



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 1, 2022

Roaden University Center, Room 282

### MINUTES

Meeting 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 met on December 1, 2022, in Roaden University Center Room 282. Chair Trudy Harper called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

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

- Savannah Griffin
- Fred Lowery
- Tom Jones
- Thomas Lynn
- Rhedona Rose
- Johnny Stites
- Barry Wilmore
- Trudy Harper
  
- Dan Allcott, virtual

Professpr Allcott confirmed that he could simultaneously hear and speak to the Board members, that he was by himself, and that he received the Board materials in advance of the meeting.

A quorum was physically present. Tennessee Tech faculty, staff and members of the public were also in attendance.

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## **AGENDA ITEM 2 – RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS**

Chair Harper invited leadership from three student organizations who had joined Trustees for breakfast to come to the podium, introduce themselves, and share highlights about their student organizations. Macia Rudolph, Vice President, Black Student Union; Addy Morgan, President, Delta Gamma Sorority; and Amber Varney, President, Gymnastics Club each shared information about the organization with which they were affiliated and how the university was providing support for their organization. Chair Harper stated that the students' leadership in these organizations would help promote their careers in spectacular ways and also make such a difference in all the people's lives that they were leading.

## **AGENDA ITEM 3 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Harper asked for approval of the minutes of the October 6, 2022, Tennessee Tech Board of Trustees meeting. Chair Harper asked if there were questions or comments regarding the minutes. There being none, Mr. Jones moved to recommend approval of the October 6, 2022, Board of Trustees minutes. Ms. Rose seconded the motion. Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

## **AGENDA ITEM 4 – PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Oldham welcomed and thanked members of the Board of Trustees for the time and energy which they put into the institution; he stated that it was greatly appreciated.

He also stated that he wanted to thank past vice chair, Teresa Vanhooser, on behalf of everyone for the wonderful way she served at Tennessee Tech over the past five years. He stated that he appreciated her greatly and that a plaque had been created which would be provided to her at the earliest opportunity.

President Oldham recognized special guests, Steven Gentile and Victoria Harpool, from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC). He stated that Tennessee Tech has wonderful support from THEC, from the General Assembly, and from the Governor's Office.

He stated that during the morning committee meetings, reports were provided on the overall health of the institution, the health of our academic programs, the health of student support services, and university finances. All were excellent reports.

President Oldham also stated that as a follow-up to a previous Board recommendation that we ensure a naming legacy be maintained on campus, a policy revision to codify the practice was proposed. If, over the course of time a change needs to be made to the name of a building or

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other facility, an attempt will be made to maintain the legacy of the name in an appropriate fashion and the board's leadership will be appreciated in that process.

He stated that despite having a near record enrollment of freshmen during the past year, an increase of 21 percent in applications year to date has been seen as compared to last year. Merging the division of Enrollment Management and Career Placement with the Office of Communications and Marketing under the direction of Vice President Karen Lykins' leadership will be a valuable reorganization. The Office of Registrar will be moved into Academic Affairs and will now report to the Provost. We anticipate that these changes will result in a more efficient and effective organizational structure.

President Oldham also stated that the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) will be forwarding their budget recommendation to the Governor's Office for consideration by the Governor as well as by the next session of the General Assembly. That proposal involves additional resources that would be required to meet the funding formula guidelines for productivity. So, based on the productivity of the past year, THEC is requesting an additional \$150 million in next year's state appropriation and with that, they also set a working range for tuition and fees so that individual institutions can begin the planning process of determining what their internal budget might look like. A zero to three percent working range for tuition and fees increase is being considered but is not yet binding and, as always, the default position is to keep tuition and fees to the lowest possible level we can.

He stated that the other aspect of the budget recommendation to the state involves capital projects. Tennessee Tech's request in this year's capital project list, the replacement of Matthews Daniel Hall and Crawford Hall with a new academic classroom building, is the number three priority coming from the Commission. Other updates on capital projects include progress being made on the Ashraf Islam engineering building, designer selection for the second engineering building and West Tucker Stadium, and the grand opening of the Poultry Science Lab which will provide great opportunities for agriculture faculty and students and also serve the poultry industry in the region.

President Oldham also mentioned – to name a few -- that Tennessee Tech's electrical engineering program ranked number one in Tennessee for return on investment (ROI); Tennessee Tech has seven of the top 25 academic programs in the state based on return on ROI; Tennessee Tech marketing graduates have a lower student debt than graduates from any other public university academic program in Tennessee; Dr. Jesse Carrick, Professor of Chemistry, received the Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award – the first faculty member from any Tennessee University to win this award; the Cybersecurity Team ranked second nationally in competitions; and Tennessee Tech student, Irene Sullivan, was named the number one accounting student in the state of Tennessee.

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**AGENDA ITEM 5 – ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

Chair Harper stated that the next item on the agenda was to elect a new vice chair because, Teresa Vanhooser, who previously served as vice chair, recently resigned from her role on the Board of Trustees. Pursuant to Bylaw 1.5.A, the Board shall elect from its members a chair, vice chair, and other officers the Board deems appropriate. The officers shall serve a term of two (2) years.

Mr. Jones moved to nominate Rhedona Rose to serve a two-year term (expiring on November 30, 2024) as vice chair and member of the Executive Committee. Mr. Wilmore seconded the motion. Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion passed 7-0 with Ms. Rose passing on the vote.

**AGENDA ITEM 6 – CONSENT AGENDA – A. TENNESSEE TECH POLICY 271 (GENERAL GRADUATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS) B. TENNESSEE TECH POLICY 537 (NAMING BUILDINGS, FACILITIES, AND ORGANIZATIONAL UNITS)**

Upon committee recommendations, Mr. Stites moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 7.A. – AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS - FY2022-23 REVISED BUDGET/ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**

Upon the Audit and Business Committee’s recommendation, Mr. Stites moved to approve the Tennessee Tech 2022-23 revised budget and organizational chart. Because the recommendation came from committee, no second was needed. Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 7.B. – AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – TUITION TRANSPARENCY ACT REPORT (T.C.A. § 49-7-1604)**

Upon the Audit and Business Committee’s recommendation, Mr. Stites moved to approve the Tuition Transparency Act for Fiscal Year 2021 and 2022. Chair Harper stated that a small modification was made during the morning Audit and Business Committee meeting and asked Mr. Stites to confirm that his motion incorporated that change. Mr. Stites confirmed that the motion did include the change made by the Audit and Business Committee. Because the recommendation came from committee, no second was needed. Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

*Lee Wray  
03/23/23*

**AGENDA ITEM 8 – BOARD SECRETARY REPORT**

Mr. Wray reported that he had identified three changing areas of focus for university boards: strategic initiative, particularly on enrollment; finance, because of funding for more and different areas across the state, country and federal made it a bit more public than in the past; and external building, not just building relations with faculty/staff but also with alums, legislators, business, corporations, foundations and government because that is the source of most funding. This includes working with Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC).

**AGENDA ITEM 9 – OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**AGENDA ITEM 10 – ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Tennessee Tech Board of Trustees’ meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Approved,

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Lee Wray, Secretary