

**Meeting of the Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee Meeting
September 26, 2019
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, Richard Lewis, Ali Sekmen, and Braxton Simpson

Other Board Members Present: Trustees Deborah Cole, Edith Peterson Mitchell, Joseph Walker, III, and Stephen Corbeil

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. John Cade, Vice President of Enrollment Management; Dr. Charlise Anderson, Director, Accreditation & Assessment; and Terrence Izzard, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management.

Guests Present: Lauren Collier, Tennessee Higher Education Commission; and Dr. Joseph Silver, Consultant, Silver & Associates.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Martin called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. on September 26, 2019.

II. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

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

III. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 13, 2019, COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Martin proceeded to the approval of the June 13, 2019, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes.

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the June 13, 2019, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes, as contained in the Board materials for the September 26, 2019, Board meeting. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

IV. SACSCOC ACCREDITATION UPDATE

Chair Martin asked President Glover and her designees to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. President Glover proceeded to introduce the administration’s newest

member, Dr. Charlise Anderson, Director of Assessment and Accreditation. President Glover also introduced a guest to the meeting, Dr. Joseph Silver, Consultant, Silver and Associates. They each gave a short summary of their assignments as it pertains to SACSCOC reporting and in particular to Section 8.2a documentation.

Trustee Martin thanked Dr. Anderson and Dr. Silver for their insight and reassurance that TSU will get past the current probation status. A discussion then ensued among all the Trustees regarding Dr. Anderson's 'dotted' line to President Glover. The Trustees emphasized the importance of this position.

Trustees inquired as to whether the institution had been provided a heads up on SACSCOC's determination. President Glover commented that the decision was announced on the day of the June 13, 2019, Board of Trustees meeting. The institution had been working with SACSCOC personnel in providing requested monitoring information and believed they had provided sufficient information.

Trustee Sekmen questioned whether or not the SACSCOC probation ruling was in fact a surprise. Trustee Lewis noted past accreditation findings/ warnings. Trustee Lewis again stressed that the Board of Trustees was responsible for TSU and that President Glover was responsible for running the University.

Trustee Sekmen inquired as to communications from SACSSCOC pertaining to the probation and President promised to provide him with copies. The Trustees expressed the importance of keeping them updated on this important matter. Trustee Mitchell also commented on the need to have a process in place with respect to obtaining sufficient information pertinent to this accreditation standard.

Dr. Silver thanked the committee for allowing him to address the meeting.
Trustee Martin thanked President Glover and her team for the presentation.

V. APPROVAL OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION FOR THE CERTIFICATE IN PROFESSIONAL CHEMISTRY

Chair Martin announced the next agenda item as an Academic Program modification for the Certificate in Professional Chemistry. She asked President Glover and her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item.

President Glover designated Dr. Mosley, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs to provide the report for this item as her designee.

Dr. Mosley informed the committee that currently an unconditional admission to the M.S. program requires the applicant to have a bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year college or university, an undergraduate cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale, and a composite score of at least 289 on the Graduate Record Examination. Applicants have the option of taking the subject test in order to bring the combined score to 289 or higher. Applicants with less than a 2.5 undergraduate GPA must submit test scores at the time of application; applicants with a GPA of 2.5 or above may submit test scores in the first semester of attendance, but it is preferable that they submit test scores at the time of original application.

Dr. Mosley then explained that a proposal was being made to remove the GRE requirement and add 2 letters of recommendations as part of the admission requirements instead. Her detailed rationale was that currently, admission into the Chemistry M.S. program requires, at a minimum, a GPA of 2.5 and composite GRE score of 289, along with a basic English proficiency test for international students (which is much easier than the Verbal portion of the GRE). While the majority of the domestic (U.S.) applicants to our program are unsuccessful in meeting this minimum GRE score of 289, some students are reluctant to take the GRE, due to their insufficient background/preparation and fees associated with taking the exam.

Dr. Mosley also pointed out that the factors which were considered by the Graduate Committee in the Department of Chemistry were: (a) Review of the applicant pool over the past 8 years, which shows several applicants not having taken the GRE. Some domestic students were granted “conditional” admission without the GRE scores, with the condition that they had to take the GRE within the first semester of graduate studies. Several students struggled to fulfil this condition in a satisfactory manner; (b) Comparing the number of domestic applicants who did not take the GRE versus the number of international applicants who did take the GRE, but could not attend TSU due to lack of funding and visa-related issues; (c) Talking to prospective domestic applicants who have expressed their concern and unwillingness to take the GRE or complete the GRE requirement within the first semester of admission, even if admitted “conditionally,” due to their background and anxiety related to taking the standardized test; (d) Analyzing the GRE scores of domestic students who take the exam and observing a pattern of low scores in the Verbal/English component, which results in a composite GRE score that is lower than our required minimum of 289; and Observing the significant decrease in enrollment of students from Saudi Arabia since 2016, who were funded by their government.

Dr. Mosley stated that such decrease in enrollment, combined with the unwillingness of mostly domestic applicants to take the GRE, leads to further decline in enrollment in the Chemistry graduate program.

After a short discussion with Trustee Mitchell, Chair Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the admissions changes for the Master of Science in Chemistry as contained in the Board materials for the September 26, 2019, Board meeting. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion and it carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM NAME CHANGE FROM “FASHION MERCHANDISING” TO “FASHION DESIGN AND MERCHANDISING” CONCENTRATION WITHIN B.S. IN FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Chair Martin announced the next item on the agenda is the approval of an academic program name change from “Fashion Merchandising” to “Fashion Design and Merchandising”

Concentration within B.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences. She asked President Glover and her designees to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item.

Dr. Mosley informed the Committee that this was a Branding issue. She stated that several years prior, the Architectural Design portion of this degree was moved to the Art department, thus causing some ambiguity among the students.

Dr. Mosley explained that the Fashion Merchandising program at Tennessee State University prepares students for careers in the fashion industry. The curriculum includes more than just the concepts and practices involved in fashion merchandising at varying levels. She pointed out that courses engage students in science, technology, principles of product development, apparel

construction, consumer behavior, evaluation and merchandising. Changing the name of the concentration to "Fashion Design and Merchandising" better characterizes what the program offers and what the students learn in this program. This name change will increase awareness of the program to help increase enrollment.

Chair Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the academic program name change from "Fashion Merchandising" to "Fashion Design and Merchandising" concentration within B.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences, as contained in the Board materials for the Board's September 26, 2019, meeting. Trustee Lewis seconded and the motion carried.

VII. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

Chair Martin announced the next item on the agenda as the Academic Affairs Report. Information regarding this Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee agenda item is included in your board materials for September 26, 2019.

Chair Martin asked President Glover to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. This is an informational discussion item, so no vote is required.

President Glover deferred to Dr. Mosley to provide the report as her designee who then explained that there were two areas of good news: Two new Deans were now in place: *Dr. Jerri A. Haynes, Dean for College of Education*

Haynes comes to TSU from Fort Hays State University, where she was associate professor and assistant dean of the College of Education. Her appointment stems from a talented pool of educators, through a year-long search.

A prolific writer credited with a number of peer-reviewed professional articles, Haynes has a wealth of experience in higher education and K-12 administration. At Fort Hays State University, she also served as director of assessment and accreditation. Previously, she was ESOL coordinator and department chair at Bethune-Cookman University.

Dr. Ronald Barredo, Dean for College of Health Sciences

After a national search, Tennessee State University named Dr. Ronald Barredo, Dean of the College of Health Sciences. Dr. Barredo served as Chair in the Department of Physical Therapy. He possesses extensive experience as a practitioner and accreditation reviewer. He is instrumental in the opening of a student-run physical and occupational therapy clinic. The purpose of the clinic extends into the community to provide care for the underserved, uninsured, and underinsured.

Dr. Barredo is the principal investigator of grants, including one dedicated to the increase of underrepresented groups in STEM, resulting in the largest number of African Americans graduating with the Doctor of Physical Therapy in the state. He worked at several universities including Arkansas State University, Langston University, and the University of Phoenix.

Secondly, in the area of accreditation, Speech Pathology and Public Administration both secured continued accreditation for eight and seven years respectively.

Chair Martin thanked President Glover and her team for this good news.

VIII. REPORT ON COLLEGE AND DEPARTMENT ADVISORY BOARDS AT TSU

Chair Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the report on college and department advisory boards at TSU. The materials for this agenda item are included in the materials for the September 26, 2019, Board meeting.

Chair Martin asked President Glover and her designees to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. This is an informational discussion item, so no vote is required.

President Glover designated Dr. Mosley, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs to provide the report for this item as her designee.

The Report of College and Department Advisory Boards at TSU can be found in the Board materials dated September 26, 2019 from pages 96 to 98.

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 September 26, 2019.

Chair Martin asked President Glover to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. This is an informational discussion item, so no vote is required.

President Glover referred to this item as reflected in the Board materials dated September 26, 2019 starting on pages 101 through 102.

President Glover took this time to introduce the SGA President, Ms. Kayla Thompson. She also mention that Ms. Thompson had been working closely with Student Trustee Braxton Simpson. Following that introduction, President Glover then asked Associate Vice President / Dean Frank Stevenson to add to this report. He proceeded to highlight the fact that in addition to the tremendous accomplishments made by the Wellness Center (as noted on the aforementioned pages), there have been significant increase in the need for additional housing.

Dean Stevenson pointed out that currently we were at 8% over capacity in our residence halls and credits the rising cost of Nashville housing for this problem. He stated that students were not able to afford living in the city, so they have opted to stay on campus.

Dean Stevenson stated that more students are visiting the counselling center and wellness center. He also stated that binge drinking was on the rise recently and so a campaign has been started to help with alcohol abuse.

Chair Martin thanked Dean Stevenson for staying in front of these challenges faced by our students.

At this time, Dean Stevenson welcomed Student Trustee Braxton Simpson, who wanted to share a letter presented from the SGA. Trustee Simpson commented on the letter, including several issues /challenges faced by the students including the purge, financial aid and customer service. The Trustees engaged in a robust discussion regarding financial aid, student concerns, the

possible need for reorganization and changes to ensure the successful operation of financial aid and enrollment management, as well as providing acceptable customer service. Following the discussion, Chair Martin thanked President Glover and her team for the presentation.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Martin asked if there was any additional business. Seeing none, she then recommended a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Lewis and the meeting was adjourned.