

**Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
Student and Academic Affairs Committee Meeting
June 6, 2024
Tennessee State University – Hankal Hall**

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Trustees Jeffery Norfleet (Committee Chair), Terica Smith, and Artenzia Young-Seigler

Board Members Present: Trustees Trevia Chatman, Marquita Qualls, Charles Traughber, Dwayne Tucker, Kevin Williams, Dakasha Winton (Board Chair), Tyler Vazquez (Student Trustee)

University Staff Present: President Glenda Glover; Laurence Pendleton, General Counsel and Board Secretary; Cheryl Seay, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and Global Online; Johnnie Smith, Assistant Vice President for Academic Support & Dual Enrollment; Dean Frank Stevenson, Assoc. Vice President of Student Affairs; Douglas Allen, Vice President of Business and Finance; Jason Evans, Chief Operating Officer; Dr. Curtis Johnson, Vice President of Administration; Dr. Arlene Nicholas-Phillips, Liaison to the Board of Trustees; Tim Warren, Chief Information Officer; Ginette Garza Brown, Associate General Counsel; Director of Internal Audits, Renée Forbes-Williams; Greg Robinson, Chief of Police; Dr. Mikki Allen, Director of Athletics; Dr. Quincy Quick, Associate Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs; Dean Chandra Reddy, College of Agriculture; Stephen Shanklin; Interim Dean of the College of Business; LoLita Toney, Executive Director of Development

I. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Norfleet called the meeting to order at 1:16 p.m. (CT) on June 6, 2024.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Trustee Norfleet welcomed meeting attendees.

III. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Trustee Norfleet proceeded with the roll call vote. Board Secretary Pendleton called the roll at the Committee Chair's request. Trustees Norfleet, Smith, and Young Seigler were present. Secretary Pendleton announced the presence of a quorum.

IV. APPROVAL OF 2024-2025 TENURE AND PROMOTION RECOMMENDATIONS

Trustee Norfleet announced the next agenda item as an approval of tenure and promotion recommendation for the 2024-2025 academic year. Trustee Norfleet asked Dr. Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. President Glover designated Dr. Cheryl Seay, TSU's Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, to provide pertinent

information related to this agenda item. The materials for this agenda item were contained in the Board materials for June 7, 2024.

Dr. Seay presented the lists of individuals recommended for tenure and promotion. Dr. Seay reviewed the policy for tenure recommendation. Dr. Seay requested the approval of the award of tenure for 16 faculty members, as recommended by the President, with a proposed implementation date of August 2024.

Trustee Norfleet moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of academic year 2024-2025 tenure and promotion recommendations, as contained in the Board materials for the June 7, 2024, Board meeting. Trustee Young-Seigler seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

V. APPROVAL OF NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM – GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Trustee Norfleet presented the next item on the agenda, the approval of a new academic program – a Graduate certificate in Higher Education. Trustee Norfleet asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item.

Dr. Seay, with the College of Education, requested approval of this new academic program. Details about the program were contained in the Board materials for June 7, 2024.

Seeing no discussion on this item, Trustee Norfleet moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of a new academic program, a Graduate Certificate in Higher Education. Trustee Young-Seigler seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

VI. NOTIFICATION OF NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM APPROVALS BY THE TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION (THEC) – PH.D. IN PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM AND M.S. IN BUSINESS DATA ANALYTICS PROGRAM

Trustee Norfleet presented the next item on the agenda, the approval of new academic program approvals by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) for the Ph.D. in the Public Health program and the M.S. in Business Data Analytics program. Details about the programs were contained in the Board materials for June 7, 2024.

Dr. Seay reported that on May 16, 2024, THEC approved the Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health and Master of Science in Business Data Analytics. The SACSCOC must now approve the implementation of these new programs as the academic programs modification are considered a substantive change under the SACSCOC Substantive Change Policy.

Trustee Norfleet asked Dr. Seay to provide them with information regarding the percentage of full-time faculty that is tenured.

VII. REPORT ON SACSCOC ACCREDITATION MATTERS – FIFTH-YEAR INTERIM REPORT

Trustee Norfleet announced the next agenda item, a report on SACSCOC Accreditation Matters-Fifth-Year Interim Report. Dr. Seay presented this report at Dr. Glover's request. Dr. Seay stated that from October 2023 to February 2024, SACSCOC audit team conducted a readiness audit. Dr. Seay reported that periodic readiness audit reports had been provided to Dr. Glover. In March 2026, the Fifth-Year Interim Report and QEP Impact Report will be submitted.

Trustee Young-Seigler asked whether TSU is in good standing with SACSCOC. Dr. Seay said that we are in good standing with no findings with SACSCOC. Further discussion took place regarding SACSCOC compliance and readiness. Dr. Seay said that there is work being done and we are well positioned to submit a report that is compliant for 2026. Dr. Glover added that TSU has a consultant that assists it and is in contact with the Provost.

VIII. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

Trustee Norfleet announced the next agenda item as the Academic Affairs Report. Information regarding this agenda item was included in the Board materials dated June 7, 2024. Trustee Norfleet asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. Dr. Johnnie Smith from Academic Affairs was asked to provide the report.

Dr. Smith directed the committee to the report contained in the Board materials, which detailed improvements, goals, accomplishments, and challenges overcome in Academic Affairs. She also shared the Academic Affairs calendar for the upcoming year. Dr. Smith shared that the AI For All Summit was taking place on campus and invited Board members to come to the summit.

A discussion took place regarding how the academic calendar is developed.

Trustee Norfleet asked about interim dean positions opened within the department. Dr. Glover shared the decision to wait for the new president to hire deans and certain other positions.

IX. ENROLLMENT UPDATE REPORT

Trustee Norfleet announced the next agenda item, an Enrollment Update. Dr. Glover asked COO Jason Evans to provide a report on Enrollment. COO Evans directed the Committee to pages 176 and 177 of the Board materials for the June 7, 2024, Board meeting. COO Evans reviewed enrollment data, including year or year data, and provided pertinent updates to the committee, such as delays with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) process and student balances.

A discussion took place regarding changes to the FAFSA process and mitigating actions that the University has taken in response to FAFSA challenges this year, University software or hardware needs; retention rates, support/wrap-around services, enrollment strategies, and scholarship rates. Holds on student accounts were also discussed.

Other matters were also discussed, including transfer partnerships with community colleges, enrollment capacity, and branding.

Dr. Qualls asked whether the University has considered raising the standards so we have better academically prepared students, which should help with progressing students along. COO Evans directed her attention to p. 179 of the Board materials, which showed the average GPAs are up for FTF and Intent-to-Enroll students, although test scores are flat year over year. Dr. Glover said that it may be time to revisit standards.

Further discussion took place regarding enrollment, retention, and scholarship tiers.

X. INSTITUTIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

Trustee Norfleet announced the next agenda item, an Institutional Merit Scholarship update. COO Evans presented this update at Dr. Glover's request. COO Evans discussed scholarship tiers and directed the Committee to page 182 of the Board materials. He reviewed the current status of TSU. A discussion took place regarding merit scholarships, the redistribution of funds, and working with charter schools.

XI. STUDENT AFFAIRS REPORT

Trustee Norfleet announced the next agenda item, the Student Affairs Report. Dean Frank Stevenson presented this report at Dr. Glover's request.

Dean Stevenson discussed the University Counseling Center. Two fully licensed counselors were hired. He talked about taking advantage of TSU's doctorate level students. He said that a new recordkeeping program was put in place. He discussed the challenging placement of the Counseling Center. They are close to receiving accreditation for their counseling space. Dean Stevenson discussed student mental health needs and continuing updates in this space.

Dean Stevenson discussed housing next. He talked about enrollment growth, the need to seek off-campus housing, and the need to increase student opportunity. He talked about graduate housing needs. A discussion took place regarding future housing needs.

Trustee Chatman asked about post-graduation employment data.

Trustee Young-Seigler congratulated Dean Stevenson for providing graduate housing for the first time and noted it will make a big difference for their programs. Further discussion took place regarding housing plans.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Norfleet asked if there was any additional business. There was none. Trustee Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Trustee Young-Seigler. A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.