

**Meeting of the Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee Meeting
March 12, 2020
Tennessee State University – Main Campus –
McWherter Administration Building, President’s Conference Room
3500 John A. Merritt Blvd., Nashville, Tennessee 37209**

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Trustees Pam Martin, Andre Johnson, Ali Sekmen, Braxton Simpson

Other Board Members Present: Trustees Deborah Cole, Joseph Walker, III, Richard Lewis, Bill Freeman

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; and Dr. Charlise Anderson, Director, Accreditation & Assessment.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Martin called the meeting to order at 8:39 a.m. on March 12, 2020.

Trustee Martin began by thanking everyone for helping during the tornado. Trustee Martin recognized President Glover to provide some updates. President Glover stated that the campus communications have stressed the seriousness of the coronavirus issue and the campus is operating in a straitened height of awareness. TSU has received regular updates from THEC and the CDC. President Glover reassured all that TSU is prepared and is discussing going to online classes as early as Monday. President Glover expressed the need for the current drills and plan to ensure that the quality of education remains strong. Each class/faculty has a shell and about 90% of faculty were ready for online delivery. President Glover explained that administration also met with student leaders last night and discussed the option to go home or stay on campus. President Glover stressed that TSU is prepared.

Trustee Walker wants to maintain clarity on the importance of quality of care in academic and service. He asked for an update on student and food service.

President Glover recognized Dean Stevenson and Mr. Johnson. Dean Stevenson discussed the need for wraparound stages of care now and in the virtual space. Mr. Johnson told all about the meeting on the virus and tornado held with the Aramark food vendor. Aramark is instituting additional measures including the removal of the self-serve option and making staff wear gloves in addition to more cleanliness and wiping down all surfaces.

President Glover stressed that this is not business as usual.

Trustee Martin thanked the President and asked to let her know if there is anything the Board can do to help.

Trustee Martin welcome the new board member Andre Johnson.

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 NOVEMBER 21, 2019, COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Martin proceeded to the approval of the November 21, 2019, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes.

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the November 21, 2019, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes, as contained in the Board materials for the March 12, 2020, Board meeting. Trustee Sekmen seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

IV. REPORT ON ACCREDITATION MATTERS

Chair Martin asked President Glover and her designees to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item.

President Glover recognized Charlise Anderson. Ms. Anderson updated the Board on the probationary status. She reported that all assessment reports have been finalized. The monitoring report is complete and was submitted to SACSCOC and received February 28, prior to the due date. The SACSCOC Special Committee visit will take place on April 2, 2020. In preparation, TSU's accreditation consultant conducted a mock visit with TSU in February and provided feedback on the remaining issues but felt that when addressed the campus would be ready for the Special Committee visit. The firm will return on March 24th for a second mock visit. Ms. Anderson reported that at this time TSU is aware of the people making up the committee of 5 coming and has the agenda for April 2, 2020 visit. TSU should have the report from their visit as early as April 3rd.

President Glover has spoken to SACSCOC as it relates to the virus and any impact to their visit. They are planning to come but can use virtual visit.

Trustee Coleman restated that with the last review there was a concern on documentation and asked whether TSU is prepared.

Ms. Anderson assured the board that TSU is prepared.

Ms. Anderson provided an update on the Decennial report which is due in September. Ms. Anderson explained that TSU is required to respond to 73 standards and that the committees and subcommittees are already formed. She is preparing for the final report in July. The on-site visit will be in March 2021.

President Glover explained that the 2020-2021 visit was put off until now because of the probationary status.

Trustee Martin thanked the President and designees.

V. APPROVAL OF THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Chair Martin announced the next agenda item as the approval of the Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. She asked President Glover and her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item.

President Glover recognized Dr. Mosley. Dr. Mosley is asking the Board to begin the process of applying for the Ph.D. in Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. She stated that the university is in the process of examining the possibility of the degree and strongly feels that this is a natural step for a terminal degree in Agriculture.

Trustee Martin asked President Glover to go back to accreditation and clarified that the President has asked our accreditation consultant firm to come back for an additional prep session. Trustee Martin explained that she just wanted to make sure that TSU is committee-proof and that the cabinet and all are fully ready.

Trustee Sekman asked whether this was a request for the approval for proposing or approval of the program. Dr. Mosley clarified that this was a request for approval for proposing the degree.

Trustee Sekman returned to accreditation comment and stated that he was at the last visit and has a strong feeling that TSU will overcome probation.

Trustee Simpson said the President has done well to keep students aware of the accreditation process.

Chair Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Ph.D. in Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, as contained in the Board materials for the March 12, 2020, board meeting. Trustee Johnson seconded and the motion carried.

VII. NURSING SCHOOL REPORT

Chair Martin announced the next item on the agenda as is the nursing school report. She noted that the materials for this agenda item are included in the materials for the March 12, 2020 board meeting.

Chair Martin asked President Glover or her designee to provide an update related to this agenda item. President Glover again recognized Dr. Mosley.

Dr. Mosley referenced the February 27th BON approval and the Fall of 2020 nursing cohort. She stated that the university is currently doing admission work for the fall. She explained that yesterday accreditation in discipline did visit to address passing rate and plans to recommend that TSU receives continuing accreditation without restrictions. This is second in the four step process with a final decision in September. Two students took the exam and had only 75 questions (lowest possible). Dr. Mosely discussed the curriculum used and the faculty development employed. They are currently working to establish an external mentoring program.

President Glover expressed excitement and said that both bodies that the university reports to have approved everything. It has to go back to the nursing board to approve it but it has been recommended. She explained that the approval should help with recruitment.

Trustee Simpson asked if only a limited number of students were accepted. Dr. Mosley stated that the Fall number will be 36.

VIII. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

Chair Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the Academic Affairs Report.

Chair Martin asked President Glover and her designees to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item.

President Glover recognized Dr. Mosley. Dr. Mosley said that one other accreditation from CHIM was approved a couple months ago and that others in computer science are occurring with THEC. THEC has provided some context for these concentrations and an accelerated process. Dr. Mosely explained that online degrees are being launched.

Trustee Martin asked if the university is able to compete with others in the area. Dr. Mosley said that in a way there was a “competition among colleges” for all courses to be online ready.

Trustee Sekman referenced the Uof M training and the Arizona presentation. He stressed that the future is with online instruction but the way it should be implemented should be state of the art. He stressed that the quality of instruction and online delivery offered by TSU should be compatible with major institutions, not just TBR institutions.

Chair Martin thanked President Glover for her team’s presentation.

IX. STUDENT AFFAIRS REPORT

Chair Martin 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 March 12, 2020.

Chair Martin 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 provided an update on the three students injured in a car accident in Florida last week. One student is back at home. One student is still in ICU with 2 surgeries completed. And one student passed away on Monday. Dean Stevenson asked everyone to extend Tiger Family love to these families.

Dean Stevenson reported that for several years there have been complaints from students who use shuttle service that it is not prompt. He explained that students lifted up and asked for a tracker/uber-type app which the university then launched in November.

Dean Stevenson discussed the men’s initiative with attention on the sophomore class. He said he feels good about what this will mean as national model for program for African American men.

Following the discussion, Chair Martin thanked President Glover and her team for the presentation. Thanked Stevenson for taking time to go to Florida to check on students.

Dr. Melton was recognized to provide an update on on-line delivery. She explained that there is a deployment plan and that the university was currently undertaking a drill with all faculty to set up zoom classroom. She said that 11 faculty members that were without computer/internet have been provided technology and faculty mentors, and 2 specialists for student services online have been hired.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Martin asked if there was any additional business. Seeing none, she then moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 am.