Meeting of the Tennessee State University
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
February 20, 2026
Tennessee State University – the Barn

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Trustees Dakasha Winton, Azana Bruce, Trevia Chatman, Jeffery Norfleet, Marquita Qualls, Terica Smith, Dimeta Smith Knight, Leticia Towns, Charles Traughber (virtual), and Artenzia Young-Seigler.

University Staff Present: President Dwayne Tucker; Ginette Garza Brown, Interim General Counsel and Board Secretary; Dr. Robbie Melton, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs; April Robinson, Chief Finance Officer; Sterlin Sanders, Interim Chief Information Officer; Jim Grady, Alvarez & Marsal

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Winton called the meeting to order at 12:52 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Board Secretary conducted the roll call. The following trustees were present: Trustees Dakasha Winton, Azana Bruce, Trevia Chatman, Jeffery Norfleet, Marquita Qualls, Terica Smith, Dimeta Smith Knight, Leticia Towns, Charles Traughber and Artenzia Young-Seigler. Chair Winton declared that a physical quorum was present.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Board Chair called for a motion to adopt the meeting agenda as contained in the materials for the February 20, 2026, Board meeting. Trustee Chatman moved to adopt the agenda, and Trustee Smith seconded the motion. The Board Chair called for a voice vote, and the motion to adopt the agenda was unanimously approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

- November 20, 2025, Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
- November 20, 2025, Audit Committee Meeting Minutes
- November 21, 2025, Student and Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
- November 21, 2025, Governance and Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
- November 21, 2025, Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Trustee Young-Seigler and seconded by Trustee Chatman. A roll call vote was taken, with all present Board members voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

A. Governance and Governmental Affairs Committee Report and Recommendations

Trustee Smith reported that the Governance and Governmental Affairs Committee met to receive one (1) action item and one (1) informational report. The Committee received a legislative update from Leah Love of the Ingram Group. This concluded the Governance and Governmental Affairs Committee report.

A. Audit Committee Report and Recommendations

Trustee Smith Knight reported that the Audit Committee met to consider and act on two (2) items and to receive two (2) informational reports. She reported that the Audit Committee reviewed and recommended the Internal Audit Charter. A motion to approve the Internal Audit Charter, as presented in the board materials, was made by Trustee Smith Knight and seconded by Chair Winton. The motion passed unanimously.

The Audit Committee also received reports on Internal and External Audits, as well as an Audit Plan Update. This concluded the Audit Committee report.

B. Finance Committee Report and Recommendations

Trustee Traughber reported that the Finance Committee met to consider and act on four (4) items and to receive three (3) informational reports. He reported that the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval of the YMCA Parking Transaction. A motion to approve the YMCA Parking Transaction, as presented in the board materials, was made by Trustee Traughber and seconded by Trustee Chatman. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Traughber further reported that the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval of the Parking Rules. A motion to approve the Parking Rules, as presented in the board materials, was made by Trustee Traughber and seconded by Chair Winton. The motion passed unanimously.

Additionally, the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval of the Debt Management Policy. A motion to approve the Debt Management Policy, as presented in the board materials, was made by Trustee Traughber and seconded by Chair Winton. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee also received informational reports on the Financial Update, Finance Operations, and Institutional Advancement. This concluded the Finance Committee report.

C. Student and Academic Affairs Committee Report and Recommendations

Trustee Norfleet reported that the Student and Academic Affairs Committee met to consider and act on one (1) item and to receive three (3) informational reports. He reported on the Undergraduate Enrollment Update, Student Affairs Update, and Academic Affairs. This concluded the Student and Academic Affairs Committee report.

VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Chair Winton recognized President Tucker to present the President's Report.

President Tucker provided updates on potential revenue-generating opportunities currently under review, including discussions regarding the possibility of hosting football games on campus and exploring a partnership to support a K–12 charter school network. He noted that both initiatives remain in the evaluation stage and involve multiple considerations.

President Tucker also highlighted a new customer service recognition initiative aimed at improving the student experience. The program will include immediate, peer-to-peer recognition for employees demonstrating exemplary service, as well as a formal recognition event at the end of the academic year to honor outstanding contributors.

President Tucker then introduced a presentation recognizing staff members from the Department of Campus Operations, Planning, Design, and Construction for their exceptional efforts during a recent winter storm that required the University to close for several days. Staff were commended for their dedication, resourcefulness, and commitment to maintaining campus operations and supporting students during the extended disruption. Several individuals were recognized for extraordinary contributions, including securing critical resources, coordinating emergency operations, supporting infrastructure needs, and ensuring student safety and continuity of services.

President Tucker concluded his report by noting plans to continue recognizing employee contributions throughout the year. Additional remarks were shared regarding recent athletic successes and upcoming opportunities for engagement. This concluded the President's Report.

VII. CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, and Trustee Norfleet seconded the motion. Secretary Brown called the roll, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.