



ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

October 6, 2022

Roaden University Center, Room 282

MINUTES

Meeting was streamed live via link found on this web page:

<https://www.tntech.edu/board/board-and-board-committee-meetings.php>

AGENDA ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

The Tennessee Tech Board of Trustees Academic & Student Affairs Committee met on October 6, 2022 in Roaden University Center, Room 282. Chair Rhedona Rose called the meeting to order at 8:14 a.m.

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

- Rhedona Rose
- Dan Allcott
- Savannah Griffin (Virtual)
- Barry Wilmore

Other board members also in attendance were Trudy Harper, Thomas Lynn, Fred Lowery (Virtual), Teresa Vanhooser, Tom Jones, and Johnny Stites. A quorum was present. Tennessee Tech faculty, staff, students, and members of the public were also in attendance.

Student Representative Samantha Griffin participated via Zoom and confirmed that she could simultaneously hear and speak to the Committee members, received the Committee materials in advance of the meeting, and was alone in the room.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Rose asked for approval of the minutes of the June 23, 2022 Academic & Student Affairs Committee meeting. Chair Rose asked if there were questions or comments regarding the minutes. There being none, Trustee Wilmore moved to recommend approval of the June 23,

LEE
12/19/22

2022 Academic & Student Affairs Committee minutes. Trustee Allcott seconded the motion. Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Enrollment Update

Interim Vice President Karen Lykins provided an update on enrollment numbers for the Fall 2022 semester via video. The total headcount for fall 2022 was 9,902 students and included the third largest freshman class in Tech history. President Oldham provided additional information regarding enrollment and answered questions.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Provost’s Report

Provost Bruce provided updates on recent activities in Academic Affairs, including initiatives related to student success, developments in new academic programs, and highlights of faculty and staff achievements.

Provost Bruce shared that first-year retention rates were up to 78.5% over last year’s 72.9%. She explained that some of the initiatives that drove this increase included an emphasis on in-person experiences, attendance reporting tools, follow-up advising, as well as a few initiatives geared specifically towards freshmen and sophomore retention.

Next Provost Bruce highlighted two externally-funded grants being led by faculty members. The first was a Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) grant of \$50,000 called Reinforce Advanced Math Placement (RAMP), which was a College of Engineering and Department of Mathematics partnership. Eighty-three incoming first-time freshman categorized as academically at-risk were provided a one-week residential math bridge program just prior to the start of Fall 2022. More than 50% of the student participants increased their math placement score and were able to be fully admitted into engineering. The second grant highlighted was a National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Traineeship Grant for \$3 million. Partners include Tech’s Rural Reimagined, rural communities, and Cherokee and Appalachian communities. This grant will support twenty plus graduate students via research traineeships. The grant activities are focused on student research at the food-energy-water nexus.

Provost Bruce ended her report by sharing the Expedited Letter of Notification (ELON) for the Environmental Agriscience Technology, Master of Science (M.S.) program had been approved by THEC. Thus, the university is moving forward with a full proposal for the new M.S. program.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – New Academic Program Proposal (NAPP) for Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Music

Provost Bruce shared the College of Fine Arts’ proposal to establish a B.S. degree in Music,

LEE
12/19/22

which would expand degree offerings in Fine Arts, while also capitalizing on the strong Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programming already in place at the university. Provost Bruce also shared anticipated enrollment and financial projections with the Board.

Trustee Allcott moved to send the NAPP for the B.S. in Music to the full Board for approval and to place it on the Board's regular agenda. Trustee Wilmore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – Research End-of-Year Report for Fiscal Year 2022

President Oldham provided an update from the Office of Research and Economic Development, including an end-of-year report for year 2022 and future initiatives. His report included the total external funding received for fiscal years 2013-2022; including information showing that external funding was a new record high for fiscal year 2021.

Next, he shared a few other noteworthy accomplishments including four non-provisional patents issued, three NSF career award winners, and one faculty Fulbright fellow.

President Oldham concluded his report by updating everyone on Eagle Works and the successes that have been accomplished with this program.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – University Advancement End-of-Year Report for Fiscal Year 2022

Dr. Braswell provided an update from University Advancement, including an end-of-year report for year 2022 and future initiatives. Dr. Braswell provided a presentation that showed the university's fundraising was a new record high for fiscal year 2021 with over \$20 million in gifts.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – Other Business

There was no other business.

AGENDA ITEM 9 – Adjournment

There being no further business, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee adjourned at 9:47 a.m

Approved,

 12/19/22

Lee Wray, Secretary