

**Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting – March 14, 2024
Tennessee State University – Hankal Hall**

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Trustees Deborah Cole, Pam Martin, Stephen Corbeil, Andre Johnson, Bill Johnson, Richard Lewis, Obie McKenzie, Van Pinnock, and Shaun Wimberly

University Staff Present: President Glenda Glover; Laurence Pendleton, General Counsel and Board Secretary; Dr. Robbie Melton, Acting Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs; Douglas Allen, VP of Finance and Budget; Dr. Curtis Johnson, Chief of Staff; Dean Frank Stevenson, Assoc. Vice President of Student Affairs; Dr. Quincy Quick, Assoc. Vice President of Research & Sponsored Programs; Dr. Arlene Nicholas-Phillips, Liaison to the Board

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cole called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 3:20 p.m. CST on March 14, 2024.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Cole recognized members of the University’s faculty and staff in attendance. Dean Frank Stevenson gave the invocation.

III. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Chair Cole asked the Board Secretary, Laurence Pendleton, to call the roll. The following Trustees were present during roll call: Deborah Cole, Pam Martin, Stephen Corbeil, Andre Johnson, Bill Johnson, Richard Lewis, Van Pinnock, and Shaun Wimberly. Board Secretary Pendleton announced the presence of a quorum.

Chair Cole asked the Board members to state if any of them could not hear or speak with each other. No Board members answered in the affirmative. Chair Cole also asked the Board members participating by phone to indicate if someone was present with them from the location in which they are calling. No Board members indicated there was anyone present.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Cole introduced the first agenda item, which was the approval of the Consent Agenda items, which included the November 16, 2023, Board meeting minutes; November 16, 2023, Audit Committee meeting minutes; November 16, 2023, Finance and Budget Committee meeting minutes; November 16, 2023, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes; and November 16, 2023, Executive Committee meeting minutes. Trustee B. Johnson moved to

approve the consent agenda items. Trustee Martin seconded the motion, which was approved by roll call vote.

B. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

As the committee chair, Chair Cole reported on this agenda item. She reported that the Audit Committee met to act on one item and discuss or receive reports on two items and go into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed confidential under State law. The Audit Committee had a comprehensive discussion about internal and external audits and outstanding audit issues.

Chair Cole stated that the committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the November 16, 2023, Audit Committee meeting minutes. The minutes were approved with the consent agenda.

Chair Cole noted that the Board received a draft copy of findings for a report on the Year Ending June 30, 2022, on March 14, 2024. A copy was emailed to the Chair on March 13, 2024, but she has not had an opportunity to review the information. Chair Cole stated that the Board would not take action until she and the TSU administration have an opportunity to review the findings and the full June 30, 2022, report. If necessary, she would call a meeting to discuss the report before the next scheduled Board meeting.

C. FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

The next item on the agenda was a Finance and Budget Committee report. Trustee A. Johnson presented on this agenda item. He reported that the Committee met to act on two items and receive reports on eight items.

The committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the November 16, 2023, Finance and Budget Committee meeting minutes. The minutes were approved with the Consent Agenda Items.

Trustee A. Johnson further reported that the committee receive reports on the Fiscal Year 2024 Institutional Revised Budget, a Construction and Facilities update, a Master Plan update, a Finance and Budget report, a report on the Customer Relations Strategic Plan, an Enrollment update, a Merit Scholarship update, an update on the Personnel Action Plan, and a report on the Information Technology Replacement Plan.

1. APPROVAL OF THE FY 2025 COMPENSATION PLAN

Trustee Lewis stated that the Finance and Budget Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the FY 2025 Compensation Plan, as contained in the March 14, 2024, Board materials. He moved to approve the FY 2025 Compensation Plan. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion, Chair Cole asked Secretary Pendleton to take a roll call vote, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Chair Cole thanked the Finance and Business Committee for their work. Trustee B. Johnson thanked the Board and President for the compensation plan on behalf of the faculty and staff.

D. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair Martin reported on this agenda item. She reported that the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee met to consider and vote on three agenda items and to receive reports on four other agenda items.

Trustee Martin stated that the committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the November 16, 2023, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes, which were approved by the Board in the Consent Agenda Items. The committee also voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of a new academic program in the College of Education, a Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, and an academic program modification to change the academic program degree designation from the Master of Arts in Education to the Master of Science Degree in Human Performance and Sports Sciences.

Additionally, Trustee Martin shared that the committee received a SACSCOC accreditation update and reports on academic affairs and student affairs. The committee also heard a report on the proposed Board resolution pertaining to the Student Trustee position.

1. APPROVAL OF A NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM – COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, CERTIFICATE IN TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Martin moved to approve a new academic program in the College of Education, a Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, as contained in the Board materials for the March 14, 2024, Board meeting. Trustee B. Johnson seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

2. APPROVAL OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODIFICATION—CHANGE IN ACADEMIC PROGRAM DEGREE DESIGNATION FROM THE MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION TO THE MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN HUMAN PERFORMANCE AND SPORTS SCIENCES

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Martin moved to approve an academic program modification to change the academic program degree designation from the Master of Arts in Education to the Master of Science Degree in Human Performance and Sports Sciences, as contained in the Board materials for the March 14, 2024, Board meeting. Trustee B. Johnson seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Chair Cole thanked Trustee Martin and the committee for their great work on behalf of the Board.

E. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Cole stated that the Executive Committee met today to discuss and vote on one action item and hear reports on four items. The Executive Committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the November 16, 2023, Executive Committee meeting minutes, which were approved by the full Board in the Consent Agenda Items.

Chair Cole also stated that the Executive Committee heard reports on the status of Board Resolution Items, an update on the presidential search process, an update on pending legislation affecting TSU, and a report from Secretary Pendleton.

F. REPORT ON STATUS OF BOARD RESOLUTION ITEMS

Chair Cole called on President Glover or her designee to present information regarding this agenda item. President Glover then asked General Evans to share information on this item.

General Evans presented a color-coded stoplight chart depicting the University's work on each Board resolution item. He described ongoing work to increase the Board's operational effectiveness, the status of the Fall 2024 Annual Institutional Merit Scholarship Plan, and efforts to provide housing and enrollment data to the Board.

He further described work on a Personnel Action Plan and personnel hirings. He discussed the University's response to the Board's directive to present to the Finance and Budget Committee prior approval for specified budget changes exceeding 10%, including those concerning scholarships, and a policy regarding the same.

General Evans further reported on TSU's efforts in terms of Housing, a University Communications Plan, and updates to the Board on the University's progress on the Board resolution items.

Chair Cole stated that details regarding these items have been provided, including during committee meetings.

V. APPROVAL OF BOARD RESOLUTION ON STUDENT TRUSTEE BOARD RESOLUTION

Chair Cole made a motion for the Board to delegate authority to Trustee A. Johnson to work with Student Trustee Wimberly to finalize the student board resolution on behalf of the Board. The motion was seconded by Trustee B. Johnson.

Trustee Wimberly stated that the resolution is being built to enhance and improve the efficiency of the role of the Student Trustee. He thanked the Board for helping to make the resolution a reality. He also acknowledged students Eden Walker, Devon Storms, Samson Cook, and Cameron Nelson and thanked them for their assistance in drafting the proposed resolution.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved.

VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Chair Cole called on President Glover to present information regarding this agenda item, the President's Report. President Glover provided reports on various items contained in the Board materials for the March 14, 2024, Board meeting, in part, through the use of PowerPoint slides.

President Glover announced that endowment funds were over \$100 million. She stated that a budget presentation was made to the State Senate.

President Glover shared good news items for the University, including Dr. Melton's nationally recognized work in the artificial intelligence space.

Dr. Glover discussed legislation affecting the TSU Board, SB 1596/HB 1739 as amended. She gave a status update on the legislation and discussions taking place to reach an agreement regarding a Board extension. She further discussed SB 2109/HB 2346, which addresses a temporary governing landing spot for any state university whose board is vacated or unsettled. The legislation has not been voted on by the entire House.

President Glover stated that she presented budget information to the Senate Education Committee. She stated that they are having conversations with various legislators regarding the \$2.1 billion and \$294 million owed to TSU. Her presentation to the Senate Education Committee conversation was limited to money in the Governor's Budget. Total funding provided for TSU is \$5,105,600 for the upcoming fiscal year.

President Glover gave examples of how TSU has used budget allocations.

President Glover also discussed TSU's growing national reputation and recognition on artificial intelligence.

President Glover provided a breakdown of how the \$250 million allocated to TSU is planned to be used.

She further provided an update on the status of audits, including a forensic audit started in early August, a financial statement audit, and TSAC audit. She stated that TSU has been responsive to requests during the forensic audit, and the auditors have been complementary. The TSAC audit is 80% complete.

President Glover provided an in-depth update on the underfunding of TSU, which includes two different levels of underfunding. She discussed how the underfunding was discovered and how the amount of the underfunding was calculated. She provided a proposed use of funds if received.

Finally, President Glover talked about efforts to develop a transition plan for the future president.

VII. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Cole noted that Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., has decided to honor Dr. Glover for her service as president of TSU and her contributions to the sorority, including her service as the international president of the sorority. Dr. Glover's relationship with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. has created significant benefit to the University. Therefore, the Board of Trustees wants to recognize Dr. Glover by issuing a proclamation designating April 14, 2024, as Dr. Glenda Glover Day at Tennessee State University. She moved for approval of the proclamation, which was seconded by B. Johnson. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Chair Cole provided her thoughts and praise of the Board of Trustees. She noted her pride in the Association of Governing Board's report that stated that the Board is an effective board. She commented on some of the accomplishments of the Board and University. She thanked Dr. Allen and his staff for their work on five audits during the past year. She discussed new academic programs that have been established and efforts in the AI space. She thanked the trustees and the administration for their work to move the University forward. Chair Cole concluded by saying, "We have made tremendous strides and, whenever we leave, I do believe we are leaving it better than we found it."

Chair Cole applauded the Board and staff.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cole asked for a motion to adjourn, which was made by Trustee B. Johnson. The motion was seconded by Trustee McKenzie. The motion carried by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.