

MINUTES
TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
April 28, 2011, 1:00 p.m. CDT

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert White at 1:00 p.m.
Commission Members present:

Mr. Charles Bone	Mr. Charlie Mann
Mr. Tre Hargett	Dr. Gary Nixon
Ms. Sharon Hayes	Mr. Ross Rowland
Mr. Cato Johnson	Mr. Zack Walden
Mr. Jon Kinsey	Mr. Robert White
Mr. David Lillard	

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. White welcomed all and thanked them for their attendance. He then called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Cato Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Charlie Mann seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

Approval of Minutes, January 28, 2011, Meeting

Mr. White called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2011, Commission meeting. Mr. Charles Bone made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Tre Hargett seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

Chairman's Report

Mr. White began his report by commenting on the productive worksession earlier in the day. He then commented on the county profiles, depicting a range of demographic and educational attainment data, and improvements for each county that have been made. In closing, Mr. White noted the article which Dr. Rhoda wrote for the municipal league regarding the Complete College Tennessee Act.

Executive Director's Report/Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation

Dr. Rhoda began by thanking everyone for their attendance. He then introduced Brian Johnson from Austin Peay State University, the 2011 Maxine Smith Fellow, and welcomed him. Dr. Rhoda also noted that this meeting would be Ross Rowland's last meeting as a student member of THEC and thanked him for all his work, including the work on the development of the recent Master Plan as a steering committee member. Mr. Rowland thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve his state and his institution. Dr. Rhoda then introduced a new staff member: Leslie Kreinburg, a graduate assistant in the GEAR UP division. He then noted changes in staff: Wesley Hall was promoted to higher education program coordinator in the Race to the Top division, Alex Gorbanuv was hired full time as a research and planning analyst

in the Policy and Planning division, and Mike Krause was promoted to director of Academic Programs.

Dr. Rhoda then briefed the Commission on Lambuth University and stated that the Lambuth Board met on April 14 and announced that the institution will close on June 30. He stated that the University of Memphis and other TICUA institutions will assist with a teach-out for the remaining students. Dr. Rhoda also discussed the feasibility of the campus becoming a satellite location for the University of Memphis, per discussions with legislators.

Dr. Rhoda then briefed the Commission on TSAC activities, noting the discussion and presentations at the worksession in regard to financial aid issues in the community profiles, as well as the lottery scholarship program. He also commented on the TASFAA annual conference, changes in the Pell program, the direct lending program, the Complete College Tennessee Act and the formula leadership focus groups.

Systems' Reports

Tennessee Board of Regents

Mr. John Morgan, Chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents, was recognized to present his report. Mr. Morgan began his report by noting the faculty research development conference held for faculty to discuss the many facets of research at the institutional level. He then discussed the board retreat, which served to review the Complete College Act and suggest changes to improve the function of the TBR to be more successful in conjunction with the CCTA. Mr. Morgan then commented on the budget hearings, highlights of the CCTA, and campus initiatives and activities in relation to the CCTA.

Mr. Morgan introduced President Timothy Hall and Provost Tristan Denley, of Austin Peay State University, to discuss and initiatives being taken at APSU. Dr. Hall discussed new practices APSU has implemented to personalize higher education to ensure student success, including new Smartphone apps written by students. He then introduced Dr. Denley to provide information regarding the new website improvements to assist students in finding courses. Dr. Denley also described the year-long initiative, beginning in the summer, for students to regain the HOPE scholarship by means of a small scholarship to improve their GPA. Dr. Denley then briefly discussed the NETFLIX effect, a program where the student is given suggestions on what courses the student would be well suited to take, using the student's grades and major as a guide.

University of Tennessee

Dr. Joe DiPietro, President of the University of Tennessee, was recognized to present his report. Dr. DiPietro began his report by commenting on the budget and market analysis on salary structure. He then commended the Complete College TN Act and the student success it encourages. Dr. DiPietro also discussed the Gap Analysis being performed by UT for each campus, the challenge for UT to become a top 25 research institution and the areas of focus to obtain that status and endowment growth.

Dr. DiPietro then introduced Dr. Sally McMillan. Dr. McMillan briefed the Commission on ways to improve enrollment, retention, and graduation, the dual admissions bridge program with Pellissippi State Community College, and other initiatives to increase summer school enrollment and keep students on track.

Dr. Phil Oldham from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga was recognized. Dr. Oldham discussed the redesign for summer school which would fulfill a part of the CCTA and the student centered model, still in developmental stages, which would increase enrollment.

Action Items

Institutional Reauthorization

Dr. Stephanie Bellard-Chase, Assistant Executive Director for Postsecondary School Authorization, presented the recommendations of staff and the Postsecondary Education Authorization Advisory Committee to grant reauthorization of institutions. A listing of the institutions is included as Attachment A to the official copy of the minutes. A motion was made by Mr. David Lillard to adopt the recommendations as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jon Kinsey. There being no further discussion, Mr. White called for a vote on the motion that was duly adopted.

Temporary Authorization of New Institutions, and Approval of New Programs Under the Postsecondary Authorization Act

Dr. Bellard-Chase then presented the recommendations of staff and the Postsecondary Education Authorization Advisory Committee to grant temporary authorization to proposed new institutions and new programs. A listing of the institutions and programs is included as Attachment B to the official copy of the minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Johnson to adopt the recommendations as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bone. There being no further discussion, Mr. White called for a vote on the motion that was duly adopted.

Ms. Julie Woodruff was recognized to provide a presentation on the new Federal Program Integrity rules. Ms. Woodruff noted that these regulations were for student protection in regard to holding programs accountable, overly aggressive recruiting practices, and student, program, and institutional eligibility for federal aid.

Amendment to the FY 2011-12 Disclosed Capital Projects List

Dr. Russ Deaton, Associate Executive Director for Fiscal Affairs, was recognized. Dr. Deaton stated that the 61 projects on the amended capital projects list for FY2011-12 were thoroughly reviewed in the worksession earlier in the day. He then stated staff recommends these revenue funded projects, totaling \$245M, for approval to transfer to the Department of Finance and Administration and the Governor. Mr. White then called for a motion. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve staff recommendations. Mr. Lillard seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

Information Items

Performance of New Academic Programs

Dr. Linda Doran was recognized to provide the academic performance report. Dr. Doran stated that the analysis is a valuable tool to institutions when approving new academic programs. She then recognized Mr. Mike Krause to provide the Commission with a brief overview of the analysis.

Mr. Krause briefed the Commission on the academic program analysis. He reviewed key points like how this review evaluates the new program against benchmarks in enrollment and graduation, program cost, program progress toward accreditation, and other goals agreed upon by the governing boards and THEC through program authorization.

He stated that under recent academic policy revisions adopted earlier this year, institutions are expected to engage in a more rigorous feasibility study and financial projection. Mr. Krause noted that this information provides valuable insight into the accuracy of the benchmarks utilized in the development of past academic programs, as well as the potential market demand for specific types of programs across the state. He then briefly discussed the enrollment and graduation projections for baccalaureate degrees and above.

Governor's 2011-12 Budget Recommendations

Dr. Deaton stated that the governor's 2011-12 budget recommendations were discussed at length in the work session earlier in the day. He then summarized the budget recommendations which included a two percent operating reduction for higher education with salary improvements and other items. Also included are targeted initiatives such as removal of the hold-harmless provision. No capital funding was included; however, there is \$54 M for maintenance included in the budget.

GEAR UP and College Access Challenge Grant Status Reports

Ms. Katie Brock, Associate Executive Director for GEAR UP, was recognized to provide an updated report on the progress of GEAR UP TN and College Access Challenge Grant (CACG). Ms. Brock gave a brief overview of the annual performance report. She then reviewed the APR highlights and the statewide services provided by the GEAR UP grants. Ms. Brock also discussed the increase in ACT scores, increase in teacher and school counselor participation in workshops, and increase in parental participation in advising sessions and financial aid workshops. Ms. Brock then discussed the Bridge Incentive Award, GEAR UP scholarship, US DOE grant writing competition, College Access Challenge Grant, Mentor Core lunch, and the GEAR UP Tn sustainability summit.

Status of the Race to the Top Grant

Ms. Katrina Miller was recognized to provide a status report on the Race to the Top Grant. She began by stating that March 29, 2011, marked the one-year

anniversary of Tennessee's Race to the Top win. Ms. Miller then reviewed the notable successes in year one which are: the development of a new teacher and principal evaluation system and improved opportunities for professional development. She then discussed the STEM Innovation Network and its expansion, noted the increased funding through the Charter School Growth Fund, reported feedback from educators through the TELL Tennessee Survey, and described successful UTeach replication at four higher education institutions.

Mr. Wesley Hall was recognized to provide an update on current STEM activities, including progress on the STEM Innovation Network and STEM Professional Development, as well as information on recent TVAAS training sessions conducted statewide.

Legislative Report

Mr. Will Burns, Associate Executive Director for Legal and Regulatory Affairs, was recognized to provide the legislative report. Mr. Burns noted that both education committees are scheduled to finalize their work this week, other committees next week, and the legislature is expected to adjourn in May. He noted that most bills relating to higher education were regarding the Lottery Scholarship program and a bill requiring THEC/TSAC to provide an alternative application for the scholarship other than the FAFSA.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Policy for Commission Members

Mr. Burns then briefed the Commission on the conflict of interest policy. He stated that the conflict of interest policy is requested from each member and return the form to him or Ms. Carter within 30 days following the spring meeting, as required by policy. He noted that although a Commission member's term may be nearing completion, we are still required to obtain a form from each member.

Summer Quarterly Meeting

Dr. Rhoda advised the Commission that the next meeting will be Thursday, July 28, 2011, in the THEC board room.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Approved:

Robert White
Chair