

TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Summer Quarterly Meeting
Senate Hearing Room 1, Cordell Hull Building
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N.
Nashville, TN
July 28, 2022

Link to recording:

[THEC Commission Meeting 7/28/2022 \(tn.gov\)](https://www.tn.gov/newsroom/2022/07/28/2022-07-28-the-commission-meeting-7-28-2022)

Chairman Stafford called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Member	PRESENT	ABSENT
Chairman Evan Cope		X
Commissioner Whitney Allmon	X	
Commissioner Andrew Kingsolver	X	
Commissioner Pam Koban	X	
Commissioner Jimmy Matlock		X
Commissioner Jay Moser	X	
Commissioner Tara Scarlett	X	
Commissioner Vernon Stafford, Jr.	X	
Commissioner AC Wharton		X
Commissioner Dakasha Winton	X	
Secretary Tre Hargett	X	
Treasurer David Lillard	X	
Commissioner Sara Morrison	X	
Comptroller Jason Mumpower	X	

At the start of the meeting there were eleven (11) voting members physically present constituting a quorum. Comptroller Mumpower left the meeting at 10:45 a.m., still leaving a quorum present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Koban made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Moser seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MAY 19, 2022, MINUTES

Commissioner Koban made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Winton seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Stafford provided his report. Chairman Stafford welcomed newest Commission members, Commissioner Jimmy Matlock and Commissioner Andrew Kingsolver. Additionally, Chairman Stafford extended thanks to Commissioner Nancy Dishner whose term ended at the end of June 2022. The Commission also expressed their condolences to the family of Darrell S. Freeman, Sr., who was a

graduate and board member for Middle Tennessee State University. Chairman Stafford then recognized Commissioner Koban for an update on the work of the THEC/TSAC Joint Audit Committee.

Commissioner Koban announced that the THEC/TSAC Joint Audit Committee meets twice a year. This year it will be immediately following today's meeting and in November. Commissioner Koban gave a brief overview of the items to be discussed, including the Internal Audit Charter, compliance review processes, cyber response plans, and internal audit updates.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Dr. Emily House provided her report. Executive Director House then introduced Gregg Crawford, Director of Veterans Transition and Outreach Program, to give a report on the Veterans Reconnect program. Mr. Crawford gave his report.

AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman Stafford stated that there were two (2) items on the consent calendar and that without objection, the Commission would vote on the items as a set. Commissioner Winton made a motion to approve both items on the consent calendar. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Allmon. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

I. 2023-2024 Agency Strategic Initiatives

Dr. Steven Gentile, Chief Policy Officer, presented information to the Commission on the agency's strategic initiatives. Dr. Gentile noted that this information is usually provided at the November meeting; however, agency requests are due to the Department of Finance and Administration by Friday, September 9, 2022. To meet this deadline, staff is presenting the initiatives earlier than in prior years. All other appropriation recommendations will continue to be presented to the Commission for recommendation at the November meeting.

Dr. Gentile then presented that this year's recommendation encompasses six (6) strategic initiatives from across the agency, totaling \$3,270,000 in recurring requests and \$6,000,000 in nonrecurring. These six (6) initiatives include Advise TN, HBCU Success and Tennessee Promise Summer Bridge Programs, Navigate Reconnect, Director of Data Strategy, Reverse Transfer Program, and Statewide Building Condition Survey.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion was held.

Commissioner Koban motioned to approve the strategic initiatives. Commissioner Kingsolver seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

II. University of Tennessee, Martin Campus Master Plan

Provost Petra McPherson introduced Krisan Osterby of DLR Group to present the campus Master Plan. Ms. Osterby presented information on how the Master Plan focused on the core values of academic program excellence; student experience and success; inclusion; and advocacy and service. It was noted that the short-term priority projects for the campus included a Fine Arts building addition, demolition and replacement of the Business Administration building, and a new beef cattle teaching and demonstration facility. Planning and assessment of student life identified needs for expansion and additions to dining, demolitions and replacements of student housing, recreation improvements, a new Student

Health and Counseling Center, and an outdoor amphitheater. The Master Plan included upgrades to the athletic facilities and agriculture programs for years to come.

Commissioner Allmon made a motion to approve the Master Plan. Commissioner Scarlett seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

III. New Academic Programs

Dr. Julie Roberts, Chief Academic Officer, gave a brief overview of the four (4) new academic programs that will be considered. Dr. Roberts then introduced Provost Dr. Lori Bruce.

A. Tennessee Technological University – Studio Arts, Bachelor of Science

Dr. Bruce proposed a Bachelor of Science in Studio Arts to prepare students for meaningful careers in visual art, craft design, and other artistic fields. This program will adhere to the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) accreditation standards and will consist of 120 credit hours, consisting of thirty-nine (39) credit hours of studio arts, twelve (12) credit hours of art or design history, forty-one (41) credit hours of general studies, and twenty-eight (28) elective credit hours.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion was held.

Commissioner Kingsolver made a motion to approve the academic program. Commissioner Koban seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

B. University of Tennessee Health Science Center – Pathologists' Assistant, Master of Health Science

Vice Chancellor Dr. Cindy Russell presented information on the Pathologists' Assistant academic program. Dr. Russell explained that the program is designed to educate individuals to become a Pathologists' Assistants that provide surgical, autopsy, and forensic pathology professional services under the guidance of a board-certified pathologist. The proposed academic program will seek accreditation from the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS). The program will consist of both didactic courses with supporting laboratories and clinical rotations. Dr. Russell introduced Mr. Michael Whitzell who stated that the accreditation process usually takes three (3) years to complete.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion was held.

Commissioner Scarlett made a motion to approve the academic program. Commissioner Moser seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

C. University of Tennessee, Knoxville – Public Health, Bachelor of Science

Provost Dr. John Zomchick presented information on the Bachelor of Science with a concentration in Population Health Sciences. This academic program will require 120 credit hours consisting of forty-nine (49) credit hours of general education, eighteen (18) credit hours of public health core courses, twelve (12) credit hours of population

health courses, ten (10) credit hours of interdisciplinary core courses, and thirty-one (31) credit hours of elective courses.

Commissioner Scarlett made the motion to approve the academic program. Commissioner Winton seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

D. University of Tennessee, Martin – Construction Management, Bachelor of Science

Provost Dr. Phil Cavalier presented the Bachelor of Science in Construction Management program which will provide a high-quality STEM pathway for students who are interested in engineering and construction related fields without the requirements of a math-intensive curriculum. The academic program consists of 120 credit hours consisting of thirty-nine (39) credit hours of general education, fifty-five (55) credit hours of construction core courses, twelve (12) credit hours of business management courses, nine (9) credit hours of electives, and five (5) credit hours of internship and capstone courses.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion was held.

Commissioner Moser made a motion to approve the academic program. Commissioner Kingsolver seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Academic Policies

Dr. Julie Roberts gave a brief overview of three (3) revised academic policies before presenting more detailed information on each policy.

A. A1.0 New Academic Programs: Approval Process

Dr. Roberts presented information on how the proposed changes of the New Academic Programs: Approval Process was created with input from Chief Academic Officers from the University of Tennessee System, Tennessee Board of Regents, and locally governed Tennessee public universities. The policy was also reviewed by members of the Tennessee Accreditation Network to incorporate changes to support alignment with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) policies and procedures where possible. The changes include revisions to the following sections: purpose, new academic programs subject to approval, criteria for review, steps to establish a new academic program, letter of notification (LON), letter of notification (LON) expiration, new academic program proposal (NAPP), post-external review, advertisement of new academic program, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) action, approval of new Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) community college programs, and post-approval monitoring.

Commissioner Kingsolver made a motion to approve the policy changes. Commissioner Koban seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

B. A.1.1 Academic Program Modifications

Dr. Roberts presented information on how the Academic Program Modifications policy establishes a process for modifying previously approved academic programs through the THEC Executive Director. The proposed changes also expand the types of programs subject to this policy beyond the evaluation of a concentration to a free-standing academic program and a change in degree designation for an academic program. The proposed changes were developed in consultation with the Chief Academic Officers at each locally governed public university, as well as representatives from the University of Tennessee System, and the Tennessee Board of Regents. Additionally, the Tennessee Accreditation Network provided feedback on the policy to align with SACSCOC language and policies where possible. The proposed revisions were to the following policy sections: program modifications subject to approval, modifications to currently approved programs, Quality Assurance Funding, and the five (5) year policy review schedule was removed as the policy may be reviewed at any time.

Commissioner Scarlett made a motion to approve the policy changes. Chairman Stafford seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

C. A1.5. Academic Actions Notification

Dr. Roberts presented information on the academic actions notification policy that establishes a process for identifying the academic actions that must be submitted by public institutions to maintain the accuracy of the state's Academic Program Inventory (API). The proposed revisions for the academic actions notification policy were developed in consultation with the Chief Academic Officers at each locally governed public university, as well as representatives from the University of Tennessee System and the Tennessee Board of Regents. The Tennessee Accreditation Network provided feedback on the existing policy. The proposed revisions were to the following policy sections: academic actions subject to notification, programs exempt from inactive status, notification schedule, and the three (3) year policy review schedule was removed as the policy may be reviewed at any time.

Commissioner Moser made the motion to approve the policy revisions. Commissioner Winton seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Division of Postsecondary State Authorization: Rulemaking Hearing Rules

Assistant Executive Director and Lead Attorney for DPSA, Julie Woodruff presented information regarding the Tennessee General Assembly's amendments to the Tennessee Higher Education Authorization Act of 2016 (THEAA) earlier this year through the passage of 2022 Pub. Ch. No. 1044. At May THEC meeting, the Commission adopted Emergency Rules to implement the THEAA, as amended. The Emergency Rules were effective July 1, 2022. THEC filed a Notice of Rulemaking Hearing with the Secretary of State. Per the notice, the rulemaking hearing was held July 14, 2022. Written comments were received from three (3) institutions and four (4) institutions attended the rulemaking hearing. To ensure notice of the effective

and proposed statutory and regulatory revisions, the THEC website was updated to explain the changes and provide additional notice of the rulemaking hearing. Additionally, THEC notified institutions of the rulemaking hearing and website updates via email. After hearing comments and further review of the proposed rules, Commission Staff proposed four (4) substantive changes to the text of the proposed Rulemaking Hearing rules to be published in the Rulemaking Hearing Rule(s) Filing Form.

Commissioner Koban made a motion that the Commission vote to adopt the proposed Rulemaking Hearing Rules as written in the Commission's materials for this agenda item, directed Commission Staff to complete SS-7039, submit the signed form to the Office of the Attorney General and thereafter the Secretary of State, and authorize the Executive Director to make any revisions to the rules proposed by the Office of the Attorney General that are technical or necessary to ensure the legality of the rules. Commissioner Kingsolver seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Election of 2022-23 Commission Officers

Chairman Stafford stated that pursuant to Article V of our Rules and Procedure, the Commission is to elect officers annually at the regular summer meeting to serve one (1) year terms. The offices consist of a chair, two vice-chairs, and a secretary. The chair and each vice-chair must reside in different grand divisions of the state. The current Commission officers are:

- Chair – Evan Cope (Middle Grand Division)
- Vice Chair – Vernon Stafford (West Grand Division)
- Vice Chair – Dakasha Winton (East Grand Division)
- Secretary – A.C. Wharton

At this time, Vice Chairman Stafford passed the gavel to Commissioner Koban and opened the floor for nomination for the offices.

Commissioner Koban stated that if there was no objection, she proposed that the Commission consider the officer elections as a slate, with a single vote at the end of the nominations. A motion by Commissioner Kingsolver was made to vote as a slate. Commissioner Winton seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Stafford made a motion to elect Evan Cope as Chair. Commissioner Winton seconded the motion.

Commissioner Allmon made a motion to elect Dakasha Winton as Vice Chair. Chairman Stafford seconded the motion.

Commissioner Moser made a motion to elect Vernon Stafford as Vice Chair. Commissioner Winton seconded the motion.

Commissioner Winton made a motion to elect A.C. Wharton as Secretary. Commissioner Allmon seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken, and the motions passed unanimously. Commissioner Koban congratulated the officers and passed the gavel back to Chairman Stafford.

VII. Selection of THEC/TSAC Joint Audit Committee Member

Executive Director Dr. House outlined the requirements for membership on the audit committee. The committee and its chair shall be selected by the Executive Director of THEC/TSAC and confirmed by the selected member's Commission/Board of Directors. The Audit Committee consists of five (5) members with representation from both organizations who are generally knowledgeable in financial, management, and auditing matters. The committee chair shall have some accounting or financial management expertise. Each member shall serve for a term not to exceed three (3) years and may be reappointed. The appointed term of THEC's former committee member Nancy Dishner expired on June 30, 2022. The current composition of the audit committee is:

Pam Koban, Chair, *representing THEC*

Doree Hicks, designee for the Commissioner of Finance and Administration, *representing TSAC*

Dr. Claude Presnell, *representing TSAC*

Vernon Stafford, *representing THEC*

Dr. House recommended that THEC Commissioner Jay Moser be appointed to a three (3) year term of the Combined Audit Committee commencing immediately.

Commissioner Scarlett made a motion to approve the recommendation of Commissioner Moser being appointed to the three (3) year term of the Combined Audit Committee. Commissioner Kingsolver seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with nine (9) ayes, and one (1) abstention from Commissioner Moser.

VIII. Historically Black Colleges and Universities Success 2022-25 Strategic Plan (Informational Only)

Dr. Brittany Mosby, Director of HBCU Success, presented information on the special called meeting held on June 29, 2022, by the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Success Advisory Board to discuss the 2022-25 HBCU Success Strategic Plan. The strategic plan was formally adopted by the HBCU Success Advisory Board during the special called meeting. The HBCU Success Strategic Plan is based on three (3) objectives that outline what must be completed to achieve progress towards reaching the statutory goals of the statewide HBCU Success initiatives. These objectives include promotion of HBCUs to students, families, the community, and policymakers, supporting the strengthening of HBCU administrative capacity, and the encouragement of partnerships with HBCU programs and initiatives.

HBCU Success Advisory Board Chairwoman Ashley Northington added that the goals, policy tools, and strategies outlined in the strategic plan document are interconnected and ultimately must be pursued in tandem to achieve any lasting success. The plan is designed to be carried out, not by a single office or entity, but rather by a collective of HBCU advocates working together. THEC HBCU Success, the Advisory Board, institutions, business industry partners, and community advocates.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion was held.

IX. New Academic Programs: Post-Approval Monitoring Report *(Informational Only)*

Dr. Ryan Korstange, Director of Academic Affairs, presented information on Post-Approval Monitoring (PAM), which is an annual review of all recently approved academic programs. The annual review evaluates fidelity of academic program implementation and monitors progress towards meeting the implementation goals articulated in the program proposal during the approval process. Programs being monitored report their performance in one (1) of four (4) ways:

- Implementation Report: Academic programs report progress towards pre-enrollment planning goals when there is a delay between program approval and scheduled implementation.
- Standard Report: Academic programs that make satisfactory progress towards meeting the enrollment and graduation projections established in the approval process provide information about the program enrollment, graduation, costs, and revenues.
- Summative Report: After the conclusion of the post-approval monitoring cycle, academic programs complete a summative report that includes final enrollment and graduation numbers and highlights key aspects of the program's success.
- Productivity Report: Academic programs that do not consistently meet the enrollment and graduation benchmarks established in the approval process may be required to continue in PAM for additional monitoring. Productivity reports provide three (3) additional years of enrollment, graduation, and financial projections. Additionally, programs provide an annual productivity plan describing their efforts to improve the program.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion was held.

Chairman Stafford adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

NEXT THEC COMMISSION MEETING:

Thursday, November 3, 2022, in Nashville

THEC Chairman Evan Cope

THEC Secretary AC Wharton, Jr.