

Staff Advisory Committee to the President
November 8, 2012, 1:30 p.m.

Present: Joy Cook, Brooke Dedmon, Susan Henry, Patrena Hicks, Kaye Loftis (chair), Randal McCloud, Donna Russell, Randa Thompson, Donna Warren and Denette Way

Others Present: Mike Cowan, President Oldham, Paul Semmes and Terri Taylor

Gap Analysis Assessment Process

Michael Stallworth and Michael Zorensky, reps from the Huron Consulting firm, provided a brief update/report on behalf of the Gap Analysis Task Force of actions-to-date. One potential downside to the expedited process is that it doesn't allow the campus as a whole to keep up and provide input. The basic steps have been completed and the group is moving toward the final process. The strengths and differentiators to set a clear vision of who we are and where we want to go have been established. Two sets of peers to include an aspirational list and realistic list have been identified and established as well. The website is forthcoming to gather additional input from the campus and will be used for collecting comments and communicating updates.

President Oldham commented that this is a living/breathing process that must be ongoing to be effective. He also expressed his appreciation for all the work of the task force and others involved in the assessment.

President's Comments

President Oldham reported that it is early in the state level for the budget cycle. THEC presented budget recommendations to the Governor and legislators last week which included the addition of \$35 million to the funding formula. Progress has been made on the outcome measures as graduation rates indicate a significant early progress thus far.

The Governor's budget will be presented in January and TTU is hopeful it will include the proposed science building on the capital projects lists for FY 2014 funding. The \$82 million project would require a 25% match of funds from TTU; one third of institutional funds; one third in fund-raising efforts; and one third to be proposed from the current student fee structure of unutilized funds. Currently, \$4 million in planning funds have been identified. This proposed building is important for the campus as it would serve as a pivotal point of redevelopment of campus with a signature building and provide an eye toward the future.

The master planners have been re-engaged as THEC has TTU at the max for square footage. The proposed science building could be between 130,000 and 200,000 square feet of added space to campus.

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The student fee proposal could go as high as a six percent increase. Discussion has also been focused on universities pursuing differential tuition models to cover the more expensive programs/courses. Fee and tuition issues as well as scholarship utilization and affordability are all being assessed to find a quality balance.

On the downside, the Governor has also asked state agencies to prepare for a potential five percent reduction. Significant budgetary issues and priorities are on the table as all higher education institutions strive to match grads in jobs.

President Oldham briefly reviewed TTU's legislative priorities for 2012-2013 (copy attached). These priorities as well as other regional higher education issues will be the focus during TTU's Legislative Forum set for December 11.

Plans are to merge the former Luncheon Forum event into a new Brown Bag Lunch Session with the first scheduled for November 27, at 11 a.m., in the cafeteria. This event is planned to provide an open line of communication for all with the president. President Oldham stated he has an open door policy for communicating to him and encouraged those present to use this when needed.

Salary Equity

HR Director Mike Cowan provided the group with an updated report on the clerical and support staff salary equity/compensation plan.

Chairman Loftis adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Terri Taylor, Recorder



TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2012 - 2013

THE UNIVERSITY will work with our legislators and other state officials on several priority areas this year.

TTU SCIENCE COMPLEX

TTU endorses the state initiative to create bond funding for capital construction, and urges strong legislative support. TTU also supports the concept of a matching program and pledges to work to secure a percentage match for the first building in the new science complex this year. Science and engineering programs support the core mission of the university and are vitally important to state economic development initiatives. Foster Hall, one of the university's oldest buildings, is seriously deficient as a modern science building. These facilities are home to one of the state's largest undergraduate chemistry programs, as well as providing laboratory support for undergraduate, master's, and doctoral programs in engineering, nursing, environmental science, and provide general education classrooms for many freshmen and other students on campus.

TTU COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY-SAVING/UPGRADE PROGRAM

A preliminary site assessment to determine opportunities for a comprehensive energy-saving/upgrade program has been conducted for TTU's campus. General categories of energy conservation measures and facility improvement measures have been identified. Each category represents a broad scope of work across the campus which will achieve our goals of reduced energy costs, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and improved student comfort and safety. Targeted work will include conversion of the coal-fired heat plant to alternative fuel sources, upgrades to more efficient lighting systems, water conservation and recycling. Estimated cost of capital improvements needed to accomplish a comprehensive energy-saving/upgrade program at TTU is \$14,500,000. Savings generated from the project are expected to be approximately \$1,265,000 per year, with full implementation providing a 15-year payback on the initial investment.

TECH-REDI

TTU will seek \$1 million in state, federal and private funds to expand its newly created TECH-REDI (Regional Economic Development Institute) initiative. The culmination of the TECH-REDI formative years is the Upper Cumberland Tennessee Regional Economic Development Initiative (UCTN-REDI) which administers a regional strategic plan for economic development in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development that focuses on "A shared commitment to making the Upper Cumberland a better place to live, work, and play." The next step in the TECH-REDI evolution is to leverage TTU's economic development resources to focus on economic-development-based academic programs and technology transfer for innovation in industry and government. Establishing a presence in the newly created Highlands Business Park will be the platform for this effort.

TTU EQUESTRIAN FACILITY

The University will seek \$1 million in state, federal and private funds to construct two 100-horse-stall barns, a restroom/shower facility and covered arena to attract medium-sized equine-related events at the Hyder-Burks Pavilion. This Pavilion already has the infrastructure and personnel to manage such events without additional financial burdens. The facility will utilize alternative energy resources for power needs. It is estimated that the increased hotel, restaurant and fuel economic activity surrounding equestrian events will create returns equal to the cost of the facilities within three years.