be restricted to only those who are vaccinated, this way, students who did not want to “miss out” will get the vaccine so that they could be in attendance. Trustee B. Johnson congratulated President Glover and Dean Stevenson for the great work done surrounding this pandemic. He thought that it was a great time to let the HBCU community and others know the good and positive things that are going on at TSU.

Dr. Cole took the opportunity to thank Dr. Glover, Dean Stevenson and the Student Affairs staff for the fantastic job they did during the pandemic and keeping everyone safe. Trustee Walker added to that sentiment.

President added that incentive cards were also given to faculty and staff who were vaccinated. In doing this, we gauged over 800 faculty and staff were vaccinated, another very high percentage when comparing other institutions. Trustee Martin publicly thanked President Glover and the administration.

## **XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Martin asked if there was any additional business. Seeing none, she moved to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson which carried unanimously by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 am.