

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 9, 2023

Roaden University Center, Room 282

MINUTES

Meeting streamed live via link found on this web page:

<https://www.tntech.edu/board/meetings/2023-03-09-board-meeting.php>

AGENDA ITEM I – CALL TO ORDER

The Tennessee Tech Board of Trustees met on March 9, 2023, in Roaden University Center Room 282. Chair Trudy Harper called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

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

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

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

AGENDA ITEM II – RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS

Chair Harper stated that today's Student Spotlight featured a group of students leading an upcoming remote area medical (RAM) clinic for which Rural Reimagined initially provided a substantial amount of assistance. She stated that RAM was a major nonprofit provider for free pop-up clinics designed to identify pain and alleviate suffering to those in need. The students

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Alex Coker, Dominick Coker, Austin McCowan, Andy Stovall, and Maggie Teat, all pre-med or pre-dental students, organized this two-day event to include recruiting the physicians, dentists, opticians, and families.

Alex Coker stated that the clinic began in 2014 when one of Tennessee Tech's students suggested the idea of bringing a free health care clinic to the Cookeville area. During the first clinic in 2016, one of only three at the time, 794 patients were seen. Since that time, 4,500 individuals have been seen and over \$2,600,000 of care provided. This year, it is anticipated that over 600 patients will be seen by increasing the dental team from 40 to 50.

AGENDA ITEM III – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Harper asked for approval of the minutes of the December 1, 2022, Tennessee Tech Board of Trustees' meeting. Chair Harper asked if there were questions or comments regarding the minutes. There being none, Mr. Lowery moved to recommend approval of the December 1, 2022, Board of Trustees minutes. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Mr. Wray called a voice vote. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM IV – PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Oldham reported on the annual spring engineering career fair recently hosted on campus where 190 potential employers and nearly 900 students participated. Many students received multiple job offers before they graduated. He stated that he wanted to highlight this career fair to show that the university places emphasis on career preparation. He stated that the university's goal continues to be for every incoming freshman to have a career plan in place, along with an academic program plan.

President Oldham stated that he wanted to turn attention to the Board dashboard, introduced a couple years ago and continually updated. He stated that the dashboard provides an easy mechanism for Trustees to remain up to date with progress being made in critical areas and to gain an understanding of the direction the university is headed. He first focused on enrollment and stated that the university had 2050 new, full-time freshman last fall which was a near record. He stated the dashboard also included the number of new graduate students, the ACT average of the incoming freshman class, the GPA of the incoming freshman class, and how many applications have been received versus the number actually admitted. A quick view of the progress being made year over year can also be seen.

He then stated that it is important for students to be admitted and enrolled but, ultimately, we want to successfully graduate students efficiently and on time with very low debt and great career opportunities. He stated that the number one driving force for the cost of a college degree was time so graduation rates are continually being pushed toward improvement. Much success has been made on the five- and six-year graduation rates. Over the past couple of

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years, a 60-percent graduation rate has consistently been reached on the six-year graduation rate and the five-year graduation rate has been well above 50 percent. The four-year graduation rate continued to climb, as well; the university's ultimate goal was the four-year rate. The university reached the six-year goal some time ago, so a new goal for the six-year rate needs to be set. With regards to achievement of the four-year graduation rate goal of 50%, we are better than we have ever been and are making progress but have not yet met that goal. He stated the graduation rates were based on a cohort model and how many of those cohorts complete a degree in four, five, or six years.

President Oldham also explained that keeping students engaged effectively, productively, and on track to graduate efficiently were the real critical factor – more so than emphasis on the four-year graduation rate. In recent years, study abroad has often been encouraged and, especially in the engineering fields, experiential learning opportunities such as co-ops and internships have been encouraged, extending a student's graduation to five or even six years.

He also stated that composite financial index and diversity information (e.g., gender distribution, racial and ethnic diversity) were also available in the dashboard. International student enrollment dropped off substantially in recent years but efforts were being made to rebuild a population of international student enrollment.

President Oldham stated that the more engaged a freshman student was on campus, the more likely they were to do well in class, make good grades, be retained, and continue their education. Statistically, it is known that students who miss two or more classes in the first six weeks of the fall semester of their freshman year were at risk. If the students missing classes can be identified early on, in many cases we can intervene, talk with them, assist them, make certain they have access to any support they might need, and try to get them more engaged. He stated the Launch Pad advising center provides quality control and helps ensure that every freshman gets good advising.

He then stated to end his report with a real highlight, both the men's and women's basketball teams were recently in the conference championship games which is remarkable and pretty unusual, a real testament to our athletic department, our coaching staff, and our teams' players. There probably was no better venue to showcase resilience and tenacity than competitive college sports. He stated he could not be prouder of these teams and what they have accomplished.

Coach Walls stated that the women's basketball team, who brought home a trophy, obviously can play ball but the players also ranked 21st in the nation academically with a grade point average of 3.61.

Coach Pelphrey stated that the men's basketball team defeated every team in the OVC during the regular season and made the conference championship game for the first time since 2001. They earned a spot in the OVC championship game for only the fourth time in over 100 years of basketball. They also broke school records for the number of three-pointers made during the

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season and ranked ninth nationally in field goal percentage and played the third hardest schedule in their league. Twelve guys had over a 3.0 academic average.

AGENDA ITEM V.A. – AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – COMPENSATION PLAN

Upon the committee’s recommendation, Mr. Stites moved the Board approve the proposed Compensation Plan pending approval of the Governor’s Budget to include:

- Three-percent pool to be distributed to full- and part-time permanent employees based on employee’s fiscal year 2023 evaluations with a minimum one-percent and maximum seven-percent increase for employees with a satisfactory or better evaluation scores, and employed on January 1, 2023, and still employed at July 1, 2023
- Two-percent of the pool to be distributed to address market equity study adjustments to be effective January 1, 2024
- \$650 per employee one-time bonus effective July 1, 2023

Chair Harper stated that a second was not needed because the recommendation came from committee. With no additional comments nor discussion, Chair Harper asked Mr. Wray to call a roll call vote. The motion passed 6-1, with Mr. Allcott voting opposed and Mr. Lowery unavailable for the vote.

AGENDA ITEM V.B. – AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – NON-MANDATORY FEES

Upon the committee’s recommendation, Mr. Stites moved the Board approve the proposed housing rates to become effective Fall 2023. With no additional comments nor discussion, Chair Harper asked Mr. Wray to call a roll call vote. The motion passed 7-0, with Mr. Lowery unavailable for the vote.

AGENDA ITEM V.C. – AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT

Upon the committee’s recommendation, Mr. Stites moved the Board approve the TTU Campus Master Plan Amendment, including the student event center. With no additional comments nor discussion, Chair Harper asked Mr. Wray to call a roll call vote. The motion passed 7-0, with Mr. Lowery unavailable for the vote.

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AGENDA ITEM V.D. – AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – DISCLOSED PROJECTS FY2022-23

Upon the committee’s recommendation, Mr. Stites moved the Board approve the FY2022-23 Disclosed Projects for the Murphy Hall elevator, Tech Village roof replacements and Tech Village Community Center renovation. With no additional comments nor discussion, Chair Harper asked Mr. Wray to call a roll call vote. The motion passed 7-0, with Mr. Lowery unavailable for the vote.

Chair Harper asked if a copy of the revised Master Plan could be placed in the library for students to review the information. Mr. Wray confirmed that a copy would be placed in the library.

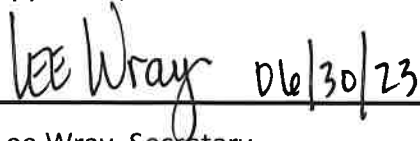
AGENDA ITEM VI – BOARD SECRETARY REPORT

Mr. Wray reported that following the morning meetings, Ms. Lykins had placed a list of ten names of prospective students, along with envelopes and stationery. He told Trustees that the names and stationery were being made available to them to write the students a personal note and mail the notes or mail the notes back to the President’s Office for mailing. He also stated that if Trustees did not have time to write the notes, the information could just be left on the table.

AGENDA ITEM VIII – ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Tennessee Tech Board of Trustees meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Approved,

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Lee Wray, Secretary