

## **ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**June 26, 2025**

**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 26, 2025 in Roaden University Center, Room 282. Chair Rhedona Rose called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m.

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

- Rhedona Rose
- Barry Wilmore
- Jeannette Luna
- Claire Myers
- Camron Rudd

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

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

Chair Rose asked for approval of the minutes of the March 6, 2025 Academic & Student Affairs Committee meeting. Trustee Luna moved to recommend approval of the March 6, 2025 Academic & Student Affairs Committee minutes. Trustee Rudd seconded the motion. Chair Rose called a voice vote. The motion carried unanimously.

*Lee Wray*

### **AGENDA ITEM 3 – Enrollment Update**

Karen Lykins, vice president for enrollment and communication, provided a comprehensive update on Fall 2025 enrollment trends and compared those trends with Fall 2022, 2023, and 2024 data. She began her presentation by sharing Fall 2025 total enrollment progression numbers and compared those numbers to the previous three fall semesters. Next, Ms. Lykins highlighted Fall 2025 undergraduate headcount enrollment by class classification, again comparing those numbers to the previous three fall semesters. She then shared the graduate headcount enrollment by classification for the same years and spoke briefly about a new graduate marketing campaign.

Next, Mrs. Lykins shared enrollment progression for Fall 2025 new freshmen to date, as compared to the previous three fall semesters. She also spoke about freshmen SOAR registration numbers, and its impact on new freshmen numbers.

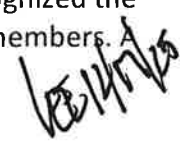
Next, Mrs. Lykins highlighted the all-university recruitment committee, sharing information about how often this committee meets, the members, and what they are currently working on to increase enrollment. She then showcased what the incoming freshman class currently looks like academically. She shared the average high school GPA, the average ACT scores, and the number of national merit semifinalists. She also provided a demographic breakdown of the incoming class and compared it with data from Fall 2022, Fall 2023, and Fall 2024. Mrs. Lykins concluded her presentation with data on which colleges and majors incoming freshmen are entering, before answering several questions from Board members.

### **AGENDA ITEM 4 – Provost’s Report**

Interim Provost John Liu gave an update on academic affairs for the Provost’s Report. He began his presentation by recognizing the 2025 recipients of the Outstanding Faculty Award for Professional Service, the Caplenor Faculty Research Award, and the Outstanding Faculty Awards for Teaching.

Next, Interim Provost Liu gave an update on the university’s SACSCOC accreditation reaffirmation, including a timeline of the process, an overview of required documents, and recognition of the faculty and staff who are preparing these documents and serving on various committees. He then gave an overview of the proposed Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) which is named “Elevate” and shared details regarding the timeline and main goals.

Interim Provost Liu concluded his presentation by providing Board members with an overview of the university’s planned updates to the undergraduate general education requirements. He shared information on Tennessee Tech’s general education committees and their tasks, including a timeline of the process and key committee recommendations. He recognized the faculty and staff who led this effort and answered several questions from Board members.



few Board members voiced concerns about these changes and Interim Provost Liu and President Oldham answered questions and talked through concerns.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5 – General Education History Requirement**

Interim Provost John Liu continued his discussion on general education requirements by bringing the general education history requirement to the Board for approval. He explained that this proposed change would allow the Board of Trustees to authorize Tennessee Tech to require a minimum of three credit hours of American history in the General Education requirements if the student successfully completed an American history course in high school or six credit hours of American history in the General Education requirements otherwise.

Chair Rose asked for a motion to discuss the general education history requirement further. Trustee Luna filed a motion and Trustee Wilmore seconded the motion to open the agenda item up for discussion. Dr. Kent Dollar, chair of the history department, was also recognized to make comments on the proposed reduction of the history requirements. His comments showcased an opposition to this proposed reduction by himself and the department.

There were many questions and concerns from Board members about the proposed reduction. A motion was made to send the general education history requirement to the Board for approval by roll call vote. The committee unanimously voted “Nay”, and the motion failed to pass at the committee level.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6 – Academic Program Updates**

Interim Provost John Liu shared an update on Tennessee Tech’s academic programs in terms of accreditations, additions, deletions, and major revisions. He informed Board members that the year was very successful in terms of accreditations, reaccreditations, and program reviews. He concluded his presentation by highlighting a few of the new programs and how these new programs will have a positive impact.

Board members asked questions about some of the changes. Dr. Liu and President Oldham answered questions and explained some of the changes.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7 – TTU Policy 205 (Faculty Tenure)**

Interim Provost John Liu shared that Policy 205 (Faculty Tenure) is a policy that requires Board approval for its scheduled revisions before implementation. He explained that the revisions were mostly verbiage changes for clarity and consistency. Board members asked a few questions about this policy before Chair Rose asked for a motion and a second. Trustee Luna moved to send Policy 205 (Faculty Tenure) to the consent agenda for the full Board and Trustee Wilmore seconded the motion. Secretary Wray called a roll call vote and the policy passed unanimously.

*10/27/25*

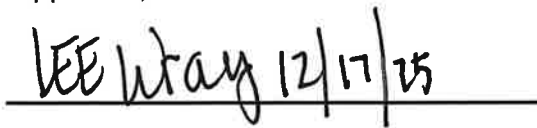
**AGENDA ITEM 8 – Other Business**

There was no other business.

**AGENDA ITEM 9 – Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lee Wray 12/17/25", is written over a horizontal line.

Lee Wray, Secretary