

**Board of Trustees Meeting  
June 20, 2019  
Roaden University Center, Room 282**

**MINUTES**

**AGENDA ITEM I—CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The Tennessee Tech Board of Trustees met on June 20, 2019, in the Roaden University Center, Room 282. Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

Chair Jones asked Kae Carpenter, Secretary, to call the roll. The following members were present:

- Forest Allard
- Melissa Geist (by phone)
- Trudy Harper
- Rhedona Rose
- Purna Saggurti
- Johnny Stites
- Teresa Vanhooser
- Barry Wilmore
- Tom Jones

A quorum was physically in attendance.

Tennessee Tech faculty, staff, and members of the public were also in attendance.

**AGENDA ITEM II—RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Chair Jones stated that six Tennessee Tech students served as state legislative interns during the last academic year. He introduced Zachary Stephens, a Political Science major,

to talk about his experiences working for the Tennessee General Assembly in the office of Chairman Curtis Halford.

Mr. Stephens stated that Tennessee Tech provided hands-on experiences like the Tennessee General Assembly experience for its students, and he thanked everyone at Tennessee Tech who was involved in shaping him into being bold, fearless, and confident.

Chair Jones stated that this was his last meeting as Chair and he wanted to recognize a few people. He thanked Ms. Carpenter for her dedication and always being available. He thanked President Oldham for teaching him and stated that he admired and respected Dr. Oldham, and that was the reason it was such an honor to serve as Chair. He thanked Dr. Carl Owens for his support, his talks, his laughs, his wisdom, his insights, and his perspective and that he looked forward to continuing that friendship.

### **AGENDA ITEM III—APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Saggurti moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Stites seconded the motion. After an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, the motion carried unanimously.

### **AGENDA ITEM IV—ELECTION OF STUDENT TRUSTEE**

Chair Jones stated that the Focus Act required the Board to select a student as a non-voting member. He stated the Tennessee Tech Student Government Association (SGA) developed a process for selecting candidates to present to the Board for consideration. He stated that pursuant to the requirements established by the SGA, the candidate for the Trustee position cannot contemporaneously serve as an SGA officer.

Mr. Allard stated that earlier this year the Dean of Students, Dr. Katie Williams, SGA President Brad Sells, and he began searching for the next student trustee. He stated through this process, three candidates were selected. He stated two candidates had to drop out due to personal matters, leaving one candidate, Mr. Mason Hilliard, who had previously served as SGA president.

Mr. Hilliard stated that he was a Political Science major with a focus in Legal Studies and a double minor in History and Communication Studies. He stated that last year he served as president of SGA, which allowed him to interact with Tennessee Tech faculty, staff, administrators, and students. He stated that while serving as SGA president, he was appointed to various Tennessee Tech committees including the Provost Advisory Council, Student Affairs Committee, and Administrative Council. He stated this allowed him to

listen to and converse about current events and projects occurring on campus. He stated this experience allowed him to gain a broader perspective of what Tennessee Tech meant to all of its stakeholders. He stated he would be honored to serve Tennessee Tech as a trustee because he wanted to do what he could with what he had where he was.

Mr. Allard asked Mr. Hilliard to explain why mental health was one of the issues he believed needed to be addressed.

Mr. Hilliard stated that mental health had become a prevalent issue on campuses. He stated Tennessee Tech offered numerous mental health resources, but more could be done by discussing the problem and encouraging students to come forward and receive the needed help, which would improve students' time at Tennessee Tech.

Mr. Allard moved nominated Mr. Hilliard to serve as the next student trustee. Ms. Vanhooser seconded the motion. After an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **AGENDA ITEM V—PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Chair Jones stated that President Oldham recently received two honors. He stated that President Oldham was awarded the Corridor Champion Award by the Tennessee Valley Corridor; the award was presented to an individual who had demonstrated extraordinary leadership in advancing the Tennessee Valley Corridor. He stated that President Oldham had also been named to the NCAA Board of Directors, one of only five individuals from Tennessee Tech's division who served on the Board.

President Oldham stated that he appreciated both of the awards and he was honored to represent Tennessee Tech and the state of Tennessee in those efforts.

President Oldham thanked Chair Jones for his kind words regarding his last two years of service. He stated he could not think of a better inaugural Chairman. He thanked Mr. Allard for his service on the Board and for representing his fellow students. He welcomed Mr. Hilliard to the Board.

President Oldham stated there were a number of ongoing construction projects on campus, most of which would be completed in the near future. He stated that the new fitness center would likely be opened in February 2020. He stated the construction of the new laboratory science building was on schedule and portions of that building would be occupied in Fall 2020. He stated the library project and the refurbishment of Kittrell and Bartoo Halls were nearing completion. He stated that such significant progress was being

made in meeting the goals of the 2014 Campus Master Plan that another Master Plan was being developed. He stated Tennessee Tech's attention was now on landscaping and street scaping to improve mobility and aesthetic appeal. He stated this included new signage and redesigning Dixie Avenue to improve safety and student access. He stated that an Office of Parking and Transportation Services had been created, with no budget impact, to meet the needs of the students and staff.

President Oldham stated the Board had completed an educational session on budget and finance. He stated there were additional upcoming sessions to include sessions on enrollment, financial aid, career placement, and relationships with various auxiliary enterprises, like the University Foundation, Tech Farms, the golf course, etc. He stated he had just recently added a session on the Institutional Research Office and Data Access.

President Oldham stated the comprehensive fundraising campaign had surpassed the \$60,000,000 goal that was set five years ago, which was two years earlier than the intended completion of the campaign. He thanked Dr. Kevin Braswell, Advancement staff, and everyone involved. He stated Tennessee Tech was now turning its attention to the strategic fundraising goal that had been launched since the start of the campaign. He stated the new engineering building was at the top of the priority list, as well as the finished network for the science building, scholarships, etc.

President Oldham stated this year's legislative session was quite successful. He stated this was the second legislative session that Tennessee Tech had been through as an independent, locally governed institution. He stated Tennessee Tech was the top performing institution in the state and this gave Tennessee Tech a larger share of the funds per the funding formula. He stated Tennessee Tech also received a \$3,150,000 appropriation for the planning phase of the new engineering project. He stated Tennessee Tech also received the third and final installment of \$2,100,000 in recurring funding related to Tennessee Tech's Carnegie classification as a doctoral research institution.

President Oldham stated that three new deans had been hired: Dr. Kim Hanna, School of Nursing; Dr. Joseph Slater, College of Engineering; and Dr. Darron Smith, College of Agriculture and Human Ecology.

President Oldham stated that for the third consecutive year, Tennessee Tech had graduated over 2,500 students, which was the goal of the 2010 Complete College Tennessee Act.

President Oldham stated there had been a variety of factors that contributed to the enrollment concerns. He stated most factors were external to the campus, but some factors indicated that Tennessee Tech needed to respond in meaningful ways and in a

timely fashion. He stated that a full-time recruiter in Nashville and a full-time community college recruiter had been hired to assist in making students in those areas aware of Tennessee Tech. He stated that Tennessee Tech had created a stronger presence in Middle Tennessee through use of billboards, commercial spots, and other advertising. He stated that Tennessee Tech would begin to migrate into additional messaging that might have been missed in past years. He stated that a full study of Tennessee Tech's recruitment efforts would ultimately result in an overall strategic enrollment plan. He stated these efforts would be on-going and Tennessee Tech would begin to see changes in enrollment in the future.

President Oldham stated that since his arrival to campus in 2012, the number of faculty had increased 16 percent, or by 61 new faculty positions. He stated full-time faculty salaries had increased 15 percent, from \$64,000 to \$74,000. He stated the six-year graduation rate had increased from 50 percent to 55 percent. He stated externally-based research funding had increased over 50 percent, from \$12,000,000 in awards to over \$19,000,000.

President Oldham stated he was excited to announce that in addition to Marc Burnett's current duties as Vice President for Student Affairs, Mr. Burnett would also be serving as the Chief Diversity Officer for Tennessee Tech. He stated that Mr. Burnett had also decided to announce his retirement effective at the end of this calendar year. He stated Mr. Burnett would serve as chief diversity officer for six months prior to his retirement and would make significant strides toward diversity at Tennessee Tech during that time.

Ms. Harper asked how hard it would be for Tennessee Tech to maintain the R2 Carnegie designation going forward.

President Oldham stated that every three years, Carnegie would confirm whether Tennessee Tech had at least 28 PhD graduates and had at least \$5,000,000 in research expenditures. He stated that Tennessee Tech graduated 26 PhD students and had \$19,000,000 in research expenditures last year.

President Oldham stated Dr. Jeff Boles, Chair of the Chemistry Department, was the faculty lead of the strategic plan implementation. He stated that the four working group chairs were Dr. Jason Beach of Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Ann Davis of Accounting, Dr. Ed Lisic of Chemistry, and Dr. Bedelia Russell of Nursing. He stated these four individuals were providing the leadership, but there were over 80 faculty, staff, and student individuals working on the strategic plan initiatives. President Oldham introduced Dr. Jason Beach to speak.

Dr. Beach stated that one of the original goals of this process was to create a new method to approach strategic planning at Tennessee Tech with a campus-wide focus. He stated that the working groups included outside partners and members of all avenues at Tennessee Tech. He stated the areas of focus were diversity, online learning, career readiness, workforce responsiveness, faculty support to encourage innovation, and improvement of the effectiveness and efficiency of operations that would benefit all students. He stated the working group chairs had worked closely with the implementation steering committee to identify and remove barriers. He stated proposals were broken down into quick impact and big impact projects. He stated the quick impact proposals were ideas that could be implemented quickly to improve Tennessee Tech. He stated these ideas included the Study Abroad Proposal, which was designed to develop contracts with education touring companies to explore cultural education opportunities for students. He stated the Efficiencies for Students Proposal improved the graduation process for students. He stated the Facilities Improvement Proposal reduced duplication of work orders, implemented an asset management system, and helped track decisions on items that should be repaired or replaced. He stated the Workforce Database Proposal was designed to provide a database for faculty members to design and build new programs, which would include data from local, state, and international data sources. He stated the Online Student Orientation Proposal was an online portal where students could access web resources for both the undergraduate and graduate level.

Dr. Beach stated the big impact proposals focused on increased student diversity. He stated this would be accomplished through the implementation of the chief diversity officer at the cabinet level and diversity liaisons that worked with the administration to improve communication about diversity scholarships. He stated that a College of Online Education was also proposed, which would create an assistant provost position of online education that would work closely with the faculty and deans to improve the online curriculum offerings. He stated the Café was a faculty professional development resource that would provide online training to help improve curriculum for the faculty and would engage and improve both traditional classroom environments and online classroom environments. He stated this would also work in conjunction with the College of Online Education to aid faculty development and curriculum. He stated the Grand Challenge, the Rural Reimagined Proposal, had been processed over the summer. He stated this proposal included a process to receive proposals from the campus and community, establishment of GenR student ambassadors, curriculum focused on Rural Reimagined Projects, and an interactive web presence where students could track their impact in the rural communities.

Ms. Harper asked if the College of Online Education was a separate college or if it was a resource for education majors.

Dr. Beach stated the College of Online Education would function like the College of Graduate Studies and would work with each individual college. He stated the college would be responsible for designing and developing the curriculum and proposing the programs, and the College of Online Education would help facilitate this by providing data on the best demographics for certain colleges, targeting new populations, etc.

President Oldham stated that through the strategic plan, Tennessee Tech was claiming their identity for the people of this region and the state of Tennessee. He stated Tennessee Tech was the university for real people, who wanted a real education, and who were looking for a real career.

#### **AGENDA ITEM VI.A—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—REPORT**

Chair Jones stated the Executive Committee was responsible for approving the guidelines related to removal of email addresses of former employees and/or students. He stated the Executive Committee approved the guidelines and the email addresses would soon be reviewed.

Chair Jones stated the Executive Committee was responsible for organizing and conducting an annual performance review of the President. He stated that, as part of this responsibility, the Executive Committee established a timeline for completion of the process and approved a Board Assessment Questionnaire and a Cabinet Assessment Questionnaire. He stated that Ms. Harper was the Executive Committee Representative responsible for completing the President's performance review process.

Chair Jones stated that during the April 1, 2019, Sunrise Hearing for Tennessee Tech's Board of Trustees, the House Government Operations Committee Chairperson requested the Board allow speakers to address the Board without requiring advance notice. He stated that Tennessee Tech Board Bylaw 5.4 required a person to request to address the Board 15 days in advance of the meeting, absent good cause, and to identify the subject matter to be addressed. Chair Jones stated that after discussion, the Executive Committee was not recommending a change to the bylaw.

#### **AGENDA ITEM VI.B.1—TTU POLICY 110 (ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS) AND RULE**

Chair Jones stated that in December 2018, the Board approved a policy and rule related to access to public records. He stated that consistent with the law, the policy and rule required proof of Tennessee citizenship to access public records. He stated that prior to the rule becoming effective, interested parties requested a hearing on certain provisions in the rule, including the requirement of proof of Tennessee citizenship. He stated that the

hearing was conducted in February and now the comments and staff recommendations were being presented for the Board's consideration. He stated that the policy and rule were the same policy and rule approved by the Board in December 2018 except for the following: The provision was added to the policy and rule to make clear that a person's classification as a Tennessee citizen for the purpose of accessing public records was not a basis for classification as an in-state student for purposes of tuition, fees, or admission. He stated that a provision was added to the policy and rule to allow the requestor to photograph 25 pages without incurring a charge.

Ms. Harper moved to approve TTU Policy 110 and Rule as proposed after consideration of public comments received and the staff's recommendations related to those comments. Mr. Saggurti seconded the motion. After an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **AGENDA ITEM VI.B.2—ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE BOARD FOR THE JULY 1, 2019-JUNE 30, 2021, TERM**

Chair Jones stated the Executive Committee wished to nominate Ms. Harper for the position of Board chairperson. He asked the Board if there were any other nominations. With no other nominations, Ms. Harper accepted the nomination.

Ms. Vanhooser moved that Ms. Harper be nominated for the position of Board Chair for the July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2021 term. Mr. Stites seconded the motion. After an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, the motion carried unanimously with Ms. Harper abstaining from the vote.

#### **AGENDA ITEM VII.A—AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—REPORT**

Ms. Vanhooser stated that the Audit & Business Committee discussed the 2019-2020 faculty promotions report. She stated that Dr. Claire Stinson provided an update on the final approved state capital budget for 2019-2020. She stated the Audit & Business Committee reviewed TTU Policy 132 (Conflict of Interest) and its substantive revisions.



**AGENDA ITEM VII.B—AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—CONSENT AGENDA—TENURE RECOMMENDATIONS AND PRESIDENTS EMERITI CONTRACTS**

Ms. Vanhooser moved to approve the Tenure Recommendations and Presidents Emeriti Contracts items on the Consent Agenda. Ms. Rose seconded the motion. After an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, the motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM VII.C—AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—REGULAR AGENDA**

**Agenda Item VII.C.1—Approval of Disclosed Projects & FY2020-21 Capital Budget**

Ms. Vanhooser stated that the Audit and Business Committee reviewed and approved the disclosed projects and the FY2021 capital budget request. Ms. Vanhooser moved the Board approve the disclosed projects and the FY2021 capital budget request. Ms. Rose seconded the motion. After an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, the motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item VII.C.2— Maintenance and Mandatory Fees**

Ms. Vanhooser moved the Board approve the recommended FY2019-2020 maintenance and mandatory fees. Ms. Rose seconded the motion. After an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, the motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item VII.C.3—Non-mandatory Online & Alternative Delivery Fee**

Ms. Vanhooser moved the Board approve the recommended non-mandatory online delivery and alternative fee. Ms. Rose seconded the motion. After an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, the motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item VII.C.4—2018-19 Estimated and 2019-20 Proposed Budgets**

Ms. Vanhooser moved the Board approve the FY2018-2019 estimated budget and the FY2019-2020 proposed budgets. Ms. Rose seconded the motion. After an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, the motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM VIII.A—ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—TTU POLICY 205 (FACULTY TENURE)**

Mr. Stites moved to approve TTU Policy 205 (Faculty Tenure). Ms. Harper asked if the motion was to approve the policy as it was revised and approved in the Academic & Student Affairs Committee. Chair Jones answered yes. Ms. Harper seconded the motion.

After an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, the motion carried unanimously.

### **AGENDA ITEM VIII.B—ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—TTU POLICY 207 (TENURED FACULTY)**

Chair Jones stated the next item was the approval of Policy 207 (Tenured Faculty). Dr. Geist stated she was concerned about the wording in Section VIII.C.2 because it seemed to diminish the importance of the involvement of the Senate President and Faculty Trustee.

Chair Jones read the following statement from Policy 207 (Tenured Faculty), Section VIII.C.2, "In cases related to 'adequate cause', as defined in Section VIII.B.5-8, the Provost shall, after conferring with the Faculty Senate President, and the Faculty Trustee, make a recommendation to the President as to whether the evidence supports a conclusion of a violation of policy or policies or otherwise is adequate cause for termination." He stated this was not a vote, it was the Provost conferring with the specified people before making a recommendation. Dr. Geist agreed to the revision, but stated she did not want the role of the Faculty Trustee and the Faculty Senate President to be diminished.

Mr. Saggurti stated his expectation was that those three people would debate the matter but they do not have to come to a consensus. He stated that the Provost would then make a recommendation to the President and share with the President any differences of opinion. He stated that, ultimately, the President would make the final decision.

Dr. Geist stated the next step would be a hearing, which was the correct next step. She stated that she wanted to clarify there would be a discussion between the Provost and the Faculty Trustee, with a recommendation presented to the President, followed by a hearing.

Chair Jones proposed that the words be revised from "make a recommendation" to "share recommendations" to include the recommendations from the Faculty President and the Faculty Trustee.

President Oldham stated that he agreed with the revision. He stated as President he would want to hear the recommendations from the Faculty Senate President and the Faculty Trustee.

Dr. Geist stated it was important for the Board to know that the faculty group that worked on the policy understood the need for this policy and the policy was heavily debated in the Faculty Senate.

Chair Jones stated the Academic & Student Affairs Committee added “or any other reason not listed” to Section VIII.C.2 and the same phrase needed to be added to Section VIII.E. The only other new amendment was changing “make a recommendation” to “share the recommendations.”

Ms. Harper moved to approve TTU Policy 207 (Tenured Faculty) as revised. Mr. Stites seconded the motion. After an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, the motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM VIII.C—ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—TTU POLICY 282 (GRADUATE FACULTY APPOINTMENT AND RESPONSIBILITIES)**

Ms. Harper moved that the Board approve TTU Policy 282 (Graduate Faculty Appointment and Responsibilities) as proposed. Mr. Saggurti seconded the motion. After an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, the motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM VIII.D—ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Ms. Harper moved the Board approve undergraduate admission requirements as proposed. Mr. Saggurti seconded the motion. After an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, the motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM VIII.E—ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—TTU POLICY 302 (STUDENT CONDUCT) AND RULE**

Chair Jones stated that the administration had requested the Board delay consideration of this rule to allow Tennessee Tech to hold a public hearing and to receive and consider comments on the rule before presenting it to the Board for approval at the September 24, 2019, board meeting.

Action on the item was deferred without objection.

**AGENDA ITEM IX—OTHER BUSINESS**

Chair Jones recognized Forrest Allard as the Student Representative and thanked him for his passion and eloquence.

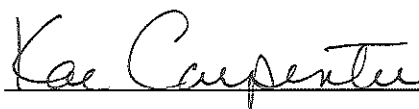
Chair Jones recognized Dr. Geist as the first Faculty Trustee to serve on the Board and thanked her for commitment and devotion to the Board.

Chair Jones stated the next Faculty Trustee would be Dr. Sally Pardue, whose term would begin July 1, 2019.

**AGENDA ITEM X—ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kae Carpenter". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Kae Carpenter, Secretary