

Meeting of the Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
June 7, 2024
Tennessee State University – Hankal Hall

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Trustees Dakasha Winton (Chair), Charles Traughber (Vice Chair) Trevia Chatman, Jeffery Norfleet, Marquita Qualls (virtual), Terica Smith, Dwayne Tucker, Artenzia Young-Seigler.

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; Will Radford, Assistant Vice President of Planning, Design & Construction and Campus Operations; 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

Chair Winton called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m. on Friday, June 7, 2024.

II. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Board Secretary Pendleton called the roll at Chair Winton’s request. Trustees Chatman, Norfleet, Qualls, Smith, Tucker, Traughber, and Winton Young-Seigler were present. Secretary Pendleton announced the presence of a quorum.

No trustees attending the meeting virtually indicated that they could not hear or speak to the other trustees or that others were in the location from which they were participating.

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF APRIL 26, 2024, BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chair Winton announced the next agenda item, the approval of the April 26, 2024, Board meeting minutes, as contained in the Board materials for the June 7, 2025, Board meeting. There was no discussion on the minutes. Chair Winton moved for the Board to approve the meeting minutes. Trustee Young-Seigler seconded the motion. Secretary Pendleton took a roll call vote. Trustees Chatman, Norfleet, Qualls, Smith, Traughber, Tucker, Winton, and Young-Seigler voted in favor of the motion, which passed.

B. APPROVAL OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE

Chair Winton addressed the next item on the agenda, the appointment of the student trustee. She informed the Board that pursuant to the FOCUS Act, a Tennessee State University student shall serve as a non-voting student member of the Board. The Board shall appoint the non-voting student member to serve a term of one (1) year. At the April 26, 2024, Board meeting, the Board adopted the Student Trustee recommendation process for the Board's appointment of the Student Trustee for the 2024-2025 school year. President Glover recommended the appointment of Tyler Vazquez, a Dr. Levi Watkins, Jr. Scholar at TSU, as the Student Trustee.

Chair Winton made a motion to appoint Mr. Tyler Vazquez to serve a one-year term as Student Trustee on the TSU Board of Trustees. Trustee Norfleet seconded the motion. Secretary Pendleton took a roll call vote. Trustees Chatman, Norfleet, Qualls, Smith, Traughber, Tucker, Winton, and Young-Seigler voted in favor of the motion, which passed.

Student Trustee Vazquez thanked the Board, Mr. Pendleton, Dean Stevenson, the Office of Student Activities, and former Student Trustee Shaun Wimberly.

C. APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Chair Winton proceeded with the appointment of the additional Executive Committee members. She stated that pursuant to the Board's Committees of the Board Policy, the Executive Committee is composed of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board, and at least one other at-large voting member elected by the Board. The Chair of the Board is the chair of this committee. As Board Chair and Vice Chair, Trustees Winton and Traughber, respectively, are deemed members of the Executive Committee. To ensure compliance with Board policy, the Board must approve the additional Executive Committee members.

Chair Winton proposed the addition of Trustees Smith and Chatman to serve as Executive Committee members. Trustee Traughber moved to appoint Trustees Smith and Chatman to serve as Executive Committee members. Trustee Norfleet seconded the motion. Secretary Pendleton took a roll call vote. Trustees Chatman, Norfleet, Qualls, Smith, Traughber, Tucker, Winton and Young-Seigler voted in favor of the motion, which passed.

D. APPROVAL OF AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

Chair Winton asked Trustee Traughber to present the next agenda item, the approval of the Audit Committee charter. On behalf of the Audit Committee, Trustee Traughber moved to approve the Audit Committee Charter, as contained in the Board materials for the June 7, 2024, Board meeting materials. Trustee Smith seconded the motion. Secretary Pendleton took a roll call vote. Trustees Chatman, Norfleet, Qualls, Smith, Traughber, Tucker, Winton, and Young-Seigler voted in favor of the motion, which passed.

E. APPROVAL OF BOARD AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chair Winton stated that pursuant to state law, the Board must establish an Audit Committee, and pursuant to the Audit Committee Charter, the Board must approve the Audit Committee members and the Chair of the Audit Committee. She further stated that pursuant to the Committees of the Board Policy, the Board Chair appoints members of the Audit Committee, subject to Board approval, in accordance with the Audit Committee Charter. The Audit Committee members serve a two (2) year term. As Board Chair, she has appointed Trustees Williams, Qualls, and Traugher to serve a two-year term on the Audit Committee.

Trustee Smith moved to approve the appointment of Trustees Williams, Qualls, and Traugher to serve a two-year term on the Audit Committee. Trustee Qualls seconded the motion. Secretary Pendleton took a roll call vote. Trustees Chatman, Norfleet, Qualls, Smith, Traugher, Tucker, Winton, and Young-Seigler voted in favor of the motion, which passed.

F. APPROVAL OF AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR

Next, Chair Winton stated that, pursuant to the Committees of the Board Policy, the Board chair is to appoint the Audit Committee chair, subject to Board approval, in accordance with the Audit Committee Charter. Chair Winton appointed Trustee Williams to serve as Chair of the Audit Committee.

Trustee Traugher moved to approve the appointment of Trustee Williams as chair of the Audit Committee to serve a one-year term on the chair. Trustee Norfleet seconded the motion. Secretary Pendleton took a roll call vote. Trustees Chatman, Norfleet, Qualls, Smith, Traugher, Tucker, Winton, and Young-Seigler voted in favor of the motion, which passed.

G. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Traugher provided a report on behalf of the Audit Committee and Committee Chair Williams, who could not attend the meeting. Trustee Traugher informed the Board that the Audit Committee met to approve the Audit Committee Charter, discussed the Annual Report on the Audit Office's Audit Activities, received a report on Internal and External Audit Items, discussed the Audit Office's Internal Quality Assessment Review of Outstanding Audit Issues, approved the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Audit Plan, and went into Executive Session to discuss items deemed confidential under State law.

Trustee Chatman made a motion for the full Board to approve the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Audit Plan. Trustee Smith seconded the motion. Secretary Pendleton took a roll call vote. Trustees Chatman, Norfleet, Qualls, Smith, Traugher, Tucker, Winton, and Young-Seigler voted in favor of the motion, which passed.

H. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Winton recognized Finance Committee Chair Tucker, who provided the Finance Committee Report. Trustee Tucker reported that the Finance Committee received reports on Institutional

Advancement, Deferred Maintenance, a TSAC Program Review update, and a Business and Finance update. There were three items that the Finance Committee recommended to the full Board for approval: the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Tuition and Mandatory Fees Increase, the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Estimated Budget, and the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Proposed Budget.

Trustee Tucker made a motion for the full Board to approve the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Tuition and Mandatory Fees Increase. Chair Winton seconded the motion. Trustee Qualls asked about the rate of collection of tuition on student accounts. VP Allen said this is about 75%-80%. Secretary Pendleton took a roll call vote on the motion. Trustees Chatman, Norfleet, Qualls, Smith, Traugher, Tucker, Winton, and Young-Seigler voted in favor of the motion, which passed.

Trustee Tucker made a motion for the full Board to approve the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Estimated Budget. Trustee Smith seconded the motion. Secretary Pendleton took a roll call vote. Trustees Chatman, Norfleet, Qualls, Smith, Traugher, Tucker, Winton, and Young-Seigler voted in favor of the motion, which passed.

Trustee Tucker made a motion for the full Board to approve the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Proposed Budget. Trustee Smith seconded the motion. Secretary Pendleton took a roll call vote. Trustees Chatman, Norfleet, Qualls, Smith, Traugher, Tucker, Winton, and Young-Seigler voted in favor of the motion, which passed.

I. STUDENT AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Winton recognized Trustee Norfleet, Chair of the Student and Academic Affairs Committee. Trustee Norfleet provided a Student Academic Affairs Committee Report. He reported that the Committee met to act on two items and receive reports on six items. The committee received notification of new academic program approvals by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission – the Ph.D. in Public Health Program and M.S. in Business Data Analytics Program. It also received reports on SACSCOC accreditation matters, including the Fifth-Year Interim Report, Academic Affairs Report, Enrollment Update, Institutional Merit Scholarship Update, and a Student Affairs Report.

The committee voted on two action items. First, the committee voted to approve the 2024-2025 Tenure and Promotion Recommendations. Trustee Norfleet voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the 2024-2025 Tenure and Promotion Recommendations. Chair Winton seconded the motion. Secretary Pendleton took a roll call vote. Trustees Chatman, Norfleet, Qualls, Smith, Traugher, Tucker, Winton, and Young-Seigler voted in favor of the motion, which passed.

Next, the committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of a new academic program, a graduate certificate in Higher Education, as contained in the June 7, 2024, Board materials. Trustee Norfleet moved to approve the new academic program, a graduate certificate in Higher Education. Trustee Young-Seigler seconded the motion. Secretary Pendleton took a roll call vote. Trustees Chatman, Norfleet, Qualls, Smith, Traugher, Tucker, Winton, and Young-Seigler voted in favor of the motion, which passed.

J. GOVERNANCE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Winton recognized Trustee Smith, Governance and Governmental Affairs Committee chair, to provide a committee report. She reported that the committee met and received a presentation by Rick Legion of the Association of Governing Boards regarding the clarifying committee responsibilities and priorities. This was informational training, and there was no further action by the committee.

K. AD HOC PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Winton recognized Trustee Qualls, chair of the Ad Hoc Presidential Search Committee, to provide a committee report. Trustee Qualls reported recommendations made by the committee to the Board, which include to appoint an interim president by July 1, 2024, initiate a new search with Academic Search and end the current search effective immediately upon adoption by the Board. Trustee Qualls sought a motion to approve these recommendations by the Ad Hoc Presidential Search Committee. Chair Winton made the motion, which was seconded by Trustee Traugher. Secretary Pendleton took a roll call vote. Trustees Chatman, Norfleet, Qualls, Smith, Traugher, Tucker, Winton, and Young-Seigler voted in favor of the motion, which passed.

IV. REPORT ON TSU ATHLETICS

Chair Winton asked President Glover and Athletic Director Mikki Allen to provide the Report on TSU Athletics. AD Allen reported on academic and athletic success in Spring 2024. A third-year coach, Genee McRath, led Softball to a third-place finish in OVC competition and reached the quarter finals in the OVC championship. TSU Women's Tennis advanced to the second round in the OVC tournament. In Women's Golf, a student athlete was named to the All-OVC Women's Golf Team. AD Allen reported on several other accomplishments by TSU teams and student athletes.

Athletics recognized 25 former players in a Tennessee State Sports Hall of Fame event.

For academics, there were 44 graduates in the spring class. There were 60 graduates for the year. There were 9 graduate level students from the spring graduating class. They expect more graduates with the Transfer Portal.

Candice Dupree was hired as the new Women's Basketball coach. She played for Dawn Staley. She is a player development coach and worked under Gregg Popovich with the San Antonio Spurs.

Duanté Abercrombie was hired as the new Hockey team coach. They anticipate being a Division I Independent program by the fall of 2025. This will be contingent on TSU's ability to recruit high-level athletes and fundraising.

AD Allen continued to discuss planned events, such as the John Merritt Classic, and some events planned with Nashville Public Schools, and a Home and Home Series that will be played with

Howard. They will play Howard for homecoming in 2025 and are trying to set up games with other HBCUs.

AD Allen responded to questions regarding Hockey. Trustee Tucker asked AD Allen how Athletics was doing in terms of balancing its budget. AD Allen said that across the country, most schools in our conferences are subsidized. He said that they do corporate fundraising. AD Allen said his desire is to have revenue generating facilities, such as our own campus stadium and the resurfaced Ed Temple track. AD Allen said that we are operating in the red, like every school in our conference.

Trustee Qualls asked about NIL opportunities for our students. AD Allen said that we have an NIL policy and student athletes that benefit from NIL. We have a third-party collective that assists with this. Athletics tracks this information. They also provide support mechanisms and education for athletes on NIL. There were 15 of the Men's Basketball, eight Football, and three volleyball athletes who benefitted from NIL deals. Trustee Qualls also asked about APR rankings. AD Allen provided some data on this and said that we are trending in the right direction. Athletics does work with Academic Affairs and provides resources, such as tutoring, to its athletes. AD Allen talked about the need for better housing for its athletes and facilities need updating.

V. REPORT ON RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS

Chair Winton recognized President Glover and Dr. Quincy Quick to provide information on the next agenda item, a Report on Research and Sponsored Programs. Dr. Quick shared that TSU has had a historic run in its research funding. This year, the University is at \$86,156,000 in research funding. In a year-over-year comparison, the number of grants increased in 2024 over 2023. There was reduction in the number of grant submissions in 2024 (192) and 2023 (199). 2024 highlights include a \$4.6 million grant to Dr. Emmanuel Omandi to study a hemp project and climate change. Dr. Quick received a \$4.9 million grant to establish a Center for Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Amir Shirkhodaie received \$1.9 million from the Office of Naval Research.

VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Glover was asked by Chair Winton to present the President's Report. President Glover reported that TSU has been intentional about competitive salaries. Dr. Glover spoke about alumni. TSU remains competitive and in line with the top HBCUs. Dr. Glover talked about TSU's raised profile and relationships with the White House, Vice President Kamala Harris, Michelle Obama, and alum Oprah Winfrey.

President Glover next discussed people, programs, and progress at the University. She talked about students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the community. TSU is recruiting and retaining students. There is a focus on recruiting more in-state students. TSU continues to recruit top faculty and staff. TSU has increased alumni engagement.

Undergraduate education remains competitive. There has been significant growth at the graduate level, President Glover said. She shared that TSU offers continuing education and workforce training, customized to assist companies that come here. Online learning is experiencing growth.

President Glover gave a timeline of TSU accomplishments. She became the eighth president of TSU in November 2012. President Glover talked about various events, partnerships, and milestones over the years.

President Glover discussed challenges the University has faced, such as challenges in managing growth in enrollment, managing student account balances, and the underfunding of the University. President Glover also discussed some of the benefits of TSU and times that TSU receive media coverage and accolades.

Finally, President Glover discussed the development of a transition plan for the next president. President Glover thanked everyone and expressed her great love for her alma mater, TSU.

VII. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Winton asked whether there was any additional business. No additional business was raised.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Winton asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Trustee Tucker moved to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Trustee Traughber. Secretary Pendleton was asked to take a roll call vote. Secretary Pendleton took a roll call vote on the motion. Trustees Chatman, Norfleet, Qualls, Smith, Traughber, Tucker, Winton, and Young-Seigler voted in favor of the motion, which passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.