



## ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

June 22, 2023

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 June 22, 2023 in Roaden University Center, Room 282. Chair Rhedona Rose called the meeting to order at 8:17 a.m.

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

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

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

Trustee Allcott participated via Zoom and confirmed that he could simultaneously hear and speak to the Committee members, received the Committee materials in advance of the meeting, and was alone in his location.

*LEE 10/16/23*

## **AGENDA ITEM 2 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Rose asked for approval of the minutes of the March 9, 2023 Academic & Student Affairs Committee meeting. Trustee Wilmore moved to recommend approval of the March 9, 2023 Academic & Student Affairs Committee minutes. Trustee Allcott seconded the motion. Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

## **AGENDA ITEM 3 – PROVOST’S REPORT**

Provost Bruce began her report by highlighting two students who were recognized for student awards. She recognized Clarice Kiser, the most recent recipient of the Kurt Eisen Excellence in Liberal Arts Award, and Kester Nucum who was the 2023 recipient of the prestigious Derryberry award. Next, Provost Bruce highlighted four faculty members who were the recipients of the top three faculty awards for the year. She recognized Dr. Amanda Carroll (2023 recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Award), Dr. Mohamed Mahmoud (2023 recipient of the Caplenor Faculty Research Award), and both Dr. Collen Mestayer and Dr. Indranil Bhattacharya (2023 recipients of the Outstanding Faculty Award in Teaching).

Provost Bruce concluded her report by recognizing faculty retirements, noting that together these nine faculty members have given almost 250 years of service to Tennessee Tech.

## **AGENDA ITEM 4 – ENROLLMENT UPDATE**

Karen Lykins, Vice President for Enrollment and Communication, presented projections for fall 2023 enrollment. In her report she shared trends on overall enrollment, gave a current snapshot of today’s new first-time freshmen registration, and explained what has been learned about prospective students and how they are making their decisions.

Ms. Lykins began her report by sharing the undergraduate enrollment headcount. Incoming new first-time freshman was a little down compared to this date last year, while continuing sophomore numbers were significantly higher than last year. The new first-time freshmen headcount was down 63 from Fall 2022 when looking at a snapshot of the same day. She shared that, to date, more than 2,045 first-time freshmen have registered for Student Orientation, Advisement, and Registration (SOAR) and 972 Presidential Scholars have registered, which are both a little down from last year as well. The number of admissions cancellations has increased 15% from last year. Ms. Lykins and her team have been looking at the reasons given for these cancellations; which included proximity, Tennessee promise, financial aid, and other. Ms. Lykins remarked that knowing these reasons, gives the opportunity for marketing strategies.

Next Ms. Lykins showcased what the incoming freshman class currently looks like. The average GPA is 3.68 with more than 700 incoming students possessing a 4.0. Additionally, the incoming

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class includes five National Merit Finalists and is slightly more racially diverse than the previous freshman class and current student body even though more work is going into improving these numbers.

Ms. Lykins concluded her presentation by having Dewayne Wright, the Director of Strategic Planning and Data, give some information about the enrollment data analysis efforts. He gave some updates regarding the Tech Tomorrow Strategic Plan that included Dr. Tom Timmerman and colleagues looking at student retention, examination of the free applications September effect, examination of student recruitment yield using various milestones to develop a predictive model for recruitment efforts, and developing a database to combine internal and external data about each Tennessee county to aid with strategic planning, and finally building and refining the tracking efforts started last year.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5 – ACADEMIC PROGRAM UPDATE**

Provost Bruce shared an update on Tennessee Tech’s academic programs in terms of accreditations, additions, deletions, and major revisions. She informed the Board that the year was very successful in terms of accreditations and program reviews. She also shared that there were 5 new certificate programs, 20 new/revised concentrations, 5 new/revised minors, 4 revised degree programs, and 2 new degree programs. She also informed members that the official academic program inventory, which is the official inventory of Tennessee Tech’s academic program offerings as listed on the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) website, was included in the Board book.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6 – ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION (APM) FOR M.A. IN LEARNING DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY**

Provost Bruce informed the Board that the College of Education proposes to establish a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Learning Design and Technology. She stated that if approved, this would elevate one concentration under the M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction to a new stand-alone M.A. in Learning Design and Technology. Through her presentation, she showed members that the current M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction degree program has twelve concentrations, the majority of which are designed to serve professionals working in elementary, secondary, and higher education settings. She further explained, that of the existing concentrations within the current M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction, the Educational Technology concentration has significant potential to produce graduates who can serve industry needs. Elevating this particular concentration to a stand-alone degree program is expected to improve student recruiting efforts and enhance career opportunities for our graduates. She also mentioned that this would require very nominal financial resources, since it is currently an offered concentration.

Trustee Wilmore moved to send the Academic Program Modification (APM) to the full Board

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for approval and to place it on the Board's consent agenda. Trustee Allcott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **AGENDA ITEM 7 – NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSAL (NAPP) FOR PH.D. IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

Provost Bruce shared the College of Education's proposal to establish a new Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in Higher Education. She reminded the members that the Board of Trustees approved the first phase of the proposal (the Letter of Notification) in 2021 and that if approved by the Board of Trustees, this second phase, the New Academic Program Proposal (NAPP) will be presented to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) for final approval.

She explained that the proposed Ph.D. program in Higher Education is designed for candidates pursuing careers using cutting-edge data analytics to serve as academic faculty, university administrators, policy analysts, and educational researchers in higher education institutions across the state and nation. The program features an emphasis on innovation in instructional technologies and applications of data science-based decision making, which would carry on Tech's tradition of leading innovation and STEM-driven curricula.

Next Dr. Bruce shared the results of the feasibility study, which showed anticipated enrollment projections of 7 in year 1 and growing to approximately 29 by year 5. She also informed that the reoccurring cost of the program would be the cost of two faculty positions. The new costs associated with the program would gradually be shifted to the College of Education and the Department of Curriculum and Instruction as increased tuition revenue replaces the start-up funds provided by the University.

Trustee Wilmore moved to send the NAPP for the Ph.D. in Higher Education to the full Board for approval and to place it on the Board's consent agenda. Trustee Allcott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **AGENDA ITEM 8 – ATHLETICS UPDATE**

President Phil Oldham reviewed the 2022-2023 year in athletics. He started his presentation by mentioning that Tennessee Tech competes in 15 varsity sports at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) D1 level. He stated that academically, this is the 29<sup>th</sup> consecutive semester that all of the student athletes had better than a 3.0 GPA. He also explained that competitively it was a very good year as well, with 2 conference championship teams (women's soccer and women's basketball). Women's basketball won the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) championship and their first-round game in the NCAA tournament, which allowed Tennessee Tech to have its highest ever finish in the OVC's commissioners cup (finishing second). He also mentioned that one third of Tennessee Tech's teams also won the conference sportsmanship

award, which led to Tennessee Tech winning the overall sportsmanship award.

Next, President Oldham discussed investments in athletics that the university is currently making. He mentioned several areas in facilities including improving the basketball locker rooms, continuing plans on Tucker stadium, improving restroom facilities at the Hooper Eblen Center, adding turf to the baseball and softball fields, and baseball clubhouse repairs to name a few.

President Oldham concluded his presentation by giving a few updates on the OVC and the NCAA. The OVC is continuing to look at expansion of the conference and recently added Western Illinois. He stated that this brings the current number to eleven members. He also stated that nationally, with the NCAA, there was a leadership change. Charlie Baker became the new President of the NCAA earlier this year, which he indicated should bring some exciting and promising changes.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9 – CAMPUS SAFETY REPORT**

Chief of Police Tony Nelson informed the Board that each year the Tennessee Bureau of Investigations (TBI) publishes a crime on campus report covering various categories. During his presentation he highlighted points from the report for crime at Tennessee Tech for 2022. He also informed Board members that the full report for Tennessee Tech as well as the other Tennessee four-year public universities was included in Diligent. His overview, included that for 2022 Tennessee Tech had 122 reported crimes from 10 of the 18 categories. He stated that the most reported crimes included property crimes, consistent with previous years. Property crimes include theft and vandalism, which accounted for 88 of the 123 crimes. Chief Nelson noted that the primary reason for this is the fact that Tennessee Tech is an “open” campus and pointed out that most of the crimes were not committed by students.

Nelson concluded his presentation by giving updates on the campus police department. He informed Board members that they have begun their accreditation process, which is a 36-month process. He also gave some staffing updates, sharing that two additional personnel were hired to help with the accreditation process and the operating system was updated. He also informed the members that staffing has improved since 2022, partly due to a compensation study that was done that allowed salaries to be raised. Currently, all positions but one has been filled. He pointed out that this improvement in staffing showed a decrease in crimes at a rate of 34.6%.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 10 – OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

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**AGENDA ITEM 11 – ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

Approved,

Lee Wray 10/16/23  
Lee Wray, Secretary

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