



Board of Trustees Meeting
October 7, 2021
Roaden University Center, Room 282

MINUTES

AGENDA ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Tennessee Tech Board of Trustees met on October 7, 2021, in Roaden University Center, Room 282. Chair Harper called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

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

- Dan Allcott
- Trudy Harper
- Tom Jones
- Fred Lowery
- Rhedona Rose
- Johnny Stites
- Teresa Vanhooser
- Hannah Willis
- 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.

The Board welcomed special guests Jason Mumpower and Jennifer Pfeiffer from the office of the Tennessee Comptroller. Mr. Mumpower introduced himself and spoke on behalf of the office.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS

The Board recognized six finalists for National Merit, an academic honor considered to be one of the highest a high school senior can receive. The recipients included Amanda Bacon

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(Chattanooga), Anna Buchanan (Whitehouse), Abby Fox (Cookeville), Mathias Hagewood (Millersville), Charles Hasting (Maryville), and William Joyner (Kingsport).

AGENDA ITEM 3 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2021

Johnny Stites moved to approve the minutes from June 24, 2021. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 24, 2021

Teresa Vanhooser moved to approve the minutes from August 24, 2021. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Prior to the President’s report, Chair Harper congratulated President Oldham on his recent appointment to the NCAA Board of Governors.

The President’s report focused on the future of the University. The President reviewed the vision statement and discussed areas of focus which included 1) impactful programming, 2) an attractive and safe campus with the best facilities, 3) a more active campus, 4) athletics, 5) return on investment, 6) advisement and retention, 7) research, and 8) elevating Cookeville and the Upper Cumberland area as a destination for business and leisure. He concluded his presentation by emphasizing the importance of making the student experience personal, and introducing the Wings Up Way initiative.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – CERTIFICATION OF PRESIDENT’S RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED TO ATHLETICS

As required by the Ohio Valley Conference, Chair Harper attested that the President is responsible for the administration of the athletics program, that he has the support of the Board in operating a program of integrity, and that he may vote on behalf of the institution on NCAA and OVC matters. Chair Harper signed the required attestation and provided a copy to the Board.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon the committee’s recommendation, Tom Jones moved to approve a six percent raise and a bonus in the amount of \$20,000 for President Phil Oldham effective July 1, 2021. Ms. Vanhooser seconded the motion. Additional discussion was made and alternative amounts for the bonus were suggested.

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Chair Harper requested a roll call vote for the existing motion. The motion received four ayes from Jones, Lowery, Vanhooser and Harper, three noes from Allcott, Stites, and Wilmore, and one pass from Rose. The Chair, Board Secretary and University Counsel reviewed and discussed the bylaws.

Tom Jones moved to rescind the previous action. Mr. Stites seconded the motion. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion carried with five ayes from Allcott, Jones, Lowery, Rose, and Stites, and three noes from Vanhooser, Wilmore, and Harper.

Dan Allcott moved to approve a six percent raise for President Phil Oldham effective July 1, 2021. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion passed with seven ayes and one no from Stites.

Fred Lowery moved to approve a bonus for President Phil Oldham being ten percent of his salary effective July 1, 2021. Captain Wilmore seconded the motion. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion passed with six ayes from Jones, Lowery, Stites, Vanhooser, Wilmore, and Harper, and two noes from Allcott and Rose.

President Oldham expressed his gratitude to the Board for their vote of confidence.

A final item from the Executive Committee included a report on their decision to conduct a comprehensive review of the performance of the President. Chair Harper will work with the Vice-Chair to ultimately select a firm to conduct the review at a cost of up to \$25,000 plus travel expenses.

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee met earlier in the morning, and there were no action items.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon the committee's recommendation, Johnny Stites moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Disclosed Project for the Lewis Hall transformer replacement. 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.

Upon the committee's recommendation, Johnny Stites moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Capital Budget Outlay for the construction of a second engineering building. Captain Wilmore seconded the motion. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

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Upon the committee's recommendation, Johnny Stites moved to approve the request for the Edmonds Estate to establish a quasi-endowment and to invest the funds through the Foundation's investment firm, Commonfund. 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.

Upon the committee's recommendation, Johnny Stites moved to approve the tenure appointment of Dr. Kumar Yelamarthi. Captain Wilmore 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 9 – BOARD SECRETARY REPORT

Lee Wray expressed his gratitude to those who help organize and produce the meetings for the Board of Trustees.

AGENDA ITEM 10 – MEETING DATES

Chair Harper shared a meeting date of November 9 for an information session regarding the new master plan. The following dates were shared for quarterly board meetings: December 2, March 10, June 23, October 6, and December 1.

AGENDA ITEM 11 – OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Harper welcomed Faculty Senate President, Dr. Jeanette Luna, who presented two resolutions on behalf of the Faculty Senate. The first resolution expressed gratitude to all healthcare workers in the Upper Cumberland during the pandemic, and the second resolution expressed support of CDC guidance and the Covid-19 vaccination.

AGENDA ITEM 12 – ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

Approved,


Lee Wray, Board Secretary