

TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Winter Quarterly Meeting

Senate Hearing Room I, Cordell Hull Building

425 5th Ave. North, Nashville, TN 37243

January 25, 2019 at 10 a.m. CST

Link to recording:

<https://web.nowuseeit.tn.gov/Mediasite/Play/20b834b53ad14f39aa1e20cf1771c3891d>

Chairman Evan Cope called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Member	PRESENT	ABSENT
Chairman Evan Cope	X	
Commissioner Nancy Dishner	X	
Secretary Tre Hargett	X	
Commissioner Jimmy Johnston	X	
Commissioner Pam Koban	X	
Treasurer David Lillard	X	
Commissioner Sarah Morrison	X	
Commissioner Mintha Roach	X	
Commissioner Vernon Stafford	X	
Commissioner Cara Sulyok	X	
Commissioner Frank Watson	X	
Commissioner AC Wharton	X	
Comptroller Justin Wilson	X	
Commissioner Dakasha Winton	X	

There were 13 members present, constituting a quorum.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Cope made a motion to adopt the agenda. A voice vote was taken and the motion was passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 7, 2018 MINUTES

Commissioner Stafford made a motion to approve the November 7, 2018 meeting minutes and Commissioner Wharton seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion was passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Chairman Cope provided his report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT: Director Krause provided his report.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Postsecondary Education Authorization

B. Off-Campus Center – Motlow State Community College – TN Fires and Codes Academy

II. REGULATORY OVERVIEW

Dr. Stephanie Bellard Chase provided an overview of the various duties and functions that are performed by the Division of Postsecondary State Authorization (DPSA) as well as the implementation of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) in Tennessee. She also gave an overview of the institutions that are authorized and the demographics of the students that attend these institutions.

Tom Morrison provided an overview of the Veterans Education Division, also known as the State Approving Agency (SAA). The overview addressed the mission, history, and core functions of the SAA. He explained that the SAA is funded through a reimbursable contract with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and emphasized the close day to day working partnership the division has with VA. Information was provided about the number of veterans receiving GI Bill benefits in Tennessee schools and training programs, and the number of approved institutions in Tennessee.

III. Policy Updates (Action Items)

A. Procedure and Rules – VIII: Executive Director and Staff

Chairman Cope recognized Brett Gipson, Deputy General Counsel to provide an overview of proposed revisions to the Rules of Procedure resulting from recent legislation and changes in practice.

PROPOSED REVISIONS

Section IV Members: Clarifies language describing the statutory prohibition against employees of the state or of public higher education institutions serving as Commission members pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-7-204(e).

Section VII Executive Director and Staff: Updates the Executive Director appointment authority to the Commission instead of the Governor, consistent with recent changes to T.C.A. § 49-7-205.

Section VIII Meetings: Designates Robert's Rules of Order as the official procedure to be followed by the Commission during its meetings when not in conflict with THEC rules or statutory requirements.

Chairman Cope opened the floor for discussion. Commissioner AC Wharton made a motion to approve, and Comptroller Wilson seconded it. A voice vote and the motion passed with 13 ayes.

B. Academic Policy A1.0: New Academic Programs – Approval Process

Chairman Cope recognized Julie Roberts, Associate Chief Academic Officer, for the purpose of presenting proposed changes to Academic Policy A1.0 relative to new academic programs.

PROPOSED REVISIONS

Section 1.0.7A – Evaluation of Letter of Notification: makes minor changes to the authority of the Executive Director to refer actions to the Commission and further authorized staff to extend the current fifteen (15) day comment period if deemed appropriate.

Section 1.0.12A – Commission Action: makes changes to the circumstances whereby an institution may advertised proposed programs prior to Commission approval.

Section 1.0.13A – Post-Approval Monitoring: makes changes to the specific dates for post-approval monitoring and further gives THEC staff authorization to extend the monitoring period as needed.

Chairman Cope opened the floor for discussion. Commissioner Sulyok made a motion to make a verbal amendment to the policy to give THEC staff the authority to adjust the language of Section 1.0.7A to create an upward bound of 30 days as the maximum amount of time the public comment period could be extended. It was seconded by Commissioner Stafford. Commissioner AC Wharton made a motion to approve, and Comptroller Wilson seconded it. A voice vote and the motion passed with 13 ayes.

IV. New Academic Programs (Action Items)

Provost Mark Byrnes from Middle Tennessee State University proposed a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Tourism and Hospitality Management. The program is a collaborative degree offering between the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences and the Jennings A. Jones College of Business. The degree will prepare students for careers in the tourism

industry via an industry-informed curriculum, adherence to accreditation standards, and experiential learning opportunities including internships and field experiences. Chairman Cope opened the floor for discussion. Comptroller Wilson made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Winton seconded it. A voice vote and the motion passed with 13 ayes.

V. Academic Program Review

Chairman Cope recognized Corey Gheesling, Director of Academic Programs, to present the annual report for Academic Productivity Review. The Academic Program Review provides a status update on all new, modified, or terminated programs each year. Mr. Gheesling provided an overview of the process with a focus on the role of monitoring and how it ties to Quality Assurance Funding (QAF) and other accountability mechanisms.

Commissioner Koban inquired about the ongoing monitoring of four Associates of Fine Arts programs at the TBR institutions that are under extended monitoring. Chancellor Tydings of the Tennessee Board of Regents was asked to speak about the programs and remarked that they are under review and often are gateways to other programs at the institution or lead to transfer to four-year institutions.

Commissioner Dishner asked about the Interior Architecture program at the University of Memphis and why they were allowed to exit monitoring. Executive Director Krause remarked that the program received accreditation and that THEC staff felt it prudent to allow this to stand to see if it helps the program, but that the program would be monitored through QAF.

Commissioner Koban asked for a clarification of the differences between program accreditation and program monitoring. Mr. Gheesling responded that program accreditation is a more in-depth evaluation of a program's curriculum, content, and delivery than is THEC's monitoring process. Executive Director Krause explained that programmatic accreditation was more powerful and that institutions receive funding based on their successful attainment of accreditation as part of QAF.

Commissioner Cope then proceeded to the next Agenda Item regarding the APSU Rotary Wing program delays.

VI. Austin Peay State University, Aviation Science Program Update

Mr. Gheesling introduced Provost Rex Gandy from Austin Peay State University. Provost Gandy explained that issues involving the procurement of the helicopters needed to deliver the program delayed approvals from the Federal Aviation Administration and

Veterans Affairs which caused the program to not be eligible for federal funding from the U.S. Department of Education and the VA.

Commissioner Stafford inquired if the issues had anything to do with accreditation of the program. Provost Gandy noted that the delays were related to the procurement process.

VII. Historically Black Colleges and Universities Success Update

Chairman Cope recognized Brittany Mosby, Director of HBCU Success, to provide a progress report on the HBCU Success Initiative. In addition to a new strategic plan, key programmatic developments for the Initiative include a rotating executive-in-residence program to provide technical assistance to campuses and TN H.I.R.E., an internship placement program for highly qualified HBCU students. In November 2018 the HBCU Board of Advisors convened for its inaugural meeting and was well attended by all institutions. Future plans for 2019 include an HBCU Day on the Hill in February, a new Summer Bridge grant program for several of the institutions, and a statewide leadership summit in August.

System and LGI Reports

Tennessee Board of Regents – Chancellor Flora Tydings provided report.

University of Tennessee – President Randy Boyd provided report.

Locally Governed Institutions - Dr. Alisa White provided report.

Chairman Cope adjourned the meeting.

NEXT THEC COMMISSION MEETING:

May 17, 2019

10:00 a.m. CST

THEC Chairman Evan Cope

THEC Secretary AC Wharton, Jr.