

**TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**

Minutes of the Fall Quarterly Meeting

Senate Hearing Room 1, Cordell Hull Bldg.

425 Rep. John Lewis Way N.

Nashville, TN 37243

November 18, 2021

Link to recording:

<https://dgs.streamingvideo.tn.gov/Mediasite/Play/a57824a592b84ebdb51e4478382e53dd1d>

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

<b>Member</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Chairman Evan Cope	X	
Commissioner Nancy Dishner	X	
Secretary Tre Hargett	X	
Commissioner Tara Scarlett	X	
Commissioner Pam Koban		X
Treasurer David Lillard	X	
Commissioner Sara Morrison	X	
Commissioner Jay Moser	X	
Commissioner Vernon Stafford	X	
Commissioner AC Wharton	X	
Comptroller Jason Mumpower	X	
Commissioner Dakasha Winton	X	
Commissioner Ethan Galloway	X	

At the start of the meeting there were eight (8) voting members physically present, Commissioner Nancy Dishner, Secretary Tre Hargett, Commissioner Tara Scarlett, Treasurer David Lillard, Commissioner Jay Moser, Commissioner Vernon Stafford, Commissioner AC Wharton, and Commissioner Dakasha Winton, and one nonvoting member, Commissioner Sara Morrison, constituting a quorum. Comptroller Jason Mumpower was also present at the start of the meeting via telephone. At 9:01 a.m. Commissioner Galloway entered the meeting and at 9:14 a.m. Chairman Cope entered the meeting. Comptroller Mumpower left the meeting at 9:45 a.m., still leaving ten (10) voting members physically present.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Secretary Hargett made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Scarlett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously with nine (9) ayes.

## **APPROVAL OF JULY 22, 2021 MINUTES**

Secretary Hargett made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Moser seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously with ten (10) ayes.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Vice-Chairman Stafford delivered Chairman Cope's report on his behalf. Vice Chairman Stafford then recognized Dr. Julie Roberts and Dr. Jeffery Norfleet for their report on the Black Male Success Initiative (BMSI). Dr. Roberts also recognized members of the Initiative who were present in the audience. Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed. Secretary Hargett requested that Mr. Darrell Freeman, a member of the BMSI task force and MTSU Trustee, be recognized for brief comments.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:**

Executive Director Dr. Emily House provided her report.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

Chairman Cope stated that there were two (2) items on the consent calendar and without questions or objections, that he would entertain a motion and second to approve the consent calendar as one (1) item. Commissioner Stafford made a motion to approve the consent calendar as one (1) item. Commissioner Scarlett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with ten (10) ayes. Commissioner Wharton abstained.

### **I. Fall 2021 Enrollment Update**

Amanda Klafehn presented an update on Fall 2021 enrollment and how Tennessee compared within the national enrollment landscape. For Fall 2021, undergraduate headcount is down 4.1% from Fall 2020 and full-time equivalent undergraduate enrollment is down 5.1% across all institutions. Community college headcount is down 6.7%, while university undergraduate headcount is down 2.4% over census enrollment from Fall 2020. Graduate student enrollment is up across most universities.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed.

### **II. 2022-23 Operating State Appropriation Recommendations**

Dr. Crystal Collins presented information on the 2022-23 operating state appropriation recommendations. The Strategic Financial Plan sets a goal to make Tennessee the most affordable state in the South for higher education. In alignment with this goal, the operating appropriation recommendations are informed by increased productivity in the outcomes-based funding formula, quality assurance points, inflationary factors, and changes to fixed costs. The resulting recurring

appropriation increase presented works in partnership with the recommended binding tuition and fee range to prioritize student affordability across the universities, community colleges, and colleges of applied technology.

THEC staff recommended a grand total recurring recommendation for all higher education operating appropriations for Fiscal Year 2022-23 of \$1.99 billion. This included \$1.34 billion to fund the formula units and Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology, \$527.7 million to fund the specialized units, and \$125.1 million for strategic program investments. These recommendations total \$155.5 million in new funds, an increase of 8.5 percent (8.5%) over the request for Fiscal Year 2021-22.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed. Commissioner Dishner motioned to approve. Commissioner Moser seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously with ten (10) ayes.

### **III. 2022-23 Student Fee Recommendations**

Dr. Steven Gentile presented information on student fees and state appropriations. Staff recommended the Commission adopt a guiding tuition (maintenance fee) range of zero to three percent (0-3%), as well as a guiding tuition and mandatory fee range of zero to three percent (0-3%) for all public universities, community colleges, and Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology. The recommendation is for guidance only, with the flexibility to approve final, binding ranges later in the fiscal year once clarity around the state budget and overall impact on higher education funding is determined.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed. Chairman Cope recognized Claude Pressnell, President of the Tennessee Independent Colleges and University Association in the audience for public comment. Treasurer David Lillard asked that University of Tennessee President Randy Boyd in the audience be recognized for comment. Secretary Hargett noted that some consideration should be given to establishing a subcommittee structure to accommodate additional discussion on various topics that come before the Commission. Chairman Cope recognized Darrell Freeman for additional comments. Commissioner Stafford motioned to approve. Commissioner Winton seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously with ten (10) ayes.

### **IV. 2022-23 Capital Projects Recommendations**

Ms. Patti Miller presented information on the capital outlay recommendation for 2022-23. Due to continuing circumstances of the past budget cycle, there were two (2) groups of outlay projects recommended for consideration. The first is for ten (10) renovation projects and the second is for ten (10) projects emphasizing community

outreach and economic development. A total of \$218.6 million is recommended for five (5) projects for the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR), ten (10) projects for the Locally Governed Institutions (LGIs), and five (5) projects for the University of Tennessee (UT System).

The 2022-23 recommendation for capital maintenance is \$174.6 million for 91 projects that include 32 projects for TBR, 36 projects for LGIs, 23 projects for UT System, special initiative appropriation for Tennessee State University's electrical upgrades, and continued ADA program accessibility improvements.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed. Commissioner Wharton made a motion to approve. Commissioner Dishner seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, the motion passed unanimously with ten (10) ayes.

## **V. New Academic Programs**

### **A. University of Tennessee Martin, Master of Sport Coaching and Performance**

Dr. Julie Roberts introduced Dr. Phil Cavalier to present information on the University of Tennessee Martin Master of Sport Coaching and Performance. The program will be a 30-credit hour, online program designed to develop effective coaches and leaders at youth, collegiate, Olympic, and professional levels.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed. Treasurer Lillard motioned to approve. Commissioner Stafford seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously with ten (10) ayes.

### **B. Tennessee State University, Data Science, Master of Science**

Dr. Ali Sekmen presented information on the Tennessee State University Master of Science in Data Science program. The program will be offered completely online and consist of 30-credit hours providing students a thorough foundation in computer science, mathematics, and statistics. Upon completion of the program, graduates will have a blend of theory and practice regarding computer science and applied mathematics and the ability to extract information from large datasets.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion was had. Treasurer Lillard made the motion to approve. Commissioner Wharton seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously with ten (10) ayes.

## **VI. 2021-2025 Formula Review Update**

Dr. Gentile and Dr. Collins presented information on the more in-depth technical review of the funding-based formula. For the most recent five-year review process, THEC staff convened the Formula Review Committee (FRC) in July and September 2021. FRC members proposed changes to the low-income focus population to expand the data to include out-of-state students in the low-income focus population premium to align this premium with all others and to the workforce training metric to exclude activities provided by third-party vendors Ed2Go and further, exclude activities independently provided by trainers who receive their training from the reporting community college. The FRC does not intend to move forward with recommendation to move to a four-year graduation rate within the formula currently. Currently, THEC staff are in the process of formulating final recommendations to present to the Commission in May 2022 incorporating input from the Commission, Senate and House Finance, Ways and Means Committees, Senate and House Education Committees, and FRC members.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed.

## **VII. Campus Security Update**

Paul Marshall presented information on the coordination of campus security preparedness programs for higher education. Since the Commission convened Security Conference in fall 2019, staff have led statewide efforts to distribute advanced bleeding control kits to institutions, helped administer Tactical Emergency Casualty Care courses at eight (8) institutions across the state, and partnered with the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security (TDOSH) to provide campus security assessments. In January 2022, commission staff, in partnership with the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA), will conduct tabletop drills across Tennessee to test security preparedness.

Chairman Cope adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

### **NEXT THEC COMMISSION MEETING:**

Friday, January 28, 2022 in Nashville

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**THEC Chairman Evan Cope**

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**THEC Secretary AC Wharton, Jr.**