

MINUTES
TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
January 31, 2013, 1:00 p.m. CDT

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

Mr. Evan Cope	Mr. Jon Kinsey
Mr. Greg Frye	Treasurer David Lillard
Secretary Tre Hargett	Mayor AC Wharton
Ms. Sharon Hayes	Mr. Robert White
Mr. Adam Jarvis	Comptroller Justin Wilson
Mr. Cato Johnson <i>via conference call</i>	

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. White welcomed all and thanked them for their attendance. He welcomed Mr. Randy Boyd from the Governor's office. Mr. Boyd thanked Mr. White and commented on his role as special advisor for higher education. Mr. White then called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda. Treasurer David Lillard seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted by the following roll call vote:

Name	Aye	No	Abstain
Mr. Evan Cope	x		
Mr. Greg Frye	x		
Secretary Tre Hargett	x		
Ms. Sharon Hayes	x		
Mr. Cato Johnson	x		
Mr. Jon Kinsey	x		
Treasurer David Lillard	x		
Mayor AC Wharton	x		
Mr. Robert White	x		
Comptroller Justin Wilson	x		

Approval of Minutes, November 15, 2012, Meeting

Mr. White called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2012, Commission meeting. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Evan Cope seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted by the following roll call vote:

Name	Aye	No	Abstain
Mr. Evan Cope	x		
Mr. Greg Frye	x		
Secretary Tre Hargett	x		
Ms. Sharon Hayes	x		

Mr. Cato Johnson	x		
Mr. Jon Kinsey	x		
Treasurer David Lillard	x		
Mayor AC Wharton	x		
Mr. Robert White	x		
Comptroller Justin Wilson	x		

Chairman’s Report

Mr. White commented on the productive work session earlier in the day and noted the excellent presentations and good discussion on the items presented. He then called on Dr. Rhoda for his report.

Executive Director’s Report/Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation

Dr. Rhoda began his report by clarifying the list of attachments to the official copy of the minutes. Dr. Rhoda then congratulated Mr. Johnson who will be receiving the Arthur S. Holman Lifetime Achievement Award in Memphis on February 1. Mr. Johnson thanked Dr. Rhoda for his support and the support of those who will be attending the award ceremony.

Dr. Rhoda commented on the new working partnership with Randy Boyd in his capacity as special advisor to the Governor for higher education. Dr. Rhoda noted the previous working relationship with Mr. Boyd through his leadership at Knox Achieves, now Tn Achieves.

Dr. Rhoda commented on the orientation session for new members last week, which included a tour of Nashville State Community College and the Tennessee Technology Center, Nashville. Mr. Cope commended Dr. Rhoda and the staff for the quality of the information in the orientation that clarifies the work of the Commission. Dr. Rhoda then recognized Mike Krause to provide information on a new program.

Mr. Krause stated that new program, the Core to College Initiative, is a two-year, \$400,000 award by the Lumina Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation, and the Gates Foundation to build linkages between K-12 and higher education on the common core standards. He stated that this initiative will provide a position at THEC with the sole purpose of K-12 alignment and the common core standards; convene institutions with their Local Education Agencies to build partnerships with mutual benefits in regard to teacher preparation; and to close the education gap in math and English.

Dr. Rhoda then recognized Dr. Russ Deaton to provide information on an outcomes-based funding formula policy initiative. Dr. Deaton stated that since the formula was in its third year of implementation, feedback has been provided to THEC in regard to the impact on the campus level; including increased graduation rates and increased degree production. He advised that THEC received a significant grant from the Ford Foundation to study the impact of the outcomes-based funding formula.

Dr. Rhoda then commented on the Boosting Transfer Student Success program, a program to enhance student transferability among institutions and reduce time to degree with the education core and increase college completion. He stated that the program has had a positive impact on most disciplines.

In closing, Dr. Rhoda recognized the four new staff members: Scott Sloan, General Counsel, succeeding Will Burns; Kim Martin, in the policy, planning, and research division; Herbert Brown, academic affairs division; and Chris Tarnaki, in the fiscal division, replacing Scott Boelscher.

Systems' Reports

Tennessee Board of Regents

Mr. John Morgan, Chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents, was recognized to present his report. Chancellor Morgan began his report by congratulating Dr. Rhoda for recently being elected as chairman of the board of The Elephant Sanctuary.

Chancellor Morgan briefed the Commission on the recently released US News World report on institutional rankings, stating that the University of Memphis has been ranked among the top 10 national universities in terms of the percentage of graduates with internships. He also stated that the report reflected that Tennessee Technological University was recognized for having a low student debt burden and also one of the lowest default rates. Chancellor Morgan commented on Walters State Community College's recognition from APPLE for its mobile learning initiatives, noting that each academic division has developed a plan to use mobile devices in instruction; over 60 apps have been developed so far.

Chancellor Morgan commented on the Governor's recognition of Dr. Tristen Denley for his work on the Degree Compass program. He also commented on the Chattanooga State Community College's winning of the Bell Weather award for cutting-edge trend-setting programs. In closing, Chancellor Morgan discussed the new partnership with Nissan and TTC Murfreesboro, noting the joint use of the new facility.

University of Tennessee

Dr. Joe DiPietro, President, the University of Tennessee, was recognized to present his report. He began his report by congratulating Chancellor Morgan on the institutional rankings and the success of those institutions. He then commented on the Governor's 2013-14 funding recommendation for UT, stating it was a solid budget but expressed concern of the lack of funds for the non-formula units. President DiPietro then discussed accountability scorecards presented to the Commission that outline the university's five strategic plan goals, and will be periodically reviewed to provide updates on each goal. He also discussed the potential to develop partnerships with the TBR system for on line programs and noted that an implementation team is in place and will increase effectiveness and efficiency.

In closing, Dr. DiPietro commented on the University of Tennessee Chattanooga Chancellor search, noting the finalists that would be interviewed next week and the new chancellor would be selected at the February board meeting.

Action Items

Academic Program – UTHSC Master of Medical Science Physician Assistant

Ms. Betty Dandridge Johnson, Associate Executive Director for Academic Affairs, presented the recommendation for the new academic program. Ms. Dandridge Johnson stated that the proposed Master of Medical Science program in Physician Assistant (MMS-PA) is a clinical program focused on training physician assistants working under the supervision of licensed physicians. She also stated that the proposed program will equip students with a significant amount of clinical experience, integrate the academic outcomes espoused by the accrediting body, and also provide a foundation of research and scholarly practices for students to build on throughout their careers as Physician Assistants. Ms. Dandridge Johnson noted that the proposed program is aligned with the institution’s mission and will be funded through campus reallocations and additional tuition revenues generated by the program. Mr. White called for a motion to approve the proposed Master of Medical Science program in Physician Assistant. Mayor A C Wharton made a motion to approve. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted by the following roll call vote:

Name	Aye	No	Abstain
Mr. Evan Cope	x		
Mr. Greg Frye	x		
Secretary Tre Hargett	x		
Ms. Sharon Hayes	x		
Mr. Cato Johnson	x		
Mr. Jon Kinsey	x		
*Treasurer David Lillard			
Mayor AC Wharton	x		
Mr. Robert White	x		
Comptroller Justin Wilson	x		

*Not available for the vote

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

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 temporary authorization to proposed new institutions and approve new programs. A listing of the institutions and programs is included as Attachment A to the official copy of the minutes. A motion was made by Mayor Wharton to adopt the recommendations as presented. Ms. Sharon Hayes seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted by the following roll call vote:

Name	Aye	No	Abstain
Mr. Evan Cope	x		
Mr. Greg Frye	x		
Secretary Tre Hargett	x		
Ms. Sharon Hayes	x		
Mr. Cato Johnson	x		
Mr. Jon Kinsey	x		
*Treasurer David Lillard			
Mayor AC Wharton	x		
Mr. Robert White	x		
Comptroller Justin Wilson	x		

*Not available for the vote

October 31 Revised Budgets 2012-13

Dr. Russ Deaton, Associate Executive Director of Fiscal Policy and Administration was recognized. He summarized the revised budget recommendations and stated that a detailed presentation was provided to the Commission at the worksession earlier in the day. The recommendations are included as Attachment B to the official copy of the minutes. Ms. Sharon Hayes made a motion to approve the October 31 revised budgets and requests that the executive director be given authority to make technical adjustments and transmit to the Commissioner of finance and administration. Mr. Greg Frye seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted by the following roll call vote:

Name	Aye	No	Abstain
Mr. Evan Cope	x		
Mr. Greg Frye	x		
*Secretary Tre Hargett			
Ms. Sharon Hayes	x		
Mr. Cato Johnson	x		
Mr. Jon Kinsey	x		
*Treasurer David Lillard			
Mayor AC Wharton	x		
Mr. Robert White	x		
Comptroller Justin Wilson			x

*Not available for the vote

Dyersburg State Community College Master Plan

Dr. Deaton was recognized to present the Dyersburg State Community College Master Plan. Dr. Deaton stated that Mr. Carl Manka, Senior Director, Facilities Development, Research and Planning at the Tennessee Board of Regents provided a complete overview of the Master Plan at the worksession earlier in the day. A motion was made by Ms. Hayes to approve the Dyersburg State Community College Master Plan as presented. Mr. Cope seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted by the following roll call vote:

Name	Aye	No	Abstain
Mr. Evan Cope	x		
Mr. Greg Frye	x		
*Secretary Tre Hargett			
Ms. Sharon Hayes	x		
Mr. Cato Johnson	x		
Mr. Jon Kinsey	x		
*Treasurer David Lillard			
Mayor AC Wharton	x		
Mr. Robert White	x		
Comptroller Justin Wilson	x		

*Not available for the vote

Jackson State Community College Master Plan

Dr. Deaton was recognized to present the Jackson State Community College Master Plan. Dr. Deaton stated that Mr. Manka provided a complete overview of the Master Plan at the worksession earlier in the day. A motion was made by Ms. Hayes to approve the Jackson State Community College Master Plan as presented. Mayor Wharton seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted by the following roll call vote:

Name	Aye	No	Abstain
Mr. Evan Cope	x		
Mr. Greg Frye	x		
*Secretary Tre Hargett			
Ms. Sharon Hayes	x		
Mr. Cato Johnson	x		
Mr. Jon Kinsey	x		
*Treasurer David Lillard			
Mayor AC Wharton	x		
Mr. Robert White	x		
Comptroller Justin Wilson	x		

*Not available for the vote

Northeast State Community College Master Plan

Dr. Deaton was recognized to present the Northeast State Community College Master Plan. Dr. Deaton stated that Mr. Manka provided a complete overview of the Master Plan at the worksession earlier in the day. A motion was made by Mr. Justin Wilson to approve the Northeast State Community College Master Plan as presented. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted by the following roll call vote:

Name	Aye	No	Abstain
Mr. Evan Cope	x		

Mr. Greg Frye	x		
Secretary Tre Hargett	x		
Ms. Sharon Hayes	x		
Mr. Cato Johnson	x		
Mr. Jon Kinsey	x		
*Treasurer David Lillard			
Mayor AC Wharton	x		
Mr. Robert White	x		
Comptroller Justin Wilson	x		

*Not available for the vote

Pellissippi State Community College Master Plan

Dr. Deaton was recognized to present the Pellissippi State Community College Master Plan. Dr. Deaton stated that Mr. Manka provided a complete overview of the Master Plan at the worksession earlier in the day. A motion was made by Secretary Hargett to approve the Pellissippi State Community College Master Plan as presented. Mr. Frye seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted by the following roll call vote:

Name	Aye	No	Abstain
Mr. Evan Cope	x		
Mr. Greg Frye	x		
Secretary Tre Hargett	x		
Ms. Sharon Hayes	x		
Mr. Cato Johnson	x		
Mr. Jon Kinsey	x		
*Treasurer David Lillard	x		
Mayor AC Wharton	x		
Mr. Robert White	x		
Comptroller Justin Wilson	x		

*Not available for the vote

Information Items

Academic Program Review

Mr. Mike Krause, Assistant Executive Director for Academic Affairs, was recognized to provide an update on the academic program review. Mr. Krause summarized the review process and noted that academic programs must be characterized by careful planning and evaluation to ensure adequate levels of degree production, minimized levels of redundancy in degree offerings, and a continued focus on the unique mission of each institution.

He stated that approval of new academic programs occurs at each regular THEC meeting and all program proposals are required to address a range of issues related to the Complete College Tennessee Act. Beginning July 2011, approval of new programs at the community colleges was delegated to the Tennessee Board of Regents.

He noted that the review provides a holistic view of the status of degree programs throughout the state, including: program activity report, post approval monitoring, program productivity review, and performance funding qualitative reviews and noted that the most productive programs at the bachelor and graduate level are in the teacher preparation programs.

Summary of 2012 Post Approval Monitoring Data

	Programs Meeting Benchmarks	Programs Not Meeting Benchmarks
TBR Universities	16	12
UT System	1	17
TBR Community Colleges	1	5
Total	18	34

GEAR UP/College Access Challenge Grant, and Latino Student Success Grant Status Report

Mr. Troy Grant, THEC Director of College Access Initiatives, was recognized to provide a status report on programs managed by the Office of P-16 Initiatives. He updated the Commission on Tennessee’s College Access Challenge Grant program which provides mentoring services to 8,490 students across 71 high schools and 11 higher education institutions. Mr. Grant also provided a progress report on implementing the Memphis Latino Student Success Grant aimed at increasing the number and percentage of Latinos completing higher education in the Memphis area. Specific information was provided regarding the development of a mentoring program at Kingsbury High School and plans to expand mentoring activities to Southwest Tennessee Community College by Fall 2013. Mr. Grant stated that the Tennessee College Access and Success Network announced its third grant competition. The Network connects college access and success programs with like-minded organizations for the purpose of increasing the number of Tennesseans participating and succeeding in postsecondary opportunities. It was established through a Lumina Foundation grant and expanded through Race to the Top to create a college-going culture in communities across the state by expanding and creating new college access and success programs, educating professionals, facilitating statewide advocacy, and cultivating organizational and Network development. Finally, Mr. Grant provided an update on the GEAR UP TN program funded by a \$4.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. He reports that all GEAR UP TN Collaboratives have hired Site Coordinators and have begun providing services to approximately 7,500 7TH grade and 5,000 12TH grade students in the 15 GEAR UP TN communities.

Audit Committee Report

Ms. Ann Collet, Internal Auditor, was recognized to provide an update on the Audit Committee actions. Ms. Collet commented on the Audit Committee

meeting December 3, 2012, and noted that all five members were present: Claude Pressnell, Chair, Sammy Stuard, Greg Turner, Robert White, via conference call, and Sharon Hayes, via conference call. She stated that the minutes from the December 2011 Audit Committee meeting were approved. Ms. Collett then noted that the state's Financial Integrity Act requires an annual risk assessment to be submitted by December 31st of each year to the Department of Finance and Administration and the Comptroller of the Treasury, was prepared by staff and submitted for review to the audit committee prior to the meeting. She commented that at the meeting, the specifics of the assessment were discussed and the committee voted to approve the assessment. Ms. Collett stated that staff reviewed the draft of the TSAC FY12 financial statements and the work programs for both agencies. She then provided updates on external audits including the USDOE review of FFELP, the state financial and compliance audit of TSAC for FY12, and the upcoming performance audits of THEC and TSAC.

Legislative Report

Mr. Scott Sloan, Associate Executive Director for Legal and Regulatory Affairs, was recognized to provide the legislative report. Mr. Sloan provided an overview of all bills filed to date that will have an impact on the Commission, including those related to the lottery scholarship.

Spring Commission Meeting

Dr. Rhoda advised the Commission that next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2013 in the THEC board room. He reminded the Commission that the joint meeting with the State Board of Education will follow today's meeting and encouraged Commission members to participate.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Approved:

Robert White
Chair