

**Meeting of the Tennessee State University
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
March 14, 2025
Tennessee State University – the Barn**

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Trustees Trevia Chatman, Jeffery Norfleet, Marquita Qualls, Terica Smith, Dimeta Smith Knight, Charles Traughber, Dakasha Winton, Artenzia Young-Seigler, Tyler Vazquez

University Staff Present: President Dwayne Tucker; Dr. Robbie Melton, Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs; Ginette Brown, General Counsel & Board Secretary; Sterlin Sanders, Chief Information Officer; Jerome Oglesby, Special Assistant to the President for Information Technology; Renée Forbes-Williams, Director of Internal Audits; 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; LoLita Toney, Executive Director of Development; Bradley White, Interim Vice President of Finance

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Winton called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Chair Winton announced that the trustees were confirmed by the Tennessee General Assembly the day prior.

II. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Chair Winton asked Board Secretary Ginette Brown to call the roll. The following committee members were present: Trustees Trevia Chatman, Dimeta Smith Knight, Jeffery Norfleet, Marquita Qualls, Terica Smith, Charles Traughber, Dakasha Winton, Artenzia Young-Seigler, and Tyler Vazquez. A quorum was present.

III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Winton presented the items on the consent agenda, which included the following minutes for approval:

- November 22, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes
- December 13, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes
- January 31, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes
- November 21, 2024, Audit Committee Meeting Minutes
- November 21, 2024, Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
- November 22, 2024, Student and Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
- November 21, 2024, Ad Hoc Presidential Search Committee Meeting

- November 22, 2024, Governance and Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

Trustee Young-Seigler moved to approve the consent agenda items, and Trustee Norfleet seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair Winton introduced the next agenda item, which was committee reports.

A. Audit Committee Report

Trustee Smith Knight reported that the Audit Committee met to receive reports and consider several items and to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed confidential by state law. The committee voted to recommend the approval of the November 22, 2024, Audit Committee meeting minutes, heard a report on external and internal audits, and received a report on the Internal Audit Plan status.

B. Finance Committee Report

Trustee Traugher reported that the Finance Committee met on March 12, 2025. The committee voted to recommend the approval of the November 21, 2024, Finance Committee meeting minutes. It heard updates on grants and a State Building Commission meeting in February 2025. The Committee further received a Budget vs. Actual Update, Tuition Update, and Scholarship Proposal Update. Trustee Traugher reported that in the future, the Board may be called on to consider a tuition increase and policy on scholarships.

C. Student and Academic Affairs Report

Trustee Norfleet reported that the Student and Academic Affairs Committee met on March 13, 2025. The committee received a SACSCOC accreditation update and reports on retention, the summer semester, college updates, and reports from Research and Sponsored Programs and Athletics, as well as a Student Affairs report. The committee considered an artificial intelligence policy and will take up this policy at a later date. The committee voted to recommend to the full Board the approval of the November 22, 2024, Student and Academic Affairs Committee meeting minutes.

D. Governance and Governmental Affairs Committee Report

Trustee Smith presented information concerning the Governance and Governmental Affairs Committee Report. She stated that one of the responsibilities of the Board is overseeing the financial stability of the university. She stated that the Board of Trustees and key administrative staff received training on higher education finances from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and the Tennessee Board of Regents. On June 25, 2024, a higher education finance primer training was provided. Additional training was provided at a special called Board meeting on January 31, 2025, by a consultant with the National Association of College and University Business Officers regarding financial exigency. On February 27, 2025, the Board received training

on TSU financial data and the outcome-based funding model. Trustee Smith indicated that the Governance and Governmental Affairs Committee will continue to organize informational training sessions and review and revise Board policies and procedures.

V. REPORT ON INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Chair Winton invited Sterlin Sanders, Interim Chief Financial Officer, to present a report on information and technology. Mr. Sanders discussed the need to provide robust security practices and digital data management strategies to ensure compliance with federal law, namely, the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLBA). Mr. Sanders reported that TSU achieved full compliance with GLBA following a successful audit by the Tennessee Division of State Audit. He discussed the Office of Technology Service's efforts to proactively mitigate vulnerabilities and risks through continuous assessments and testing. Mr. Sanders further noted the university's efforts to increase cybersecurity awareness. His office does annual testing.

Jerome Oglesby, Strategic Advisor to the President on Information Technology, presented information on specific action items from the President. He was asked to look at where the university is currently in terms of its IT, what its needs are, and to assist with a long-term, 5-year IT plan.

Mr. Sanders discussed his team's efforts with respect to drafting an artificial intelligence policy and strengthening TSU's email policy. Through its partnership with SIG, IT has driven digital transformation initiatives to enhance efficiency and modernize business operations. Mr. Sanders discussed upcoming website enhancements and some of its compliance efforts. He also stated that IT successfully addressed all FY23 and FY24 State audit findings addressing use, privilege, and access to systems and implementing routine auditing of data centers. Mr. Oglesby talked about future improvements to the website and applications to better the student experience.

Mr. Sanders and Mr. Oglesby fielded questions from the trustees regarding technology, including about the need and plan to create an intranet over time and the university's internet use policy.

VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Tucker next provided a report. He discussed the university's various stakeholders and his efforts to communicate with them. He discussed the need to put the university's "customer" – the students – at the center of what we do. President Tucker discussed the culture reset that is underway at the university. He indicated the need to have transparency to build trust and use accountability to drive performance.

President Tucker further stated that he has reworked cabinet meetings to break down silos and be more productive.

President Tucker said that in March and April, he planned to pivot his efforts to fundraising and working on student performance. He said that he would like to provide a performance dashboard to the trustees.

VII. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Winton thanked the many people who are working hard on behalf of TSU. He thanked the people at Alvarez and Marsal and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Chair Winton thanked President Tucker for his efforts in taking on the role of president.

Chair Winton said that the Presidential Search Committee is not ready to move forward with the Presidential Search. At this time, the committee is going to discontinue its search, think through immediate and long-term solutions, and then come back down the road with more information.

Chair Winton highlighted Student Trustee Tyler Vazquez and the fact that he will be pursuing his PhD and M.D. at Meharry Medical College. She thanked him for his commitment and time on the Board. Trustee Vazquez thanked the Board and expressed his gratitude for his experience while serving on the Board.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Winton asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Trustee Young-Seigler moved to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Trustee Smith. Secretary Brown took a roll call vote on the motion. The motion passed by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.