



Board of Trustees Meeting
June 24, 2021
Roaden University Center, Room 282

MINUTES

AGENDA ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Tennessee Tech Board of Trustees met on June 24, 2021, in Roaden University Center, Room 282. Chair Harper called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

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

- Trudy Harper
- Daniel Hines
- Tom Jones
- Fred Lowery
- Thomas Lynn
- Sally Pardue
- Rhedona Rose
- Johnny Stites
- Teresa Vanhooser
- Barry Wilmore

A quorum was present at the meeting.

Chair Harper stated this meeting was being streamed live on the internet and the public was given notice.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS

Michelle Huddleston, assistant director of the Service Learning Center, spoke about service learning and community engagement. She was joined by students Marcus McMeans and Baylee Dalton. They shared about their experiences thus far with serving others through the program.

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AGENDA ITEM 3 – RECOGNITION OF RETIRING FACULTY

Chair Harper recognized faculty member Dr. Wayne Leimer, Professor of Earth Sciences, upon his retirement. He taught at the university for 50 years and was presented with a service pin. Dr. Leimer shared memories of his time at the university.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tom Jones moved to approve the minutes collectively from March 11, 2021 and April 13, 2021. Mr. Lowery 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 – PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Oldham shared that in-person classes will be at full capacity this fall. Events will also return. He stated the enrollment goal, as supported by the strategic plan, is 20,000 students by the year 2025. Dr. Oldham recognized the Office of Communications and Marketing upon winning several awards from the Tennessee College of Public Relations Association this year. Future marketing will identify Tech as Tennessee’s college town and highlight Tech’s synergy with the community. It will also continue to emphasize that students are first.

He provided an update on capital projects that included the new engineering building, the J.J. Oakley Innovation Center and Residence Hall, the internal street grid, and Walton Park. Over nine million dollars has been raised toward the construction of the engineering building. The total fundraising amount of private dollars for the university this year was more than 22 million. Sponsored research set records this year at 22.8 million dollars raised.

President Oldham shared academic updates that included the Cyber Security Center, an introduction of the new vice president of student affairs Dr. Cynthia-Pope Johnson, the opening of Launch Pad advisement for students, a new fee restructuring plan for students and their families, and salary increases for faculty and staff. He also shared about the implementation of a new course in the college of interdisciplinary studies titled Major and Career Exploration, and new degree programs that include a master’s in human ecology, a master’s in engineering management, a doctorate in counseling, and a doctorate in higher education administration. Rural Reimagined and the Grand Challenge have shown success through the creation of more than eighty projects and the submission of over four and a half million dollars’ worth of rural-themed grant proposals.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – ELECTION OF STUDENT TRUSTEE

Chair Harper stated that the 2016 Focus Act required the Board to select a student as a non-voting member and the Tennessee Tech Student Government Association developed a process for selecting candidates to present to the Board for consideration. She stated that the



candidates selected by the SGA were Faith Judkins, Megan Wharton, and Hannah Willis. Each candidate answered a questionnaire and submitted a video to the board prior to the meeting.

Tom Jones nominated Faith Judkins to serve as the student trustee for fiscal year 2021-2022. Barry Wilmore nominated Hannah Willis to serve as the student trustee for fiscal year 2021-2022. With an opportunity for further discussion, Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. Candidate Judkins received three ayes and candidate Willis received five ayes. Chair Harper abstained from the vote. The election of candidate Willis carried. Ms. Willis joined the trustees at the table.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included the Emeritus President contract, TTU Policy 131 (Preventing and Reporting Fraud, Waste or Abuse), Tenure Recommendations, TTU Policy 242 (International Undergraduate Admissions), and TTU Policy 244 (International Undergraduate Student Readmissions). Teresa Vanhooser moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Jones 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 8 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Prior to beginning the committee reports section of the agenda, Chair Harper explained that committee chairs will not share informational items during future board meetings since the committee meetings are now streamed to the public. Only actionable items will be made available during future full board meetings.

Chair Harper shared that during the executive committee meeting the following items were presented and were included here as informational items 1) the appointment and introduction of the vice president for student affairs, Dr. Cynthia Polk-Johnson, 2) committee structure, and 3) the President's performance review for year-end June 30, 2021, overseen by Teresa Vanhooser.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Ms. Vanhooser nominated Trudy Harper to serve as Chair during the upcoming term. Upon the committee's recommendation, Tom Jones moved to approve Trudy Harper as Chair of the board for the term of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023. No second to the motion was required. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. Chair Harper abstained from the vote. The motion carried with eight ayes.

Upon the committee's recommendation, Tom Jones moved to approve Teresa Vanhooser as Vice Chair of the board for the term of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023. No second to the motion was required. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. Teresa Vanhooser abstained from the vote. The motion carried with eight ayes.

TTU Policy 005 (Board Committees) requires the Board to elect one voting member of the Executive Committee. Upon the committee's recommendation, Teresa Vanhooser moved to approve Tom Jones as an additional member of the Executive Committee for the term of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023. No second to the motion was required. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. Tom Jones abstained from the vote. The motion carried with eight ayes.

State audit guidelines and TTU Policy 005 (Board Committees) require the Board elect members and the chair of the Audit Committee. Upon the committee's recommendation, Teresa Vanhooser moved to approve Johnny Stites as Audit Committee Chair and Fred Lowery and Thomas Lynn as Audit Committee members for the term of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023. No second to the motion was required. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

TTU Policy 005 (Board Committees) allows the Board Chair to appoint members and chairs of the standing committees. Chair Harper appointed Rhedona Rose as the Chair of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee for the term of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023. Barry Wilmore, Dan Allcott, and Hannah Willis were appointed committee members.

AGENDA ITEM 9 – ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

Rhedona Rose shared that during the committee meeting the following items were presented and were included here as informational items 1) academic and programs update and THEC program inventory, 2) letter of notification for a Ph.D. in Higher Education approved for submission to THEC, 3) diversity initiative and diversity scholarship update, 4) athletics update, and 5) enrollment projections.

AGENDA ITEM 10 – AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Johnny Stites shared that during the committee meeting the following items were presented and were included here as informational items 1) twenty-six faculty member promotions, and 2) review of audit committee charter every four years.

Mr. Stites moved to approve the fiscal year 2020-21 estimated budget and the fiscal year 2021-22 proposed budget. No second to the motion was required. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stites moved to approve the fiscal year 2021-22 disclosed project for Hooper Eblen Center restroom upgrades and New Hall South HVAC upgrades. No second to the motion was required. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.



Mr. Stites moved to approve the fiscal year 2022-23 capital budget request. No second to the motion was required. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stites moved to approve the recommended fiscal year 2021-22 maintenance and mandatory fees. No second to the motion was required. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stites moved to approve the recommended non-mandatory specialized academic course fee structure. No second to the motion was required. Additional discussion was made regarding the due diligence of the board regarding projections for mandatory and non-mandatory fees. Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 11 – BOARD SECRETARY REPORT

Mr. Wray presented the new orientation manual made available for use by incoming and current trustees.

AGENDA ITEM 12 – OTHER BUSINESS – RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING TRUSTEES

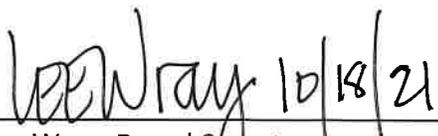
Chair Harper and President Oldham recognized outgoing trustees Sally Pardue and Daniel Hines and presented plaques to them in their honor.

There was no other business.

AGENDA ITEM 13 – ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Approved,



Lee Wray, Board Secretary