

TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Spring Quarterly Meeting

Electronic / Remote Location

May 15, 2020

Link to recording:

<https://sts.streamingvideo.tn.gov/Mediasite/Play/ea354f420118443c9476ed00f5a2debb1d>

Chairman Evan Cope called the meeting to order at 9:04 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 Jay Moser | X | |
| Commissioner Vernon Stafford | X | |
| Commissioner Celeste Riley | X | |
| Commissioner Frank Watson | X | |
| Commissioner AC Wharton | X | |
| Comptroller Justin Wilson | X | |
| Commissioner Dakasha Winton | X | |

At the start of the meeting, there were twelve members present, constituting a quorum. Commissioner Riley joined the meeting at 9:35 a.m., which raised the count to thirteen members. At 10:15 a.m., Secretary Hargett, Treasurer Lillard, and Comptroller Wilson exited the meeting, leaving ten members present, and a duly constituted quorum. At 10:42 a.m. Secretary Hargett returned to the meeting. Comptroller Wilson returned to the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION NECESSITY

Board Secretary Shauna Jennings read the following statement:

Chairman Cope and Commission Members,

In Executive Order No. 16, Governor Bill Lee suspended Tennessee’s open meeting laws as necessary to allow a governing body to meet by electronic means and conduct essential business under certain conditions if the governing body “determines that meeting

electronically is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Tennesseans in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.” The conditions are:

- Live access to the meeting by the public, if possible;
- No adjustment to existing quorum, meeting notice, or voting requirements;
- Clear notice to the public of the meeting agenda and how to access the meeting in a manner reasonably accessible to members of the public;
- Each part of the meeting subject to the Open Meetings Act must be audible to the public;
- Each member participating electronically must be able to simultaneously hear each other and speak to each other during the meeting;
- Any member participating electronically shall identify the persons present at the location from which the member is participating;
- Each member participating electronically must be provided, before the meeting, with any documents that will be discussed at the meeting, with substantially the same content as those documents actually presented;
- All votes taken during a meeting shall be by roll call vote; and,
- Electronic participation allows a member to vote but does not make a member eligible for a per diem.

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) has ensured that each of the required conditions have been met. For purposes of this THEC meeting, we are using WebEx, which accommodates up to 1,000 participants. Notice of the meeting, agenda, materials, WebEx link for those participating via webinar, call-in number for those participating by phone only, and applicable codes were posted to the THEC/TSAC website and emailed to members of the Commission last week. All votes will be by roll call and there have been no changes to existing quorum, meeting notice, or voting requirements. Each member has introduced themselves and listed all persons at their respective location. Lastly, members will be considered present for voting purposes but not for purposes of a per diem.

All conditions listed in Executive Order No.16 having been met, the only remaining item needed to ensure compliance with the Open Meetings Act and Executive Order No.16 is for the Commission to determine that meeting electronically is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Tennesseans in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Commissioner Dishner moved that meeting electronically was necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Tennesseans in light of the COVID-19 outbreak and that Ms. Jennings’s comments be included in the minutes of this meeting. Treasurer Lillard seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously, with 12 ayes.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Cope made a motion to amend the agenda by removing the tuition and fees item due to the General Assembly's temporary adjournment due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Commissioner Stafford seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously with 12 ayes.

Commissioner Koban made a motion to adopt the amended agenda and Commissioner Wharton seconded it. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously, with 12 ayes.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 31, 2020 MINUTES

Commissioner Stafford made a motion to approve the minutes from January 31, 2020 and Treasurer Lillard seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously with 12 ayes.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Cope delivered his report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT: Director Krause provided his report. Commissioner Koban asked when we would know what would happen in the fall regarding institutions opening and enrollment numbers. Director Krause stated that as models change, we will learn more and should know more within the first three weeks of the fall semester regarding the enrollment numbers. Commissioner Stafford then asked if we would consider reopening colleges in the fall with strictly online classes like in California. Director Krause stated that all university presidents have given an oral promise to reopen their campuses in the fall.

AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Cope suggested that the commission vote on the consent calendar as one item unless there were any objections. Commissioner Stafford made a motion to approve the consent calendar as one item. Commissioner Dishner seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously with 13 ayes.

I. New Academic Programs (Action Item)

A. Austin Peay State University, Language Pathology, Master of Speech

Dr. Alisa White, President of Austin Peay State University, presented the new academic program, Master of Speech in Language Pathology. This program is designed to prepare graduates for successful careers in the profession of

speech-language pathology. The program will prepare students through rigorous coursework and clinical experiences designed to serve identified target populations such as rural communities and military- affiliated families. Austin Peay State University currently offers an undergraduate concentration in Communication Sciences and Disorders that will serve as a primary pipeline into the Master of Speech Language Pathology program. Program graduates will be eligible for the Certificate of Clinical Competence that represents a level of excellence in the field of speech-language pathology and a required certification to practice in Tennessee. This program will undergo program accreditation by the Council of Academic Programs in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.

Commissioner Dishner asked what considerations Austin Peay State University has taken in response to COVID-19 and this program with an emphasis on the clinical portion of the program. Dr. White responded that the clinical portion was not designed to start right away and that there will be a mix of face-to-face learning and online learning to mitigate risks. This would include frontloading the clinical experience during a time when the data showed a low spread of COVID-19. Commission Winton commended Austin Peay State University for considering telehealth in the development of the program.

Commissioner Dishner made a motion to approve the program. Commissioner Stafford seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously, with 13 ayes.

B. University of Memphis, Public Health, Bachelor of Science

Dr. Thomas Nenon from the University of Memphis presented the new academic program. This program will have an emphasis on urban health. This program is designed to build and strengthen the local and regional public health workforce and will capitalize on the School of Public Health's strong interdisciplinary relationships across the University by preparing students to compete for jobs in a wide range of public health disciplines in healthcare, government, and community organizations settings. This program will undergo program accreditation by the Council on Education of Public Health (CEPH), which the University of Memphis achieved in 2012 for another program.

Commissioner Stafford asked if the program would be accredited automatically. Dr. Nenon explained that the accreditation process takes three years and would not be eligible until 2022, but that the program was designed around the accreditation standards. Commissioner Wharton commented that this program is very much needed in the Memphis/ Shelby County area as it is ground zero for health disparities. Commissioner Winton asked what types of jobs would be available for those students who graduate from this program. Dr. Nenon stated that there is a shortage of individuals available to work at public health departments and that those graduating from this program would be eligible for many entry-level positions within a public health department.

Secretary Hargett made the motion to approve the program. Commissioner Wharton seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously, with 13 ayes.

C. University of Memphis, Doctor of Urban Affairs

Dr. Thomas Minnan presented information on the Doctor of Urban Affairs Program at the University of Memphis. This program is designed to provide higher-level training for researchers, scholars, and professionals who seek to better understand urban systems and address urban challenges. This will be an interdisciplinary degree advancing theoretical understanding of urban affairs and public policy through inquiry-driven examination of urban issues and challenges. This program was developed by an interdisciplinary team representing four departments of the University of Memphis of Urban Affairs and Public Policy and three social science departments in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Commissioner Stafford asked why this program was just coming to the Commission now when it was approved by the University of Tennessee's Board of Trustees in 2018, and if there was a better way that the Commission could take to expediate the process. Dr. Nenon explained that this process was carefully and thoroughly designed, and each step takes years.

Commissioner Wharton made the motion to approve the program. Commissioner Winton seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed unanimously, with ten ayes.

D. University of Tennessee Knoxville, Deaf Studies, Bachelor of Science

Dr. David Manderscheid presented information regarding the Bachelor of Science in Deaf Studies, with a concentration in American Sign Language (ASL) Education at the University of Tennessee Knoxville. Students in this program will take prerequisite courses that will increase the knowledge of the Deaf Community and Deaf Culture, grow student's ASL linguistic and metalinguistic competencies, develop the students' lesson and unit planning skills associated with ASL teaching, and provide supportive field placements in ASL classrooms. This will be the first ASL education licensure program in the state.

Commissioner Wharton asked whether this program was related to the Tennessee School for the Deaf. Dr. Manderscheid stated that this will provide the enhanced ability to offer ASL as a foreign language within public schools, so that it was possible that the program may educate a teacher who would end up teaching at the Tennessee School for the Deaf.

Commissioner Wharton motioned to approve the program. Commissioner Riley seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously with ten ayes.

E. University of Tennessee Knoxville, Legal Studies, Master of Science

Dr. David Manderscheid presented information regarding the Master of Science in Legal Studies program at the University of Tennessee Knoxville. This program is another option outside of the existing three-year Juris Doctorate program. Students will take two required introductory courses designed to help them understand the structure of the American legal system and basic legal analysis and then students will take existing law courses alongside Juris Doctorate students. Individuals who already hold an undergraduate degree and whose career interests intersect with the law will be the primary target audience for this program. This program will be a hybrid program with both online and in-person courses with a written project in lieu of a traditional thesis.

Commissioner Wharton asked if this would change the Juris Doctorate designation at all and Dr. Manderscheid responded that no, it would not.

Commissioner Koban asked if the Juris Doctorate coursework would be prescribed or would the students be able to choose classes based on their interest. Dr. Manderscheid stated that students would be able to select their

courses, but a few classes would not be allowed such as the legal clinic as that course requires that students represent actual clients.

Commissioner Koban motioned to approve this program. Commissioner Johnston seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously, with 11 ayes.

II. UT Health Science Center 2020 Campus Master Plan Update (Action Item)

Chairman Cope recognized Patti Miller, THEC's Chief Architect, who introduced Mr. Tony Hopson. Mr. Hopson then introduced Dr. Ken Brown. Dr. Brown provided the UT Health Science Center 2020 Campus Master Plan update with a comprehensive ten-year plan, with an analysis of space needs, enrollment, site considerations, facility conditions and renewal plans, design guidelines, land acquisition, infrastructure, student life/services, and implementation and capital plan.

Commissioner Stafford made the motion to approve. Commissioner Dishner seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously with 11 ayes.

III. TCAT Shelbyville Master Plan Amendment

Chairman Cope recognized Chancellor Flora Tydings, and Mr. Dick Tracy from the Tennessee Board of Regents to present the TCAT Shelbyville Master Plan Amendment. The amendment is consistent with the objectives of the 2014 Statewide Master Plan for expansion of the TCAT Shelbyville campus in consideration of local industry workforce development opportunities. The land acquisition plan revision was recommended by the original Master Plan consultant, Woody Giles of TSW on February 26, 2020. The approval of the amendment does not represent a future recommendation of the outlay project needed to relocate the campus.

Commissioner Stafford asked if there were any other stipulations for TCAT Shelbyville acquiring the property besides the Commission's approval. Mr. Tracy stated that no, there were no other stipulations.

Commissioner Johnston motioned to approve the amendment. Commissioner Wharton seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously, with 11 ayes.

Executive Director Krause recognized Representative Pat Marsh for being on the call to support TCAT Shelbyville. Representative Marsh stated he was proud to be on the call and thanked Chancellor Tydings for her support of the amendment. Representative Marsh also

stated that the area was fast growing and that the new building was needed as there was not enough room in the current space to house all the students who want to attend.

Adjournment

Commissioner Wharton motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Stafford seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed unanimously, with 11 ayes. Chairman Cope adjourned the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

NEXT THEC COMMISSION MEETING:

Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 9 a.m. CT in Nashville

THEC Chairman Evan Cope

THEC Secretary AC Wharton, Jr.