

**Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
Executive Committee
March 14, 2024
Tennessee State University – Hankal Hall**

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Trustees Deborah Cole, Pam Martin, and Richard Lewis

Other Board Members Present: Trustees Stephen Corbeil, Richard Lewis, Obie McKenzie, and Van Pinnock, Andre Johnson, Bill Johnson, 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; Jason Evans, Chief Operating Officer; 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 meeting to order at 10:18 a.m. on March 14, 2024.

Chair Cole made certain findings on the record regarding the necessity for conducting the meeting by electronic participation without a physical quorum present, including hearing important reports on the Presidential search process, pending legislation affecting TSU, and the Secretary’s Report. Participation by electronic means was necessitated by members’ in-person absences due to unavoidable travel issues. Chair Cole moved that the committee find participation by a quorum of the committee members by electronic means of communication was necessary. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion. Chair Cole asked Secretary Pendleton to call the roll. Trustees Cole, Martin, and Lewis voted in favor, and the motion carried.

II. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Chair Cole asked the Secretary of the Board to call the roll. Secretary Pendleton called the roll. Committee members present were Trustees Martin, A. Johnson, B. Johnson, and Shaun Wimberly. A quorum was established.

Chair Cole asked any committee members who could not hear or speak to the other committee members or board members, to state so. None responded. She further asked committee members participating electronically to identify any individuals who were present in the location from which the members were participating. No individuals were identified.

III. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2023, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Chair Cole moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the minutes from the November 16, 2023, Executive Committee meeting, as contained in the March 14, 2024, Board materials. Trustee Martin seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

IV. UPDATE ON PRSIDENTIAL SEARCH PROCESS

Chair Cole introduced the next item on the agenda, a report on the Presidential Search Process. Chair Cole provided the report. She stated that at the November 16, 2023, Board meeting, she discussed the Presidential Search process, including a framework for conducting the search. Following that Board meeting, the search process ensued. Listening sessions were conducted, and a presidential profile was developed and posted online. The recruitment process and formal search process was launched in December. In February, the Search Committee met, determined logistical matters, and evaluated candidates.

The search process continues on track. A series of meetings are scheduled for March to identify up to 10 candidates for further consideration. The Search Committee plans to move forward with approximately four candidates for future consideration and evaluation. The search process has included opportunities for the Governor's Office to be involved, and he has been advised of this. This process will include Board interviews and an open forum on campus.

The Board will make a final decision on the selection of the next president. The Board anticipates naming the new president sometime in late April.

Chair Cole thanked everyone on the committee. Chair Cole stated that the size of the committee allows for broad participation from interested parties. The Board of Trustees will make the final decision as to the person selected for the president position.

There was a discussion about state disclosure requirements.

V. UPDATE ON PENDING LEGISLATION AFFECTING TSU

Trustee Cole announced the next item on the agenda, an update on pending legislation affecting TSU. Secretary Pendleton was asked to report on this item. Secretary Pendleton discussed two primary bills. SB 2109 is a bill to transfer governance to THEC in the event that a board is sunsetted or vacated. It is scheduled for House action in committee on Monday. It would ultimately have to be approved by the Governor. TSU has testified as to this piece of legislation.

SB 1596 is the bill that originally would have moved the termination date of the Board to next year, and it was amended to vacate the Board and reconstitute a new board. It has passed two Senate committees. It still needs to go to the Senate floor for approval. It could go to House committee. There is discussion ongoing within House leadership on this bill. This bill is a work in progress.

There is also another bill (SB 1990) scheduled for calendar that attempts to provide a floor for matching funds for TSU that would be two times the rate that the federal government requires. That is working its way through the House and Senate. Dr. Glover has had conversation with representatives regarding this bill.

Chair Cole said that she is proud of the work that the TSU Board of Trustees has done. Chair Cole thanked Secretary Pendleton for this report.

VI. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Trustee Cole announced the next item on the agenda, the Secretary's Report. Secretary Pendleton was asked to present the report. Secretary Pendleton reported that he and Dean Stevenson were invited to a listening session by the Department of Education and provided information about actions taken at TSU to protect students' rights and avoid hostile environments.

Secretary Pendleton further reported on updates to Title IX regulations. TSU is part of the Association of Public Land-grant Universities (APLU). A group, including TSU, was invited to speak with members of the White House and OCR about the Biden Administration's proposed regulations on Title IX.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further discussion. Trustee Lewis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and the motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.