

**Meeting of the Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee Meeting
March 17, 2022
Tennessee State University, Electronic**

MINUTES

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

Other Board Members Present: Trustees Deborah Cole, Van Pinnock, Obie McKenzie, Richard Lewis, Steven Corbiel, and Tiara Thomas.

University Staff Present: President Glenda Glover; Laurence Pendleton, General Counsel and Board Secretary; Dr. Michael Harris, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Douglas Allen, Vice President of Business and Finance; Dr. Curtis Johnson, Chief of Staff; Dean Frank Stevenson, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs; Dr. Quincy Quick, Associate Vice President of Research and Sponsored Programs; Charlise Anderson, Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness; Terrence Izzard, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management; Mikki Allen, Athletics Director; Kelli Sharpe, Assistant Vice President of Public Relations and Communications; Adrian Davis, Director of Internal Audit; and Dr. Arlene Nicholas-Phillips, Liaison to the Board.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. CDT on March 17, 2022. 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 Andre 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 NOVEMBER 18, 2021, ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the November 18, 2021, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes, as contained in the Board materials for the March 17, 2022, Board meeting. Trustee Bill Johnson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously by roll call vote.

IV. APPROVAL OF NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM – GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

Chair Martin announced the next agenda item as the approval of a new academic program, a Graduate Certificate in Biotechnology. 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 March 17, 2022.

President Glover designated Provost Harris to present on this item. Dr. Harris explained that biotechnology as a significant, emerging field important to many agricultural applications. Currently there is a strong demand from students for certificate programs in this area, and the certificate program typically leads students to enter a master's program in the field of study to the benefit of the University.

Chair Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of a new academic program, a Graduate Certificate in Biotechnology, as contained in the Board materials for the March 17, 2022, 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'S IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Chair Martin announced the Master's in Business Administration 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 March 17, 2022.

President Glover designated Provost Harris to present on this agenda item. Dr. Harris stated that TSU has begun to eliminate the GRE as the exam has been an obstacle to students entering graduate programs and there is a nationwide trend among higher education institutions to eliminate the exam. Upon approval of the elimination of the GRE requirement, students will be admitted to the Master's in Business Administration program if they meet certain criteria. The GRE removal will help students succeed by increasing enrollment and removing what the University believes to be a biased exam. Dr. Glover added that as a former business school dean, the GRE score is not required by many universities at this time and by removing this requirement TSU will now be in line with the norm.

Chair Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of an academic program modification – a change to the Master's in Business Administration admission standards, as contained in the Board materials for the March 17, 2022, Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bill Johnson and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

VI. APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – ADMISSION STANDARDS – PH.D. IN PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

Chair Martin announced the Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration 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 March 17, 2022.

President Glover designated Provost Harris to present on this agenda item. Dr. Harris proposed to the Committee the removal of the GRE requirement from the Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration academic program. Instead, students will be able to be admitted with a GPA of 3.7 from any university in the United States, not just from TSU. If a student has a GPA of 3.5 to 3.7 they will be able to enter a certificate program and then move into the Ph.D. program by consistently maintaining a GPA of 3.7.

Chair Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of an academic program modification – a change to the Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration admission standards, as contained in the Board materials for the March 17, 2022, Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bill Johnson and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

VII. APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – ADMISSION STANDARDS – DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Chair Martin announced the Doctor of Education 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 March 17, 2022.

President Glover designated Provost Harris to present on this agenda item. Dr. Harris proposed to the Committee the removal of the GRE and/or MAT admission exam requirement from the Doctor of Education academic program. Instead, a student will be able to be admitted with a GPA of 3.25. If a student has a lower GPA they will have the option of an appeal process. Dr. Harris mentioned that the removal of the GRE and/or MAT exam requirement is consistent with national standards.

Chair Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of an academic program modification – a change to the Doctor of Education admission standards, as contained in the Board materials for the March 17, 2022, Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Andre Johnson and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

VIII. APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – ADMISSION STANDARDS – MASTER’S IN EDUCATION

Chair Martin announced the Master’s in Education Admissions Standards agenda item and asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent related information. The materials for this agenda item is contained in the Board materials for March 17, 2022.

President Glover designated Provost Harris to present on this agenda item. Dr. Harris proposed to the Committee the removal of the GRE and/or MAT from the Master’s in Education admission requirements. Instead, students will require a GPA of 2.75 to enter a non-licensure program and a GPA of 3.25 for a licensure program with an appeal process for both paths for students with lower

GPA's. Dr. Harris also explained that these exam removal requests have come after faculty approval and consent of each college.

Chair Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of an academic program modification – a change to the Master's in Education admission standards, as contained in the Board materials for the March 17, 2022, Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Andre Johnson and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

IX. APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION – ADMISSION STANDARDS – POST-MASTER'S LEVEL EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST IN INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP

Chair Martin announced the Post-Master's Level Educational Specialist in Instructional Leadership 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 March 17, 2022.

President Glover designated Provost Harris to present on this agenda item. Dr. Harris shared that this is the third program in Education requesting to remove the GRE and/or MAT admission requirement. After removal of the exam requirement, students can be admitted to the Post-Master's Level Educational Specialist in Instructional Leadership program with a 3.25 GPA for both the licensure and non-licensure programs. If a student has a lower GPA, there is an alternative admission method.

Chair Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of an academic program modification – a change to the Post-Master's Level Educational Specialist in Instructional Leadership admission standards, as contained in the Board materials for the March 17, 2022, Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Andre Johnson and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

X. APPROVAL OF NEW MODE OF DELIVERY OF ACADEMIC PROGRAM – BACHELOR'S IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Chair Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the approval of a new mode of delivery of an academic program, the Bachelor's in Business Administration. She asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. The material is included in the March 17, 2022, Board materials.

President Glover designated Provost Harris to present on this item. Provost Harris explained that the University is seeking approval to permanently deliver the Bachelor's in Business Administration program online. TSU was given temporary permission to provide this program online during COVID and now would like approval to continue.

Chair Martin moved to recommendation to the full Board the approval of the new mode of deliver for the Bachelor's in Business Administration academic program, as contained in the Board

materials for the March 17, 2022, Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bill Johnson. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

XI. APPROVAL OF A PROGRAM OFFERING AT AVON WILLIAMS CAMPUS LOCATION – MASTER’S IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (MBA)

Chair Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the approval of a program offering at the Avon Williams campus location, the Master’s in Business Administration. 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 March 17, 2022, Board meeting.

President Glover designated Provost Harris to present on this item. Provost Harris reported that when the University went through the SACSCOC accreditation process, SACSCOC noted the Avon Williams campus should be designated by the university as an instructional campus for any program where over 50% of its instruction is offered at that location. Dr. Glover notified SACSCOC in March of 2021 of TSU’s designation of the campus as instructional and the onsite committee was satisfied with our request. TSU now wishes to receive approval to provide more than 50% of the MBA program at Avon Williams. Upon approval by the Board, Dr. Glover will notify SACSCOC of its intention to provide the MBA program at Avon Williams. Dr. Glover added that we are taking a closer look at our academic programs and is excited to see where we are headed through reengineering of academic programs and increased online offerings.

Chair Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Master’s in Business Administration program offering at the Avon Williams campus location. Trustee Bill Johnson seconded the motion and asked if the McMinnville farm will be included in our notifications to SACSCOC. Dr. Glover stated that we do not offer enough courses there to require that type of notification, however, TSU has disclosed the program offerings at that location to SACSCOC. The approval of the MBA program offering at the Avon Williams Campus then carried unanimously by roll call vote.

XII. 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 March 17, 2022, Board meeting. This is an informational discussion item only so not vote is required.

President Glover designated Dr. Charlise Anderson to present on this agenda item. Dr. Anderson reported that on December 2, 2021, SACSCOC voted to reaffirm accreditation for TSU for the maximum period of 10 years. SACSCOC has also required the submission of a one-year report to verify compliance with finance report standard 13.4, and a 5th year interim report in the Spring of 2026.

Trustee Martin thanked Dr. Anderson, Dr. Harris, and President Glover for all their hard work related to the SACSCOC accreditation process.

XIII. 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 March 17, 2022. 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 Academic Affairs highlights including the quality enhancement program, Gateway to 8 employee professional development program, Faculty Wellness Institute, annual academic program health checks, New Faculty Orientation, Assessment Day, and data accessibility for faculty. Provost Harris provided an updated on the Ph.D. in Agricultural Sciences program which the Board approved at its last meeting by stating the program has also been approved by THEC and is now submitted for approval to SACSCOC.

Trustee Cole had a question concerning student advising, particularly as it relates to upper academic levels. Trustee Cole has heard complaints of students unable to find or reach advisors. President Glover volunteered that she has been working with Provost Harris to put together strategies to address issues in upper level student advising. Provost Harris added that the university is talking to advisors, chairs, and deans to make it clear that advisors must be available to students and has requested and received from each dean a list of advisors. Every Monday the deans present a report for each program listing advisors' weekly activities and the outcome of each student interaction. Trustee Cole asked for an update on this issue at the next Committee meeting and whether Mr. Izzard handles upper level advising. President Glover stated that upper level students are advised by their individual departments, not Mr. Izzard's office. Dr. Harris stated that the Provost's office has the authority to fix these issues and is stepping in and taking very strong actions. President Glover apologized that advising complaints have been directed to the Board. Trustee Cole then gave Trustee McKenzie condolences for the passing of his mother.

Trustee Pinnock noted that TSU updated its strategic plan in August and commended Dr. Glover and Dr. Harris on the enhancements discussed in this Committee meeting which speak to the strategic goals. Trustee Pinnock also noted that the strategic plan's updates look the same as the previous plan and ask for an explanation of the updates. Provost Harris stated that the strategic plan hasn't changed but the implementation of the programs is being monitored to ensure they are consistent with the strategic plan. Trustee Pinnock asked for updates on graduation rates and retention rates and Provost Harris replied that those numbers will be presented. Trustee Pinnock also asked if the Chair in Banking and Finance position is still open. President Glover confirmed the chair is still open and that she will be meeting with the dean to get the chair filled, even on an interim basis. Provost Harris stated that we are aware we need to stay current and relevant in our academic offerings. Trustee McKenzie added that the current paradigm shifts make it imperative that our students understand the current national and international conditions.

Trustee Martin thanked the Committee for their comments and questions and asked for follow-up from the University at the next Committee meeting on the items discussed.

XIV. 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 March 17, 2022, Board materials.

Dr. Glover designated Dean Frank Stevenson to report on this agenda item. Dean Stevenson reviewed the University's current status as it relates to the pandemic and stated that we are starting to get back to our pre-pandemic student life. Dean Stevenson went on to state that he has charged each of Student Affairs' 14 units to evaluate their services. As for student housing, housing requests have greatly increased for the Fall 2022 semester and the new residential hall will be open to students at that time. Dean Stevenson noted that we cannot wait another 25 years to build a new residence hall. Dr. Glover gave appreciation for Harold Love and Trustees A. Johnson, Pinnock, Cole, Martin, and Lewis in their efforts related to the Governor's budget. Dr. Glover believes this upcoming funding can eventually provide for an additional residence hall.

Dean Stevenson then highlighted the Spring Career Fair, Greek organizations, SGA elections and training, and focused on the success of the Aristocrat of Bands representing TSU at the 2033 Rose Bowl Parade and NBA and NFL games. Dean Stevenson then asked Student Trustee Tiara Thomas to provide information on the university's voting registration efforts. Trustee Thomas expressed appreciation to the University as an Aristocrat of Bands member and directed the Committee to the materials addressing student voting and political participation information in the Board materials. Trustee Thomas was excited to share that student voting registration rates have increased from 31% to 59% and described the student activities and events that helped lead to this success.

Chair Martin thanked Trustee Thomas for her report and hard work.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Martin asked if there were any additional comments or business. Hearing none she asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Bill Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting and a roll call vote was taken to adjourn. Trustees B. Johnson and Martin assented to adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m. CDT.