



Board of Trustees News & Updates

2023 Summer Edition

TRUSTEES

Deborah Cole (Chair), Pamela Martin (Vice Chair), Steve Corbeil, Andre Johnson, Bill Johnson, Richard Lewis, Obie McKenzie, Van Pinnock, Joseph Walker, and Shaun Wimberly



Dr. Deborah A. Cole

Dear TSU Community and Supporters,

As chair of the Tennessee State University Board of Trustees, it is my pleasure to share our first newsletter, the 2023 Summer edition, regarding the Board's activities, including actions taken to ensure we continue to carry out our oversight and governance responsibilities, and further our role in moving the University forward. This is extremely important to me as a two-time graduate of this great institution. I welcome you to read this newsletter, which reflects a summary of our most recent board meeting. We will be providing newsletters over the course of this year, which you also can find at the Board of Trustees website on the Notices and News page.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah A. Cole".

TSU Board of Trustees Tackles Key Academic/Student, Financial, and Operational Issues at its June Meeting

On June 15, 2023, the Tennessee State University Board of Trustees conducted its regularly scheduled meeting, the final meeting of the fiscal year. The Board, including its Committees, made a series of appointments, received and discussed key report items, and approved important academic, budget and operational items critical to the University's success.

The Board's activities included approval of tenure and promotion recommendations, tuition and fees increases, and institutional budgets. The Board also received and discussed key reports on audit matters and activities, scholarships and enrollment, student housing, and the status of TSU's research funding and activities. In addition, the Trustees engaged in a deep dive discussion on the University's activities in response to the March 2023 Board Resolution pertaining to TSU's operations, discussed plans to continue Board development activities, and welcomed senior level personnel to the University. Some of these items are highlighted in this newsletter.

Board Appoints Chair, Vice Chair and Student Trustee, and announces Committee Membership and Faculty Trustee Appointments

The Board made a series of appointments at its June 15, 2023, meeting to ensure its ongoing momentum and progress on Board oversight of important operational matters. Trustee Deborah Cole was re-elected as Board Chair, and Trustee Pam Martin was re-elected to serve as the Board Vice Chair. Each will serve a two-year term.

In addition, the Board made several committee appointments to permit the Board's committees to continue their important work in key areas involving the University's student related, audit and financial, and academic operational matters. The Board also reappointed Trustee Shaun Wimberly to serve as Student Trustee for the upcoming year, and Board Chair Cole announced that Trustee Bill Johnson had been re-appointed to serve a two-year term as the Faculty Trustee.

Tenure and Promotion Recommendations and a New Proposed Academic Program Receive Unanimous Approval

TSU completed a comprehensive tenure and promotion review and approval process. Based on recommendations from President Glover, the Board approved 12 faculty members for tenure and 18 faculty members for promotion.



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Congratulations to these stellar faculty members!

The Board also approved the master's degree in Business Data Analytics academic program. This professional degree program seeks to develop a professional workforce that is prepared to address community and marketplace needs in the rapidly expanding data analytics field. With the Board's approval, the University will proceed to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's academic program approval process.

Trustees Receive Report and Conduct Deep Dive Discussion on University Administration's Progress on Board Resolution Items

Since its inception, the Board has taken an active role in oversight of TSU operations. Based on its ongoing Board self-assessment process and in response to the Comptroller's Report concerning TSU's operations, the Trustees approved a Resolution at the Board's March 2023 meeting to further enhance its oversight of TSU operational matters. The Board Resolution contained a 12-item action plan covering fiscal and operational matters, including enrollment, scholarships, housing, financial aid, personnel action and hiring, and customer service and responsiveness.

At the June 15, 2023, Board meeting, the Trustees conducted two deep-dive sessions into the University's progress in addressing the Board Resolution's 12-item action plan. President Glover reported on the progress on obtaining and providing data on enrollment, scholarships, and housing, the University's development of a personnel action plan, and the University's recent hiring of key operational personnel, including the Chief Operating Officer, Director of Internal Audit, Construction Management Director, and Assistant Vice President for Customer Relations.

President Glover also reported on University efforts to enhance its practices and responsiveness regarding student related communications, noting the hiring of the Assistant Vice President for Customer Relations and the assembling of a Customer Relations office. Board Chair Cole commended the work of the Board's Special Committee on Housing to address short-term and long-term student housing needs and plans.

President Glover will be providing an updated report on the University's activities related to the Board Resolution at the Board's September 14, 2023, meeting.

Board Takes In-Depth Look at Audit, Financial Budgets and Reports, and Tuition and Fees

The Board, through its Audit Committee, reviewed and approved the University's Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audit Plan. The University's Office of Internal Audit prepared the plan using a risk-based approach as required by the *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing*, issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors. The Trustees also reviewed outstanding audit issues to ensure University progress and resolution.

The Board approved the University's 2023 estimated and 2023 proposed budgets, and its Finance and Budget Committee received reports on student scholarships and enrollment and the Board's Housing Committee's activities. The proposed budget was nearly a 7% increase in combined instruction, research and academic support funding, which moves the University toward a target of 50% or more of funding being directed at instruction.

The Board also approved a tuition and fees increase to better align the University with other Tennessee universities.

Board Discusses On-going Self-Assessment and Makes Plans for a Board Development Session

The Board engaged an Association of Governing Boards (AGB) consultant to assess the Board's overall effectiveness, identify areas where the Board can enhance its effectiveness, and assist with the Board's ongoing self-assessment and development process. Through a report discussed at the Board's March 2023, meeting, the AGB consultant concluded, "[b]ased on information gathered during the review, the Board is operating effectively and in alignment with good governance practices." The consultant provided the Board with suggestions for achieving its goal of elevating its effectiveness.



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The Board announced at the June 15, 2023, meeting that it will continue its work with the AGB, including conducting a Board development related session with the AGB consultant ahead of its September 14, 2023, Board meeting.

The Trustees Hear a Report on TSU's Receipt of Nearly \$100 Million in Research Grant Awards

The University has been awarded a historic high for research grants, with awards totaling \$95,532,666. This surpasses the University's prior research grant awards record of \$70.7 million in 2021 (a 34% increase) and represents a 200% increase over the past five years.

New TSU Personnel Welcomed by Board

Trustees extended a warm welcome to new TSU personnel during their June 15, 2023, regular meeting. The University hired Chief Operating Officer, Lt. Gen. Jason Evans; Director of Internal Audit, Renee Williams; Associate Vice President for Design and Construction, William Radford; and Assistant Vice President of Customer Relations, Jessica Powell. COO Evans will oversee the University enrollment management efforts, conduct a review of personnel related organizational structure, and lead some other operational areas. Mr. Radford will assist the University with its planned growth and capital projects management. Ms. Powell will lead the University's efforts to provide exceptional customer service to students and their parents.

President Glover also reported to the Board that the University has filled three interim dean positions, and active searches are underway for two of three remaining interim dean positions. President Glover also shared that eight of nine department chair positions have been filled, and five associate and assistant dean positions have been filled.

President's Report

President Glover reported to the Board that the University holds a strong financial position. The endowment is \$97.6 million, which has more than doubled. The University's reserves are \$64 million, which is close to the highest the University has ever achieved. TSU's assets equal \$401 million, which is the highest ever. "This is our best financial position ever," Dr. Glover reported.

President Glover also reported on recent development and news involving TSU:

- Dr. Reginald McDonald, the Aristocrat of Bands, and the Sophisticated Ladies were recognized for their efforts, including the band's recent Grammy award and a recent performance by the groups at the White House and the Country Music Awards.
- Dr. Levi Watkins Institute creates a pipeline for students to become doctors and dentists.
- Apple – National Technology Innovation Center will serve as home to several technology initiatives that seek to bring coding and creativity (known as C2) experiences to historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and the Nashville community.

Next Board Meeting set for September 14, 2023

The Board of Trustees next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2023, with a development session scheduled for September 13, 2023.