



Board of Trustees Meeting
March 12, 2020
Roaden University Center, Room 282

MINUTES

AGENDA ITEM 1—CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Tennessee Tech Board of Trustees met in regular session on March 12, 2020, in Roaden University Center, Room 282. Chair Trudy Harper called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

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

- Mason Hilliard
- Tom Jones
- Fred Lowery
- Sally Pardue
- Rhedona Rose
- Purna Saggurti participated by phone and confirmed that he could simultaneously hear and speak to the Board members, that he was the only person present in the location from which he was calling, and that he received the Board materials in advance of the meeting.
- Johnny Stites
- Teresa Vanhooser
- Barry Wilmore
- Trudy Harper

A quorum was physically in attendance.

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

Chair Harper stated that she would like to express Tennessee Tech's sadness for those who suffered losses resulting from the recent tornados. She stated Diane Smith would be accepting donations from Trustees to help those who were impacted. She stated that the Foundation Board planned to match up to \$100,000 for the student fund.

Chair Harper stated there were four current board members whose appointments were in the process of being confirmed by the Tennessee General Assembly. She stated that these members included Ms. Vanhooser, Ms. Rose, Mr. Lowery, and Mr. Stites. She stated that these members have completed their confirmation hearings with both houses. She stated that, if confirmed, Ms. Vanhooser, Ms. Rose, and Mr. Stites will serve on the Board until June 30, 2025. She stated that Mr. Lowery was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board and his current term will end June 30, 2020.

AGENDA ITEM 2—SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT AND FACULTY EXCELLENCE

Chair Harper welcomed Dr. Stephen Canfield and the Mechanical Engineering (ME) 3610 team. She stated that these engineering students and others in Dr. Canfield's class helped children and families in the Upper Cumberland region who were associated with the Tennessee Early Intervention System. She stated that students spent time with the children and families, used creativity, skill, and energy to assess their needs with feeding, mobility, play, and other developmental activities, and built devices that were not otherwise available.

Dr. Canfield introduced students Megan Wesemann, Chris Gray, and Shelby Kilgore and stated that Steven De Troye and Dayro Martinez were unable to be present. A video was played highlighting the work of Dr. Canfield's ME 3610 students during fall semester.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Jones moved to approve the December 5, 2020, meeting minutes. Ms. Vanhooser seconded the motion. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, the motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 4—PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Oldham stated it was an honor to be at Tennessee Tech because of the stellar students and faculty. He stated that Tennessee Tech always strived to be relevant, and examples such as the ME 3610 project showed how Tennessee Tech was trying to change lives.

President Oldham stated that early on the morning of March 3, 2020, Putnam County sustained major damage resulting from an EF-4 tornado. He stated that campus was spared and received no damage, but many friends, neighbors, and campus personnel were greatly affected. He stated that the campus was closed for two days in recognition of the effect on campus personnel and students and to enable a day of service for students. He stated there were over 1,000 student volunteers, and likely many more that were not included in the official count. He stated he was proud Tennessee Tech was able to play a part in the recovery of Putnam County and would continue to do so in the coming months.

President Oldham stated that Tennessee Tech was making contingency plans for the Covid-19 pandemic. He stated that Tennessee Tech continued to receive advice from the Center for Disease Control and state and regional public health officials to make the best decisions on behalf of the campus. He stated that a task force, chaired by Dr. Rob Owens, was meeting twice weekly to monitor the situation and to ensure Tennessee Tech was prepared for all possible scenarios and an announcement would be made later that afternoon on additional steps that the campus would take.

President Oldham stated that his wife, Kari Oldham, created Wings of Kindness to recognize those among Tennessee Tech who have gone above and beyond by showing kindness to the campus and community. He stated the first recipient was Jake Hoot, a local Tennessee Tech alumnus, who was recently the winner of The Voice. He stated more recipients and recognitions would be made in the future.

President Oldham stated that enrollment and diversity were key areas of focus this year. He stated that a Strategic Enrollment Management Plan was developed and led by Dr. Johnson. He stated that the overall target enrollment goal by fall 2025 would be 12,000 students, the target for first-time freshman enrollment for fall 2020 would be 2,000 students, and the target for transfer enrollment for fall 2020 would be 800 students. He stated the diversity goal by fall 2025 would be 22 percent, which represented an increase over the fall 2019 rate of 17 percent.

Mr. Stites asked how much Tennessee Tech could grow enrollment with its current footprint. President Oldham stated the current campus master plan would accommodate an enrollment of more than 12,000 students.

President Oldham stated that Tennessee Tech ranked second in the funding formula this year. He stated that the highest budget priority for the legislature was to fully fund the funding formula. He stated that the engineering building was also a high priority, and he anticipated this project would be fully funded this year. President Oldham stated that the new engineering building had a goal of \$8,250,000 as a matching commitment, and \$5,000,000 had already been raised.

President Oldham stated that this was the last of a four-year commitment for cybersecurity funding from the state. He stated that Dr. Ambareen Siraj was the lead faculty member in cybersecurity, and she testified recently before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology in Cybersecurity Workforce.

President Oldham stated that Tennessee Tech was exploring a public/private partnership to develop the west end of campus near Sherlock Park with a residence hall built around an innovation theme. He stated this residence hall would include 300 beds and a lower level with an innovation maker space, such as an iCube facility. He stated this would be a \$30,000,000 project. He stated this also would create space for rental opportunities for companies in the region that desire to interact with students directly through internships or innovation projects. He stated Tennessee Tech was still looking for the right partner for this project.

President Oldham stated that the search for the Vice President for Research had been completed. He stated that the search committee made recommendations and negotiations were currently under way with a candidate. He stated that the Office for Research completed its internal assessment and the new Vice President would review and oversee any changes. He stated that over \$20,000,000 in research grants were activated for FY2019. He stated the goal was to increase that figure to \$40,000,000 by FY2026.

President Oldham stated that progress had been made on the strategic plan. He stated that there were still projects under implementation, but the faculty was working hard to bring these projects to fruition.

President Oldham stated that the Rural Reimagined program had over 1,000 students and 50 faculty members involved in over 50 projects. He stated that some of the projects included exploring new cash crops for rural landowners, addressing unique needs of rural healthcare, improving writing instruction in the Upper Cumberland, and the leading the Rural Area Medical Clinic that provided free dental and medical care. He stated that an announcement of partnerships with more rural communities would be made soon.

President Oldham stated that student career culture was beginning to change on campus. He stated there were two tracks of career readiness certification programs, Careers n' Coffee employer events, and the Handshake account, available to help students apply for internships. He stated the Spring Engineering Fair had over 160 employers and 800-1,000 students interviewed with those companies.

President Oldham stated that Tennessee Tech was continuing to clarify and simplify information for students to be successful, gain more transparency and predictability, and

focus on the best student-to-career path. He stated that students that graduate sooner pay less and earn more money, which was the goal of the flat rate tuition model that the Board would vote on later in the meeting. He stated that Tech Promise ensured Tennessee Tech education was accessible and affordable to any academically qualified student and that economic hardship should not be a deterrent. He stated the Board took steps to lower out-of-state tuition to give more opportunities to out-of-state students.

Chair Harper stated that during the Academic & Student Affairs Committee meeting the Board members discussed at length the pandemic and its effect on Tennessee Tech's operations.

AGENDA ITEM 5.A—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION AND REPORT—RECOMMENDATION—PRESIDENT'S PERFORMANCE-BASED PAY ADJUSTMENT

Chair Harper stated that TTU Policy 005 (Board Committees) specified that the Executive Committee was responsible for making a recommendation related to the President's performance-based pay adjustment. She stated that the Executive Committee made a recommendation of a 1.012 percent increase to the President's salary and a 4.11 percent bonus.

Ms. Vanhooser moved to approve the 1.012 percent increase to the President's salary and the 4.11 percent bonus. Mr. Stites seconded the motion.

Dr. Pardue stated that the Board had a responsibility to ensure all employees were recognized at Tennessee Tech for their high performance.

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

AGENDA ITEM 5.B.1.a—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION AND REPORT—REPORT—PRESIDENT'S PERFORMANCE REVIEW FOR FY20—APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

Chair Harper stated that the upcoming President's performance review procedure outlined how the Executive Committee would handle the President's review and the Chairman could appoint a representative of the Executive Committee to complete the review. Chair Harper stated she appointed Ms. Vanhooser to conduct the President's performance review for FY2020.

AGENDA ITEM 5.B.1.b—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION AND REPORT—REPORT—PRESIDENT’S PERFORMANCE REVIEW FOR FY20—SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION OF PERFORMANCE REVIEW PROCESS

Chair Harper stated that a schedule was approved for this review that was available to all Board members.

AGENDA ITEM 5.B.1.c—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION AND REPORT—REPORT—PRESIDENT’S PERFORMANCE REVIEW FOR FY20—APPROVAL OF BOARD AND CABINET ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRES

Chair Harper stated that the Executive Committee approved questionnaires that would be used by the Cabinet and the Board to assess the President’s performance.

AGENDA ITEM 5.B.2—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION AND REPORT—REPORT—DISCUSSION OF PERIODIC COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE PRESIDENT

Chair Harper reminded the Board members that on the second anniversary after the first assessment of the President, occurring at the end of the upcoming summer, the Board would consider if a comprehensive review should be performed. She stated this would be a review that included input from the entire campus community to include students, community members, and others. She stated that the challenge was the cost of the process because a consultant must be hired to complete the comprehensive review. She stated that at this time, she believed this review did not need to be completed. She stated that she would like to do a salary survey for the President that compared responsibilities, salaries, and total compensation packages. She stated that she also would like to have a more comprehensive review of faculty and staff salaries, and Dr. Crickenberger was currently working on this. She stated that she hoped by the end of summer the Board would have a more holistic view of the salaries of employees at Tennessee Tech.

AGENDA ITEM 6.A.1: AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—REPORT—SALE OF W. CLYDE FARM LOT

Mr. Stites stated that the Audit & Business Committee discussed the sale of the W. Clyde Farm Lot for the purpose of building a fire station.

AGENDA ITEM 6.A.2: AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—REPORT—GENERIC NAMING OF BUILDINGS AND ROADWAY

Mr. Stites stated that the Audit & Business Committee discussed the generic naming of buildings and a roadway. He stated the current fitness center was renamed the “Academic Wellness Center,” the new fitness center was named the “Student Recreation Center,” the lab science building was named the “Laboratory Science Commons,” and 8th Street, which runs through campus, was named “Wings Up Way”.

AGENDA ITEM 6.A.3: AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—REPORT—UPDATE ON GOVERNOR’S BUDGET

Mr. Stites stated that the Governor’s proposed budget requested a recurring state appropriations increase to \$3,630,100 and a salary pool was \$1,349,100. He stated that the requested appropriation for the final year of the four-year NSF grant for cybersecurity was \$500,000, and \$43,500,00 was identified for the new engineering building. He stated that a request for \$2,100,000 was included for Roof Placement Phase 4 and a request for \$3,000,000 was included for Building Control Upgrades Phase 1.

AGENDA ITEM 6.A.4: AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—REPORT—NOTICE OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PREVENTING, DETECTING, AND REPORTING FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE

Mr. Stites stated that a notice with regard to preventing, detecting, and reporting fraud, waste, and abuse was added to the board book for the Board to review.

AGENDA ITEM 6.B.1: AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—REGULAR AGENDA—LAND DISPOSAL BY EASEMENT

Mr. Stites, upon the Audit & Business Committee’s recommendation, moved the Board approve the disposal of land for temporary construction easement and permanent sewer collection and disposal easement on North Franklin Avenue as described in the board book. Mr. Jones seconded the motion.

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

AGENDA ITEM 6.B.2: AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—REGULAR AGENDA—FLAT-RATE TUITION MODEL AND TECH PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP

Mr. Stites, upon the Audit & Business Committee's recommendation, moved the Board approve the flat-rate tuition of \$4,530 per semester for students taking 12 or more credit hours and \$319 per credit hour for students taking 11 or fewer credit hours and to apply these rates to all incoming new undergraduate students effective fall 2020, as well as approve a Tech Promise scholarship to pay the last dollar of tuition and mandatory fees for up to eight semesters. He stated the students receiving the Tech Promise scholarships must be full-time undergraduate students, assessed tuition under the flat-rate tuition plan, at the family adjusted gross income level of less than or equal to \$40,000, and be receiving both the HOPE scholarship and Pell grants. Mr. Lowery seconded the motion.

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

AGENDA ITEM 7.A.1.a: ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION—REPORT—PROVOST'S REPORT—VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH UPDATE

Ms. Rose stated that Provost Bruce provided an update on the status of the search for a new Vice President for Research and shared information related to academic program reviews, quality assurance funding, as well as new academic minors, concentrations, and certificates. She stated that Provost Bruce also made the Committee aware of the measures taking place on campus to ensure there was continuity of instruction should the need arise to provide instruction entirely online.

AGENDA ITEM 7.A.2: ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION—REPORT—ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

Ms. Rose stated that Dr. Braswell provided an update on the fundraising activities for the new engineering building.

AGENDA ITEM 7.A.3: ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION—REPORT—ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

Ms. Rose stated that Dr. Johnson reported Tennessee Tech was slightly up in enrollment applications. She stated that Dr. Johnson also shared information about some of the various recruitment events and activities held over the last several months.

AGENDA ITEM 7.A.4: ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION—REPORT—ATHLETICS UPDATE

Ms. Rose stated that President Oldham reported for Mr. Wilson and provided an update on a California case and the impact it had on the definition of names, images, and likenesses and also on state legislation related to student athletes taking place in Tennessee and across the country.

AGENDA ITEM 7.B: ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION—RECOMMENDATION—TTU POLICY 171 (PROHIBITION ON SMOKING AND ELECTRONIC NICOTINE AND NON-NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS)

Ms. Rose moved that, upon the Academic & Student Affairs Committee’s recommendation, the Board approve TTU Policy 171 (Prohibition on Smoking and Electronic Nicotine and Non-Nicotine Delivery Systems). Mr. Jones seconded the motion.

Captain Wilmore inquired if the policy would be reviewed every two years and was advised that it would be.

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

AGENDA ITEM 8: ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

Approved,



Kae Carpenter, Secretary