

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

November 30, 2023

Roade 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 I – CALL TO ORDER

The Tennessee Tech University Board of Trustees Executive Committee met on Thursday, November 30, 2023, in Roade University Center, Room 282. Chair Trudy Harper called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

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

- Fred Lowery
- Rhedona Rose
- Trudy Harper

Other board members also in attendance were Addison Dorris, Tom Jones, Jeannette Luna, Thomas Lynn, Johnny Stites, and Barry Wilmore. A quorum was physically present. Tennessee Tech faculty, staff and members of the public were also in attendance.

#### AGENDA ITEM II – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Harper asked for approval of the minutes of the September 28, 2023, Executive Committee meeting. Chair Harper asked if there were questions or comments regarding the minutes. There being none, Mr. Lowery moved to recommend approval of the September 28, 2023, Executive Committee minutes. Ms. Rose seconded the motion. Chair Harper called for a voice vote. The motion carried unanimously.

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### AGENDA ITEM III – DISCUSSION OF BOARD SELF-EVALUATION

Chair Harper stated that the next order of business was the presentation for the results of the Board's self-evaluation. The Board was recently provided a survey asking questions regarding the Board's effectiveness and role of the Board. Most Trustees participated and responded to the questions. She stated the Board was required to conduct the self-evaluation as part of the SACSCOC evaluation and it was also good business to periodically review how we are doing.

Chair Harper stated that she compiled the comments offered and reflected on the ones that she thought the Board could do something about. A couple comments were made regarding Board training. One Trustee stated that s/he would like to hear brief, concise reminders on specific topics of governance. Chair Harper stated that she asked Secretary Wray to research this possibility and, specifically, to learn if the Association of Governing Boards has video modules available on governance. If video modules are not available, Secretary Wray agreed to provide brief, concise reminders about governance at each meeting. If possible to do the training outside of meetings, better use of Trustees' time would be made.

Chair Harper stated there were several comments about increasing Trustees' interaction with students and faculty. One of the comments was the Board should have more opportunities to interact with students, perhaps on visits to campus. This was done a couple years ago when Trustees toured a residence hall. Additional opportunities could be identified during Board social events held the evening before Board meetings. Trustees also joined students for lunch in the cafeteria on the day of a Board meeting a couple years ago. Lunch or dinner in the cafeteria again would be another option for Trustees to interact with students.

Chair Harper stated that she had not yet spoken directly with the Provost about the next comment but received feedback that the Provost was good with the suggestion made by a Trustee. Chair Harper stated that she would like the Provost to consider inviting each dean so that Trustees could hear from the actual faculty, deans, chairs, and other appropriate employee groups. Chair Harper told Ms. Rose that beginning with the next Board meeting, during the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting, she would like to incorporate an agenda item for this suggestion. She stated that a template would be provided to create consistency across presentations from deans. She stated that deans could tell Trustees about their approach to evaluating effectiveness, what they are seeing, and what the outcomes are with students, faculty and alums.

Chair Harper stated that the Provost will continue to provide her report. Deans' reports will be in addition to the Provost's report and will be a deeper dive into each college.

Chair Harper stated that the last slide she had was about other possible issues to be addressed. One was regarding recruitment and retention of faculty and staff. She stated that she would like to get past the Mercer salary study before doing a deeper dive on employee recruitment and retention, but she does think that would be a valuable topic. For example, where are recruitment challenges, understanding reasons for turnover, etc.

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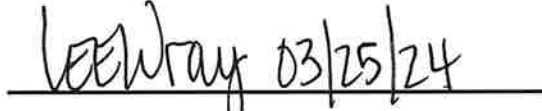
Chair Harper stated that she spoke to Dr. Stinson about the second bullet on the slide: long-term financial planning. A Trustee commented that the Board should be giving thought to five- and ten-year scenarios and Chair Harper stated she believed that was a great role for the Board. She stated that if the Board was going to be strategic about financial planning five and ten years out and with enrollment reaching 15,000 students, the Board needs to know what that means in terms of where money will be spent to provide housing, roads, parking and classrooms for the increased student numbers. She also stated that she felt additional help may be needed for this type of planning.

Chair Harper stated that another Board survey would be completed no later than three years from this year.

#### **AGENDA ITEM IV – ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Executive Committee adjourned at 8:20 a.m.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lee Wray" followed by the date "03/25/24". The signature is written over a solid horizontal line.

Lee Wray, Secretary