

**TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE HBCU SUCCESS ADVISORY BOARD
Fall Meeting
October 20, 2020**

Chairwoman Fallon Wilson called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm.

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
Interim President Vann Newkirk*		X
President Keith Lindsey		X
President Glenda Glover*		X
President James Hildreth		X

**Mary Carpenter attended on behalf of Dr. Forest Harris. Dr. Kenneth Jones attended on behalf of Dr. Vann Newkirk. Dr. Curtis Johnson attended on behalf of Dr. Glenda Glover.*

Other attendees: Betty Dandridge Johnson, THEC Chief Academic Officer, THEC and Dr. Jeffery Norfleet, THEC Director of Academic Affairs.

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 Deidre Malone and seconded by Spruell Driver 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.

A motion was made by Deidre Malone and seconded by Damon Rawls to adopt the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT

Dr. Fallon Wilson again welcomed all board members and presidents in attendance. She thanked the college presidents, in particular for their dedication and hard work to keep students, faculty, and staff safe during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Fall 2020 HBCU Enrollment Update

Dr. Brittany Mosby shared updates and data on Tennessee HBCU campus operations and student enrollment, as affected by the pandemic. American Baptist College, Knoxville College, and LeMoyne Owen College are holding only virtual classes during the fall semester. Fisk University has adopted a hybrid model, with first-year and upperclass students rotating between on-campus and virtual classes. Lane College, Meharry Medical College, and Tennessee State University are holding in-person classes, with some virtual options for certain classes.

Student enrollment across all Tennessee HBCUs is down by 7 percent for the fall semester. American Baptist College, Lane College, and LeMoyne Owen College all have a loss of more than 20 percent of student enrollment. Fisk University and Meharry Medical College both have modest increases in fall enrollment. Dr. Kenneth Jones shared that Fisk has adopted an “all hands-on deck” approach to student recruitment and enrollment management. He credits the diligent work of all Fisk staff and administrators for the increase in their fall enrollment.

Dr. Carol Dean Johnson informed the board that not only were schools suffering from loss of tuition revenue during this time, but also endowment investment returns dropped a result of the fluctuating stock market.

II. 2020 Tennessee HBCU Success Viewbook

In continuation of the topic of promoting public awareness of Tennessee's HBCUs, Dr. Brittany Mosby shared that a statewide viewbook, pertaining to all seven institutions, is in development and will be released in February 2021. In addition to quantitative data tables, the publication will also have a two-page profile on each institution, highlighting academic programs and community involvement. The intended uses for the viewbook range from a recruitment tool to philanthropic awareness to providing context for state and federal public policymakers.

III. Promoting HBCU Participation in State Programs

Dr. Brittany Mosby referenced the statutory goal of HBCU Success to ensure maximal participation in existing state programs across all agencies and departments. THEC staff compiled an inventory of the various programs that Tennessee HBCUs are currently participating in, including:

- THEC: Tennessee Accreditation Network, Tennessee Doctoral Scholars Program, Veterans Success
- TN Department of Education: Grow Your Own Grant
- TN Department of Health: HBCU Wellness Program

Additionally, staff identified programs with opportunities for greater HBCU engagement and participation, including:

- THEC: Seamless Alignment and Integrated Learning Support (SAILS), Diversity in Teaching Fall 2021 grant, the Textbook Affordability Network, and College Access and Success

Other state agencies and departments that have potential for HBCU collaboration include the Tennessee State Museum, and the departments of Agriculture, Tourism Development, Labor and Workforce Development, Economic and Community Development, and Health.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the HBCU Success Advisory Board will be on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 1:00 pm via WebEx video conference.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m.