

**TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE HBCU SUCCESS ADVISORY BOARD
Spring/Summer Meeting
July 28, 2020**

Chairwoman Fallon Wilson called the meeting to order at 1:09pm.

| Members | PRESENT | ABSENT |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Mr. Spruell Driver | X | |
| Mrs. Laschinski Emerson | X | |
| Dr. Sharon Gentry | | X |
| Ms. Sandra Long | X | |
| Mr. Doug Magee | X | |
| Ms. Deidre Malone | X | |
| Mr. Damon Rawls | X | |
| Commissioner Van Turner | | X |
| Dr. Fallon Wilson | X | |
| Ex-Officio Members | PRESENT | ABSENT |
| President Logan Hampton | X | |
| Interim President Carol Johnson Dean | X | |
| President Forest Harris* | | X |
| President Kevin Rome | X | |
| President Keith Lindsey | X | |
| President Glenda Glover | X | |
| President James Hildreth* | | X |

**Mary Carpenter attended on behalf of Dr. Forest Harris. Jessica Powell attended on behalf of Dr. James Hildreth.*

Other attendees: Representative Harold Love, TN General Assembly; Mike Krause, executive director, THEC; Betty Dandridge Johnson, chief academic officer, THEC; Dr. Jeffery Norfleet, THEC; Mitch Currey, THEC

OPENING REMARKS

In Executive Order No. 51, 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 meeting, we are using WebEx, which accommodates up to 1,000 participants. Advisory Board Members and THEC Staff with items on today's agenda were given a link that allows them to participate in the meeting. All other attendees were given a link that allows them to watch the meeting, but not unmute themselves. However, attendees will be able to raise their hand during the meeting and be unmuted by the Host for participation, as needed. 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 Board 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.51 having been met, the only remaining item needed to ensure compliance with the Open Meetings Act and Executive Order No.51 is for

the Board to determine that meeting electronically is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Tennesseans in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.

A motion was made by Spruell Driver and seconded by Deidre Malone that it is necessary for the board to meet electronically to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Tennesseans in light of the COVID-19 outbreak and to include the above comments in the minutes of the meeting.

The chair recognized State Representative Harold Love, Jr. to make opening remarks. The Representative welcomed and congratulated the advisory board on their commitment to HBCUs, especially during this tumultuous time in history. He encouraged board members and presidents to reach out to him for assistance in anyway.

THEC STAFF REPORT

The chair recognized Executive Director Mike Krause, who provided a statewide update on the impact of COVID-19 across higher education. Roughly \$45 million dollars in revenues at public institutions was lost within the first 30 days of the pandemic. Director Krause also referenced CARES Act funding available to HBCUs, include a state grant for operational expenses related to coronavirus preparations.

The chair next recognized Director of HBCU Success, Dr. Brittany Mosby. Dr. Mosby provided an update on several HBCU Success programs and activities, including:

- *2020 Joint Day on the Hill.* The event was successfully held on February 25 at Cordell Hull. Presidents from all seven Tennessee HBCUs were in attendance for the panel discussion led by Dr. Herman Felton, President of Wiley College. There was also a student display that highlighted summer bridge programs and student success at HBCUs.
- *HBCU Trustee Development Summit.* Topics and logistics for a gathering were initially discussed but paused due to COVID-19 disruption. The decision was made that an in-person summit would be more effective than a virtual meeting at this time.
- *2019 HBCU Summer Bridge Program pilot.* Dr. Mosby has written a report based on evidence and data compiled from the HBCUs who participated in last year's summer bridge program. This report details the student success theory that underpins the programs. Publication of the article is forthcoming.
- *Updates for institutions.* Dr. Mosby shared information on upcoming opportunities for institutions to participate in an emergency preparedness simulation exercise led by TEMA. The conference call is open to all TICUA institutions and will take place on August 4, 2020 from 9am to 12pm, CT. Also shared was contact information for the TN Department of Health, Office of Minority Health Disparities Elimination. Assistant Commissioner Dr. Kimberly Lamar and Director Monique Anthony encouraged

institutions to reach out for technical assistance in planning for the upcoming semester.

The Chair next recognized all presidents on the call and requested that they share their current status with respect to COVID-19 and the upcoming fall 2020 semester. Dr. Kevin Rome reported that Fisk University has developed a plan and feels comfortable with available resources for students, although there may be an issue with moving student furniture in a sanitary fashion. Dr. Carol Johnson Dean asked if other institutions were facing a drop in enrollment due to the pandemic. She mentioned partnerships with the University of Memphis and drive-by technology pick up opportunities for students. Dr. Logan Hampton shared that first-year students would be moving onto campus this week (Saturday, August 1), followed by upperclassmen the next week. He expressed that while the campus has amassed sufficient PPE, with over 14,000 masks, technology and infrastructure remain a challenge for the institution. Dr. Keith Lindsey shared that Knoxville College has experienced an increase in enrollment due to their fully online programs and offered assistance to institutions who have faculty in need of additional digital pedagogy.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Mobilizing the HBCU Advisory Board to Respond to COVID-19

Dr. Mosby shared the results of a THEC survey sent to HBCU chief operations officers regarding COVID-19 disruption. Many of the findings were referenced by the presidents during the opening remarks. Reopening plans current as of July 28 were shared for each campus. Fisk University will be utilizing a staggered model, with first-year students on-campus for the first quarter of the semester, and upperclassmen on-campus during the second quarter. Lane College plans to return to campus for all students, with additional safety precautions in place. LeMoyne Owen College and Tennessee State University both plan to begin classes remotely, with a transition to in-person classes after Labor Day. All institutions adopted an academic calendar that allows for the semester to conclude with the Thanksgiving holiday break.

Common needs from all institutions included devices for students, enterprise technology solutions, additional information and guidance on federal and state funds, and access to a repository of pedagogical best practices and resources.

In order to address these needs in a timely fashion, the chair created three ad hoc committees and made the following assignments:

- Legal Concerns Regarding COVID-19 (e.g. liability issues and insurance)

- Members: Dr. Sharon Gentry, Spruell Driver, Commissioner Van Turner
- Online Teaching Resources
 - Members: Laschinski Emerson, Sandra Long, Doug Magee
- Other resources to support online and campus operations
 - Members: Dr. Fallon Wilson, Deidre Malone, Damon Rawls

The chair requested that committees determine a meeting schedule and be prepared to report out on August 25, 2020.

II. Advancing Public Awareness of TN HBCUs

Dr. Mosby referenced the statutory duty of both the director and the board to promote stories of HBCU success, in order to support public policy and practice in favor of Tennessee's HBCUs. She encouraged board members to share stories they heard, and also be sure to share the HBCU Success website among their networks. THEC staff is working to develop relationships with institution media/public relations offices as well.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the HBCU Success Advisory Board will be on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 1pm via WebEx video conference.

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