



## **Executive Committee**

**March 11, 2021**

**Roaden University Center, Room 282**

**8:30 a.m.**

### **MINUTES**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 1—CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The Tennessee Tech Executive Committee met on March 11, 2021, in the Roaden University Center, Room 282. Chair Harper called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

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

- Tom Jones
- Teresa Vanhooser
- Trudy Harper

#### **AGENDA ITEM 2—APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Jones moved to approve the December 1, 2021, minutes. Ms. Vanhooser seconded the motion. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 3—APPROVAL OF ROBERT OWENS FOR CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER POSITION**

Chair Harper stated that Dr. Robert Owens had over 15 years in progressive senior administrative roles at Tennessee Tech. He was currently serving as Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Director of Minority Affairs. A request had been made to approve Dr. Owens for the position of Chief Diversity Officer with responsibility for directing campus diversity initiatives and reporting directly to President Oldham. Chair Harper stated that Dr. Owens would also serve as a Cabinet member.

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Mr. Jones moved to approve Dr. Robert Owens as Tennessee Tech's Chief Diversity Officer. Ms. Vanhooser seconded the motion. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4—APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS' FORMAT**

Chair Harper requested discussion about livestreaming Board Committee meetings to make the meetings available to those unable to attend the actual meetings.

Mr. Jones moved to have committee meetings livestreamed and recorded beginning with the June 24, 2021, meetings. Ms. Vanhooser seconded the motion. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5—UPDATE FROM UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT**

Dr. Kevin Braswell provided an update on University Advancement. He stated that, for several years, University Advancement staff had been in pursuit of a goal to increase philanthropic support to Tennessee Tech, consistently, year after year. The goal linked closely with every major emphasis in Tennessee Tech's Strategic Plan and they are now closer than ever to attaining the goal. At the end of February, with more than three months remaining in this fiscal year, University Advancement's fundraising reached \$17,300,000 and was already Tennessee Tech's second-best year ever.

Dr. Braswell stated that University Advancement was now actively planning for another comprehensive campaign. The timeline of the campaign was not yet determined but the overall emphasis was clear: it would start and end with students. Dr. Braswell stated that this campaign was designed to expand impact by growing the endowment to:

- Attract an increasingly diverse student body
- Provide a first-rate student experience once students are on campus
- Help more students graduate on time

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6—UPDATE FROM BOARD SELF-EVALUATION**

Mr. Wray provided an update on progress made on items received from the Board Self-Evaluation:

- Orientation manual: A manual to include all Board of Trustees orientation materials, accessible in one location, would be created in a Diligent book by the June 24, 2021, meeting.

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- Quarterly calendar: A quarterly calendar of recurring and nonrecurring items by committee was created to help determine agendas as we move forward each year.
- Other LGI committee structures: Every other LGI school, except Tennessee Tech, has a separate Audit Committee, separate from the Finance Committee. Trustees of other LGIs serve on multiple committees.

Ms. Vanhooser asked who would be responsible for maintaining and updating the materials in the orientation manual. Chair Harper replied that responsibility would be Mr. Wray's responsibility with the assistance of his support staff.

Ms. Vanhooser asked that items with non-negotiable requirements (e.g., items required by audit or the legislature) be identified in the quarterly calendar to help ensure that these required items were covered at the appropriate time(s).

Chair Harper stated that she would give additional thought to other LGIs' committee structures, solicit input from other Trustees, and work with Mr. Wray to determine if committee structure changes were needed for Tennessee Tech's Board committees.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7—OTHER BUSINESS**

Chair Harper reported that President Oldham, several other administrators, and herself recently met with two students, Caleb Moses and Zach Walls, members of the Student Environmental Action Coalition regarding their concerns about use of Sherlock Park for the new Engineering building and Innovation Hall. The students were primarily concerned about the loss of green space and believed this plan had not been communicated adequately.

During the meeting, President Oldham shared with the students that the use of Sherlock Park had been in the Master Plan for years. Tennessee Tech's first Master Plan was approved in 2014 and a revised plan was approved in 2018. Innovation Hall was included in the 2014 Master Plan and the Engineering building was included in the 2018 Master Plan, which the Board approved. The goal of the Master Plan was to "green" the campus, making the campus a greener campus.

Dean Slater and Delayne Miller reported that several improvements to increase green space have recently been implemented or were currently in the planning stages. Overall, with these improvements, Tennessee Tech would have a net gain of 13 acres of green space over the next several years.

Chair Harper requested that Tennessee Tech do a better job of communicating what is happening with the Master Plan and a better job of promoting Tennessee Tech's Sustainability Plan. Karen Lykins has agreed to make this happen. Chair Harper committed to the students that the Board would require Tennessee Tech to be as sustainable and environmentally conscious as possible.

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**AGENDA ITEM 8—ADJOURNMENT**

With there being no other business, Chair Harper adjourned the meeting at 9:49 a.m.

Approved,

  
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Lee Wray, Board Secretary

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