



BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

June 23, 2020

**Meeting via teleconference and streamed live via link found on the Board
web page:**

<https://www.tntech.edu/board/meetings/2020-06-23-board-meeting.php>

MINUTES

AGENDA ITEM 1—CALL TO ORDER

The Tennessee Tech Board of Trustees Academic and Student Affairs Committee met on June 23, 2020 via teleconference. Chair Rhedona Rose called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

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

- Fred Lowery
- Barry Wilmore
- Mason Hilliard
- Rhedona Rose

All participating Trustees confirmed that they could simultaneously hear and speak to the Board members, that they received the Board materials in advance of the meeting, and all confirmed that they were the only person present in the location from which they were calling. A quorum was in attendance but not physically present.

Other board members also participated by teleconference. The meeting audio was streamed live on the Board's website.

AGENDA ITEM 2—DETERMINATION OF NECESSITY

Chair Rose stated pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated Section 8-44-108(b)(3) that a determination of necessity was required since a quorum was not physically present. She stated that the Committee meeting was required to consider several important and time-sensitive matters, including but not limited to, emergency rules, tenure recommendations, and budgets.

She stated that the Committee was meeting via teleconference in recognition of the need to limit personal contact during the COVID-19 Pandemic and in keeping with Executive Order 38 related to the pandemic. She stated these facts and circumstances necessitated that a meeting be held without a quorum being physically present. Trustee Wilmore moved that a determination of necessity existed to allow Committee members to participate by electronic means. Trustee Lowery seconded the motion. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Ms. Carpenter called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Rose asked if there were any recommendations or changes to the minutes. With no recommendations or changes, Trustee Lowery moved that the Committee approve the March 12, 2020 Academic and Student Affairs Committee Minutes as presented. Trustee Wilmore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – REVIEW AND UPDATE REGARDING CAMPUS COVID-19 RESPONSE

Dr. Robert Owens shared an update on Student Affairs including fall housing, the Counseling Center, Health Services, and the new student recreation center. In the fall housing update he shared the specifics of the Cooper-Dunn renovation and the isolation housing plans for COVID-19. He also shared that the Counseling Center was offering tele-counseling, Health Services was offering tele-health services and had enhanced their COVID-19 testing capabilities, and the new student recreation center was scheduled to have a soft opening on July 6, 2020.

Dr. Brandon Johnson shared an update on Enrollment Management and Career Placement. He stated that efforts continue, as the uncertainty continues as to what recruitment will look like for the next cycle, to find creative ways to influence and inform prospective students and their families. He discussed how they launched a variety of virtual strategies like an overview presentation for “visitors”, tour of campus, one-on-one meetings, virtual high school visits, developed two new web pages, launched social media campaigns tailored to admitted and prospective students utilizing video of faculty, staff, and students, and extended the transfer scholarship deadline by one month as a COVID-19 accommodation.

Provost Bruce discussed the establishment of task forces to help put into place the best plans and procedures to ensure academic success and personal well-being in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. She stated that five key areas were identified for Academic Affairs, each with a task force conducting extensive planning. She stated that the five areas include Hybrid Courses, chaired by Bedelia Russell, Associate Professor of Nursing and Interim Director of CITL; Large Sections/Social Distancing, chaired by Mark Stephens, Professor and Associate Provost; Logistics/Pedestrian Flow, chaired by Jerry Gannod, Professor and Chair of Computer Science; Policies/Procedures, chaired by Christy Killman, Professor and Chair of Exercise Science; and Student Success, chaired by Ed Lisic, Professor of Chemistry. Each task force is made up of a mixture of faculty, staff, and students with additional representatives from Enrollment Management, Student Affairs, Budget, Facilities, or others.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – ACADEMIC PROGRAM UPDATES

Provost Bruce shared academic program updates with the Board, highlighting the Department of Decision Sciences and Management converting a concentration to major in Business Information Technology and the Department of Curriculum and Instruction creating a new graduate level certificate and licensure endorsement for Computer Science.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSAL, M.S. IN COMMUNITY HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Provost Bruce stated that the new degree program for which approval is sought is Community Health and Nutrition Master of Science Degree (MS) led by faculty in the School of Human Ecology in the College of Agriculture and Human Ecology. She stated that the program will be delivered online and that the purpose of this degree program is to provide advanced content knowledge in rural community health for credentialed nutrition and dietetics professionals who seek a graduate degree, as well as undergraduate dietetics students who seek to achieve Registered Dietitian/Nutritionists (RDN) certification combined with a graduate degree.

Trustee Lowery moved to send the New Academic Program Proposal for an M.S. in Community Health and Nutrition, as presented, to the Board for approval and to be placed on the Board's regular agenda. Trustee Wilmore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – TTU POLICY 1204 (INSTITUTIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS)

Dr. Brandon Johnson stated that the purpose of this policy is to provide consistency and fairness with regard to the strategic use of scholarships awarded to students. Revisions to this policy were made to ensure consistency and fairness with of institutional scholarships and grants awarded to students while allowing the University to use data points gathered throughout the application for admission and financial aid processes to determine eligibility for admission scholarships and need-based grants.

Trustee Wilmore moved to send TTU Policy 1204, Institutional Scholarships, as presented, to the Board for approval and to be placed on the Board's consent agenda. Trustee Lowery seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – TTU EMERGENCY RULE 0240-09-01 STUDENT CONDUCT AND TTU POLICY 302 (STUDENT CONDUCT)

Dr. Katherine Williams stated that on May 6, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education published its final regulations related to Title IX sex discrimination and sexual harassment procedures. These new regulations, which go into effect August 14, 2020, make substantial changes to the procedures and processes used by institutions to address sexual harassment. She stated that this new federal regulation necessitates further revisions to the previously approved Student Conduct Rule. The Student Conduct Rule was revised to remove references to sexual harassment or sexual misconduct that fall within the scope of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and TTU Policy 302 (Student Conduct) is revised to reflect those changes in the rule. Title IX matters will be addressed by a separate rule. She also stated that Tennessee Tech must file emergency rules in order to comply with the Title IX final regulations

before the implementation deadline of August 14, 2020. An emergency rule is a rule that becomes effective upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Trustee Lowery moved to send TTU Emergency Rule 0240-09-01, Student Conduct, and TTU Policy 302, Student Conduct, as presented, to the Board for approval and to be placed on the Board's regular agenda. Trustee Wilmore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

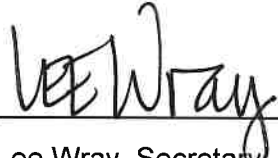
AGENDA ITEM 9 – OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

AGENDA ITEM IX – ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

Approved,

 09.30.20

Lee Wray, Secretary