



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

June 25, 2026

Roaden 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 Board of Trustees met on Thursday, June 25, 2026, in Roaden University Center Room 282. Chair Rhedona Rose called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

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

- Michael Allen
- Teresa Chasteen-Dunn
- Trudy Harper
- Tom Jones
- Fred Lowery
- Garry McNabb
- Camron Rudd
- Braxton Westbrook
- Barry Wilmore
- Rhedona Rose

Allen Foster and Thomas Lynn were absent. 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 Rose introduced Tennessee Tech Student Orientation Assistants (SOAs), Steven Valencia and Emily Johnson, who shared about their experience as SOAs. SOAs help incoming freshmen feel welcome and comfortable at Tennessee Tech by showing them hospitality at summer SOA sessions, a two-day orientation for first-time freshmen.

LEE DA/25/26

AGENDA ITEM III – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2026

Chair Rose asked for approval of the minutes for the March 12, 2026, Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. McNabb moved to recommend approval for the March 12, 2026, Board of Trustees meeting minutes. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Mr. Wray called a voice vote. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM IV – STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

Mr. Westbrook reported that the momentum of Tennessee Tech was on display at the May 8, 2026, commencement ceremony, the largest in the university's history with more than 1,600 Golden Eagles graduating. Tennessee Tech recently completed a reaffirmation of accreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges with full compliance and zero recommendations, which was a credit to the faculty, staff, administrators and campus partners that made this result possible.

April was Artificial Intelligence (AI) month, and a student-built AI carnival was held on Centennial Plaza. In fall 2026 the first undergraduate cohort in the Artificial Intelligence major would be welcomed onto campus. GENESIS, a high-performance computing system, was launched by the ASCEND Center and was now the university's largest scientific instrument in its research portfolio. A computer science faculty member had been named to the National Science Foundation's inaugural class of AI education fellows. The presence of autonomous delivery robots on campus confirmed Tennessee Tech's commitment to new technology, accessibility on campus and opportunities for students.

Former SGA president Harrison Simpson had received the university's highest student honor, the Derryberry Award. The Autonomous Robotics Club competed in the world championships, a team of finance students participated in a community bank case study competition and Tennessee Tech's delegation made its appearance in the model air fleet, each receiving significant honors.

A geoscience and computer science student, Tony Lamantia, worked on mapping the lunar south pole, and earned the College of Arts and Science's highest student award. The Whitson-Hester School of Nursing received a 95% first-time pass rate in its nurse practitioner program. Tennessee Tech alum Brooke Mayo was selected to officiate in the FIFA World Cup for summer 2026. Head athletic trainer Jennifer Winningham was profiled nationally for her generosity to others.

The spring semester was marked by familiar events such as Eagle Fest, senior exhibitions, recitals, and other end of semester traditions. The Backdoor Playhouse completed a sold-out programming run. The "I Heart Tech Students" fundraising campaign returned to support campus initiatives. For the summer semester, SOAR sessions continued to bring families and new students to campus, with increased registration. Excitement continued to grow for Tennessee Tech's entrance to the Southern Conference. Students consistently reported a strong sense of belonging and quality relationships with the campus community, while looking forward to updated facilities, parking infrastructure and wellness initiatives. The incoming

Student Government Association (SGA) executive team would carry the student body forward with new ideas and leadership. Mr. Westbrook was appreciative of his time as student trustee and reflected on the experience positively.

AGENDA ITEM V – PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Oldham stated that it had been recently announced by Money Magazine that Tennessee Tech was once again the number one public university in Tennessee and had earned a four-star rating in their newly instated star system.

Summer was an exciting time on campus as energy picked up in anticipation of the fall semester. It was roughly eight weeks until the College Town Kickoff event, with Dustin Lynch performing, and nine weeks until the first home football game.

President Oldham reflected on similarities between the 200th anniversary of the United States and the upcoming 250th anniversary. Students asked themselves many of the same questions today as they did then, and a college education still represents the best chance for a better future for students. Tennessee Tech was positioned to address the concerns and challenges of the times.

Vice President for Enrollment and Communication Karen Lykins had reported on the record number of graduates that year. There were 2,644 graduates, which was 10% larger than the previous year and more than 4% of the highest ever number of graduates at Tennessee Tech. This achievement was intentional and the result of much effort and decisions that the Board of Trustees approved, such as new programs like the bachelor’s degree in architecture and a tuition increase to support student needs.

A new Campus Safety unit was approved to ensure that students, faculty and staff continued to have a safe and secure campus environment. Bob Crabtree was welcomed as the leader of this new unit. Programs in nuclear engineering, vocal performance, a master’s degree in agriscience technology, and PhDs in higher education administration and integrative biology had been designed to position students for future career opportunities.

A 120,000 square-foot research facility in Crossville would house the GENESIS supercomputer and a wind tunnel. GENESIS was set to be among the top 200 supercomputers in the world. The Golden Eagle marching band was the largest it had ever been, with over 220 musicians. Sponsored research was approaching \$50 million for the year, more than doubling the total of the five previous years. Tennessee Tech had surpassed \$17 million in private fundraising. Additionally, Tennessee Tech owned nearly 2,000 acres of farmland and operated the agricultural pavilion and a state-of-the-art poultry research center. The Appalachian Center for Craft in Smithville, Tennessee, was over 400 acres and a tremendous art facility for students.

The Whitson-Hester School of Nursing had grown from 238 students in 2016 to a fall 2026 projection of 538 students. There was much excitement regarding the athletics program joining the Southern Conference and the opening of the new west side of Tucker Stadium. Tennessee Tech was continuing its largest capital development period in university history, with projects

such as the J.J. Oakley Innovation Center and Residence Hall, the ACME engineering building, a full renovation of Johnson Hall and the Tucker Stadium project. Five more projects were in or approaching the development phase: a new track facility, new tennis courts, a parking garage, the university tower and the student spirit center located at Tucker Stadium.

President Oldham thanked the Board of Trustees for their contributions, as well as faculty, staff and students. There was more work to be done, and Tennessee Tech's future was exciting.

Mr. Jones asked Tennessee Tech's ranking in terms of affordability was. President Oldham answered that Tennessee Tech had the lowest student loan debt on graduation and in terms of price point, was around third highest. The ROI for students was good, and the goal was to continue to be affordable, while maintaining a positive student experience.

AGENDA ITEM VI – TTU POLICY 007 (FREE SPEECH ON CAMPUS)

Mr. Greg Holt presented amendments to Tennessee Tech Policy 007 Free Speech on Campus to ensure compliance with a newly enacted state law. In April 2026 the state passed a series of laws to reemphasize commitment to free speech, academic freedom and institutional neutrality. Two University of Chicago reports were referenced in the amended policy to meet the requirements of the law. Mr. Jones moved to approve the TTU Policy 007 (Free Speech on Campus) revision. Mr. Allen seconded the motion. Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM VII – CONSENT AGENDA – A. EMERITUS PRESIDENT CONTRACT B. TENURE RECOMMENDATIONS C. TTU POLICY 205 (FACULTY TENURE) D. TTU POLICY 207 (TENURED FACULTY) E. TTU POLICY 216 (STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY) F. TTU POLICY 282 (GRADUATE FACULTY APPOINTMENT AND RESPONSIBILITIES POLICY) G. TTU POLICY 283 (GENERAL GRADUATE TRANSFER CREDIT REQUIREMENTS) H. TTU POLICY 511.1 (FEE CHARGES, REFUNDS, AND FEE ADJUSTMENTS) I. TTU POLICY 570 (METHODS AND PROCESSES OF PROCUREMENT, CONTRACTS, AND AGREEMENTS) J. TTU POLICY 650 (DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS)

Mr. Allen stated that faculty had presented their concerns to him regarding the revisions to the faculty tenure and tenured faculty policies. Following discussion at the morning committee meeting and upon the committee's recommendation, Mr. McNabb moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Allen seconded the motion. Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM VIII – ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – A. NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSAL (NAPP) FOR THE BACHELOR OF ARCHITECTURE

Following discussion at the morning committee meeting and upon the committee's recommendation, Mr. Rudd moved to approve the new academic program proposal (NAPP) for the Bachelor of Architecture. Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Handwritten signatures and initials:
Wray
09/23/26

AGENDA ITEM IX – AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – A. FY2025-26 ESTIMATED & FY2026-27 PROPOSED BUDGET

Following discussion at the morning committee meeting and upon the committee's recommendation, Mr. Jones moved to approve the FY2025-26 estimated and FY2026-27 proposed budget and organizational chart. Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM IX – AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – B. CAPITAL BUDGET FY2027-28

Following discussion at the morning committee meeting and upon the committee's recommendation, Mr. Jones moved to approve the FY2027-28 Capital Budget requests. Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM IX – AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – C. TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES

Mr. Wilmore presented concerns regarding state funding and its impact on tuition increases. Mr. Jones commented that the decision falls to the Board of Trustees and administration on how to make these decisions. Mr. Westbrook spoke in favor of the transportation fee, and shared that the SGA fee increase was a student-led initiative. Following discussion at the morning committee meeting and upon the committee's recommendation, Mr. Jones moved to approve the recommended FY2026-27 4.3% undergraduate maintenance, 4.3% graduate maintenance and \$110 mandatory fee increase. Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM X – ELECTION OF STUDENT TRUSTEE

Mr. Jimmy Guadalupe addressed the Board of Trustees and expressed excitement at the opportunity to serve as student trustee. Mr. Westbrook stated that Mr. Guadalupe was a qualified candidate for student trustee and a person of character. Upon a recommendation from the Student Government Association, Mr. Lowery nominated Jimmy Guadalupe to serve as the student Trustee for fiscal year 2026-27. Mr. McNabb seconded the motion. Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM XI – BOARD SECRETARY REPORT

Secretary Wray reminded trustees of the upcoming evaluation of President Oldham. Mr. Lowery would be coordinating the evaluation for the year. Chair Rose noted that trustees should be mindful of deadlines during the evaluation process as it moved quickly.

Wray 09/15/20

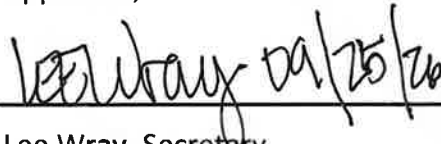
AGENDA ITEM XII – OTHER BUSINESS

Plaques were presented to outgoing Trustees, Braxton Westbrook and Barry Wilmore, and appreciation was expressed for their service to the Board of Trustees and to Tennessee Tech. Mr. Wilmore had been on the Board of Trustees since its inception in 2017, and he remarked that it had been an honor to serve on the Board.

AGENDA ITEM XIII – ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Tennessee Tech Board of Trustees meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Approved,



Lee Wray, Secretary