

TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
Minutes of the Master Plan Statutory Committee

Virtual Meeting

October 6, 2025

Dr. Steven Gentile called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Member	PRESENT	ABSENT
Steven Gentile	X	
Catherine Haire		X
Bill Hardgrave	X	
Gary Hicks		X
Jessica Himes		X
Mike Licari	X	
Sidney McPhee	X	
Brian Noland	X	
Philip Oldham	X	
Robert Quittmeyer, Designee for Jason Mumpower	X	
Dwayne Tucker	X	
Randy Boyd	X	
Jim Bryson	X	
Flora Tydings	X	
Bo Watson	X	
Chair Dawn White		X
Chair Mark White		X
Cameron Conn	X	

At the start of the meeting there were 12 members present, representing a quorum.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Executive Director Report

Dr. Steven Gentile, Executive Director, opened the meeting by expressing his appreciation to all participants. He outlined the two primary focuses of the meeting:

1. The development and finalization of the Master Plan
2. The Outcomes-Based Funding Formula, which is currently in its five-year review period and will be the focus of the next four to six months

Dr. Gentile reminded the group that this Committee serves in an advisory capacity and is not required to vote or take formal action. Instead, it plays a critical role in guiding and informing both the Master Plan and the Outcomes-Based Funding Formula process. He also noted that Dr. Cameron Conn, President of TICUA, would depart the meeting following the Master Plan discussion.

I. Higher Education Master Plan Process

Ms. Amanda Klafehn, Chief Strategy Officer, provided an overview of the Master Plan timeline and restated its three foundational cornerstones: aligned, achievable, and agile. She emphasized that the Master Plan is designed to inform and drive the Outcomes-Based Funding Formula. Once adopted, the plan will be:

- Disseminated to stakeholders and institutions
- Used to identify and collect measurable outcomes
- Supported through the annual convening of the statutory committee
- Applied across institutions and systems

Committee members asked questions, and a discussion was held.

Dr. Conn departed the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

II. Outcomes-Based Funding Formula

Mr. Russell VanZomeran, Senior Director of Fiscal Policy, presented an overview of the history and statutory requirements of the Outcomes-Based Funding Formula. The focus of this portion of the meeting was on aligning the formula with the newly developed statewide Master Plan.

Committee members asked questions, and a discussion was held. Key discussion topics included:

- The varying costs associated with producing different degrees
- Populations currently identified for focused support
- Job placement outcomes beyond the community and technical college sectors
- Recognition of diverse college pathways
- Simplifying the formula for broader understanding
- Emphasis on student outcomes
- On-time completion

Dr. Gentile concluded the meeting by outlining the next steps in the Outcomes-Based Funding Formula review process, which will include one-on-one discussions with stakeholders and a follow-up convening of the Committee in early 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

NEXT MASTER PLAN STATUTORY COMMITTEE MEETING:

January 12, 2025