

ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

March 12, 2026

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 March 12, 2026, in Roaden University Center, Room 282. Chair Camron Rudd called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

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

- Michael Allen
- Teresa Chasteen-Dunn
- Allen Foster
- Garry McNabb
- Camron Rudd
- Braxton Westbrook

Other board members also in attendance were Trudy Harper, Thomas Lynn, Fred Lowery, Rhedona Rose, and Barry Wilmore. A quorum was met. Tennessee Tech faculty and staff and members of the public were also in attendance.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Rudd asked for approval of the minutes of the December 4, 2025 Academic & Student Affairs Committee meeting. Trustee Allen moved to approve the December 4, 2025 Academic & Student Affairs Committee minutes. Trustee McNabb seconded the motion. Chair Rudd called for a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

LEE 07/14/26
Page 1 of 3

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Enrollment Update

Karen Lykins, Vice President for Enrollment and Communication, began her presentation by sharing Spring 2026 enrollment details, including enrolled student numbers and retention rates that led to a 10-year high in spring enrollment.

Next, Mrs. Lykins discussed the recent spring showcase events and upcoming SOAR events, noting the influence these events have on fall enrollment numbers. She reviewed domestic new freshman application numbers for Fall 2026 at various points in the cycle and compared those numbers with the same dates for Fall 2023 through Fall 2025. She provided an update on the Presidential Scholars Program, including award details for Fall 2026 in comparison to previous years, and shared domestic freshman admission numbers for Fall 2026 alongside recent historical data.

Mrs. Lykins concluded by presenting the academic profile of newly admitted freshmen, including college and major selections, average GPA, average ACT score, and the number of National Merit semifinalists. She also answered several questions from Board members on many topics including financial aid, scholarships, reasons students choose other universities, and recruitment efforts.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Provost's Report

Interim Provost John Liu began his presentation by giving a brief update on Academic Affairs, explaining that currently Academic Affairs is involved heavily in program reviews, faculty interviews, and student success initiatives. He explained that the institution is also heavily focused on accreditation reaffirmation efforts, which involves extensive preparations across many compliance areas. He updated the Board on the accreditation review on-site visit schedule and indicated that the university appears to be in a positive position heading into the process.

Provost Liu then introduced Dean Daren Snider from the College of Arts & Sciences to give a focused update on the college. Dean Snider began his presentation by showcasing current enrollments for the college in comparison to other colleges and schools across the university. He also shared 10-year enrollment trends, pointing out that the trends generally mirror overall university trends. Next, Dean Snider shared overall enrollment and enrollment growth across the departments in his college and student credit hours per FTE faculty for Fall 2025.

Next, Dean Snider shared information regarding new facilities in place and in progress, as well as new programs for the College of Arts & Sciences. He concluded his presentation by sharing several examples of student experiences and engagement, as well as several faculty recognitions. He also highlighted research funding and scholarly output from the college for the last several years before answering several questions from Board members.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – New Academic Program Proposal (NAPP) for the Ph.D. in Integrative Biology

Interim Provost John Liu began by informing Board members that the New Academic Program Proposal (NAPP) for the Ph.D. in Integrative Biology requires Board approval. He then explained the need for a Ph.D. program in Integrative Biology, citing several examples ranging from research opportunities to the uniqueness of the program.

Next, Provost Liu went over the enrollment and revenue projections for the first seven years, including estimated enrollment, graduates, expenses, and revenues. He then focused more closely on how the addition of this program would enhance the research mission at Tennessee Tech and gave examples of how increased Ph.D. programs help strengthen research.

Provost Liu concluded his presentation by explaining the return on investment through Ph.D. education. Dr. Brad Cohen, Associate Professor in Biology, joined Provost Liu at the podium and they both answered questions about the proposed program from Board members.

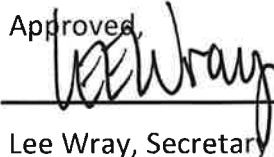
Chair Rudd asked for a motion and a second to move the New Academic Program Proposal (NAPP) for the Ph.D. in Integrative Biology to the Board's regular agenda. Trustee Allen moved to send the NAPP for the Ph.D. in Integrative Biology to the Board for approval and to place it on the Board's regular agenda. Trustee Foster seconded the motion. Chair Rudd asked for a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Approved,  07/14/26

Lee Wray, Secretary