

Staff Advisory Committee
October 30, 2025 – 1:30 p.m.

Members Present: Joyce Arnold-Hesson, Brian Allen, Christa Blair, Jennifer Dewar, Emily Disbrow, Ashton Estes, Jennifer Goad, Liam Harder, Melanie Mabrey, Tammy Martorana, Irene Mauk, Peggy Nettenstrom, Noel Stojkov, Cathleen Walker, Catherine Warren, Miranda Wilson, Savannah Yarbrough

Members Absent: Ashton Estes, Irene Mauk, Deborah Yu

Others Present: President Oldham, Lee Wray, Aleta Cannon

Summary:

Approved Agenda

Approved September 16, 2025 minutes

Discussed parking lot paint for Noble Cody Circle exit

Reviewed Talon cutover dates

Comments by the President

Proceedings:

Chair Melanie Mabrey called the meeting to order at 1:36 pm. Liam Harder motioned to approve the agenda for October 30, 2025. Catherine Warren seconded. Motion APPROVED.

Peggy Nettenstrom motioned to approve the September 16, 2025, minutes. Christa Blair seconded. Motion APPROVED.

Joyce Arnold-Hesson asked if there had been an update on the Noble Cody Circle exit painting. Chair Mabrey explained that she had received an update stating that it had been reviewed and was reliant upon funding and timing. It had been listed as a priority to get it done that semester, weather permitting. Arnold-Hesson explained that many parents were accidentally entering through the exit without knowing and they wanted to prevent further incidents.

Kevin Vedder discussed key Talon project events and cutover dates. He encouraged the group to participate in and register for Talon training sessions. Training sessions would be offered between November 10th through the end of the year with more training in January 2026 as well, including walk-in labs and one-on-one assistance. The cutover schedule had been shared with campus and was on the Talon website. Each Thursday, a cutover date would be shared in Tech Times to keep campus up to date on these processes.

A town hall regarding pay frequency would be hosted on November 17, 2025, from 10:30 to 11:00 am. Employees would receive additional information regarding the pay frequency changes. This would cover topics such as how fixed distributions and withholdings would work with the new pay frequency schedule. Chair Mabrey asked if new hires after November 3rd would have a different onboarding process. Vedder confirmed that no, they would complete the same processes and Human Resources would assist. Go Live for Talon would be on January 2, 2026. Arnold-Hesson asked how contracts for Athletics would work with cutover dates if any of the teams got into championships. Vedder replied that there would be processes in place to cover these events.

President Oldham began his comments by mentioning it was Homecoming week at Tennessee Tech and there was a lot going on. Institutional rankings were in, and Tennessee Tech was tied with the University of Tennessee Knoxville for #1 public university in Tennessee in Money Magazine. The Wilmore Way dedication would be on Friday, October 31, 2025, at 2:00 pm and he hoped everyone would attend. Captain Wilmore and his family would be in attendance and there would be free t-shirts.

October was the middle of recruitment season for the incoming freshman class. The University had hosted several “Tech to You” events where employees visited other communities to visit with prospective students who may not typically get to visit campus, such as Williamson, Wilson, Knox, Hamilton, and Rutherford counties. There were usually around 80-100 prospective students and their families in attendance, and it was a great opportunity to talk to them about Tennessee Tech. The October revised budget was being finished, and President Oldham noted the importance of budgets for priority setting. He stated that work was done with cabinet members, deans, and the Budget Advisory Committee to set priorities. Additional funds had been planned to address high priority issues around campus.

A campus landscape masterplan was in the works and was at the end of the design process. There was a new rendering of a plan for the center of campus behind the Roaden University Center to share with the committee, and President Oldham described the thought processes behind specific features and greenspaces. The landscape masterplan would give the University a good blueprint to develop the entire campus and plan in the coming years.

Athletics had contributed to much positive representation for the University. News Channel 2 was recently on campus to film their morning segment at the football stadium. Women’s soccer recently won their fourth title. A new commercial for the University recently aired and it was shown to the group.

Noel Stojkov asked how timesheets would work after Talon was implemented. Vedder responded that timesheets like what was in use at that time would still be used. TimeClock+ for student workers would be going away and a new system in Talon would be used. Chair Mabrey mentioned that if anyone would like to be part of the Staff Day 2026 planning committee, to please note this on the meeting’s attendance sheet. Harder asked if anyone else had noticed the number of students walking in the road without looking for traffic first. Chair Mabrey noted that this had been a concern and University Police was working with Putnam County EMA to create a task force to conduct safety assessments and address these issues on campus.

President Oldham noted that the Wednesday, November 26, 2025, the day before Thanksgiving, would be a university holiday and offices would be closed. Lighting the Quad would be on Tuesday, December 2, 2025. There was a football game the following Saturday, November 1st at 12:00 pm and the Homecoming parade was at 9:00 am.

Blair motioned to adjourn. Arnold-Hesson seconded. Adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Aleta Cannon, recorder

Documents on file:

Agenda, October 30, 2025
Minutes, September 16, 2025