

**MINUTES**  
**TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**  
**Winter Quarterly Meeting**  
**January 27, 2005, 1:00 p.m. CST**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Powell at 1:00. Commission Members present:

|                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Ms. Dawn Blackwell      | Mr. Dale Sims        |
| Mr. Riley Darnell       | Mr. Kevin Teets      |
| General Wendell Gilbert | Mayor A C Wharton    |
| Mr. Ransom Jones        | Ms. Katie Winchester |
| Ms. Debbie Koch         | Dr. Brad Windley     |
| Mr. John Morgan         | Ms. Eleanor Yoakum   |
| Mr. Jim Powell          |                      |

**Chairman's Report**

Mr. Powell began the meeting by revising the agenda to accommodate the schedule of Dr. Loren Crabtree, chancellor of the University of Tennessee Knoxville. Mr. Powell recognized Chancellor Crabtree to make a presentation on the National Leadership Class Computing Facility at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Chancellor Crabtree indicated that the goal of the program is to build the world's largest unclassified computing facility with the capacity to compute one trillion calculations per second. He noted the project will provide a significant number of diverse benefits such as new materials, studying global climate change, and effects of extreme weather phenomenon by simulating conditions found in hurricanes or tsunami for the purpose of enhancing the ability to predict and respond to such events. Dr. Crabtree indicated that this project is scheduled to be complete in 2007.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Mr. Powell next called for a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was made by Ms. Debby Koch and seconded by Dr. Brad Windley. The motion was duly adopted.

**Approval of Minutes, November 18, 2004 Meeting**

Mr. Powell called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2004, Commission meeting. Dr. Windley made the motion which was seconded by Ms. Katie Winchester. The motion was duly adopted.

**Systems' Reports**

University of Tennessee

Mr. Powell recognized Dr. John Petersen, President of the University of Tennessee to begin the systems' reports. Dr. Petersen addressed the current

efforts to develop a collaborative arrangement between UT and East Tennessee State University for an expansion of the UT pharmacy school. He indicated that this was another example of UT seeking to work in collaborative nature whenever possible. He specifically noted the examples of UT Health Science Center and its effort with the University of Memphis in the area of public health, as well as the university's relationship with the various hospitals in Memphis. He indicated that he was encouraged about the prospects of success in the pharmacy discussions and offered his support.

#### Tennessee Board of Regents

Dr. Charles Manning, Chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents, was next recognized. Chancellor Manning discussed the TBR involvement in the Commission's Master Plan process and how it complemented the TBR master plan process that their various institutions are currently developing. He also reported on the P-16 efforts and discussed the Regents' on-line masters degree program in Nursing that will produce teachers for community college nursing programs and thus positively impact the current nursing shortage.

#### Director's Report and Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation

Dr. Richard Rhoda gave his THEC director's report as well as the TSAC report as Interim Executive Director. He first thanked both Commission members and staff for another excellent work session that was held earlier in the day. He was also appreciative of the input and participation of representatives from both UT and TBR in the work session.

Dr. Rhoda also noted that the Commission would have its annual joint meeting with the State Board of Education later in the day and noted that Dr. Gene Bottoms, Vice President of the Southern Regional Education Board, would make a presentation on efforts to develop high school and college curricula that complemented the other, which would in turn produce a more seamless path from high school to college. He encouraged all to attend.

Regarding work at TSAC, Dr. Rhoda noted the collaborative effort by both Commission and TSAC staff during this period of transition. He particularly noted the efforts of Dr. Brian Noland and Ms. Jeri Fields Rampy in taking on significant additional responsibilities. He also noted that the two offices and the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association were working together to develop changes in policies and procedures that will help students maximize aid that goes to the students.

### **Academic Affairs**

#### Report on Pharmacy Education

Mr. Tom Samuel, Associate Executive Director for Health Affairs, was recognized by Mr. Powell to introduce Dr. Jordan Cohen, Dean of the University of Iowa Pharmacy School. Dr. Cohen had served the Commission as a consultant concerning intentions of UT and ETSU to expand or create, respectively, pharmacy education programs to east Tennessee. Dr. Cohen provided an overview of his findings on the need for pharmacy education in northeast Tennessee. A copy of his report is included in the official copy of the minutes as Attachment A.

Dr. Cohen noted that his review of all relevant factors led him to believe that the most efficient approach for providing pharmacy education in that region of the state would be to establish a collaborative arrangement in which the University of Tennessee would establish a site on the ETSU campus.

Mr. Powell recognized Dr. Petersen and Dr. Paul Stanton, President of ETSU to make comments on the report. Both indicated that while there were still issues to be worked out, each was optimistic and noted that this could be a significant first step toward other collaborative efforts between the two systems. Additionally, both men commended the Commission for the manner in which it approached the process.

Dr. Rhoda noted that it was the recommendation of the staff that the Commission accept Dr. Cohen's report and encourage both UT and ETSU to continue with negotiations to bring Dr. Cohen's recommendations to fruition. Dr. Windley moved to accept the staff recommendation which was seconded by Ms. Koch. The Commission duly adopted the motion.

#### New Academic Programs

Dr. Linda Bradley, Associate Executive Director for Academic Affairs, presented information concerning three new academic programs:

- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Public History, Middle Tennessee State University
- Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT), Tennessee State University
- Masters of Fine Arts (M.F.A). in Recording Arts and Technology, Middle Tennessee State University

She also presented for approval the Honors College at East Tennessee State University and the change in focus of the University of Tennessee Chattanooga's Center of Excellence in Computer Applications to the Center of Excellence in Computational Engineering.

Dr. Bradley reviewed the documentation in support of these new programs and highlighted the more relevant points.

Dr. Windley made a motion to approve the programs as presented, effective immediately. It was seconded by Mr. John Morgan and duly adopted by the Commission.

#### Articulation and Transfer Status Report

Dr. Bradley updated the Commission on the continued progress being made in the articulation and transfer program. She highlighted that the institutions continue to work together to minimize problems with students transferring from one institution to another. She noted positive activity such as the formal articulation agreement between TBR, the University of Tennessee Chattanooga and the University of Tennessee Martin to clarify transfer from a community college to a four year institution.

#### Post Approval Monitoring Follow-up Reports

Dr. Bradley was next asked to present a report on Post Approval Monitoring follow up reports. Dr. Bradley described the process of post approval monitoring, indicating that academic programs are reviewed each year during the first three years for pre-baccalaureate programs and the first five years for baccalaureate and graduate programs.

Post approval reviews include, but are not limited to enrollment and graduation ratios, program cost, progress toward accreditation, library acquisitions, and student performance. Twenty-three programs did not achieve enrollment projections, two programs were terminated and two programs submitted phase-out plans for termination.

Twenty-six campuses were required to submit follow-up plans from the previous year to explain corrective actions for addressing program productivity deficiencies. Of those submitted, one was terminated and two have submitted phase out plans for termination. There are various reasons why programs do not meet projected benchmarks. Sometimes the implementation of programs are delayed due to difficulty of hiring faculty, inadequate recruitment practices, changes in labor market demands, or other issues not within the control of the institution.

#### Update on the Tennessee College of Public Health

Mr. Powell recognized Mr. Samuel to give the Commission an update on the status of the various public health initiatives underway. Mr. Samuel noted the progress being made on the collaborative effort between the University of Memphis and the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center. He noted that Mr. Harrison Spencer, President of the Association of Schools of Public Health, came to Memphis to facilitate discussions on the further development of this program. He also advised the Commission of the visit staff made to the collaborative college of public health at the University of Medical and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Public Health, which is the only one of its type in the country.

Mr. Samuel also noted other progress in the area of public health. Specifically he noted the efforts of ETSU to establish an accredited college of public health, Tennessee State University's progress toward the establishment of a proposed Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Public Health and a Master of Public Health (MPH) program, and activity at the University of Tennessee Knoxville, to enhance its accredited MPH program.

#### Temporary Authorization of New Institutions and Approval of New Programs Under the Postsecondary Authorization Act

Dr. Stephanie Bellard, Assistant Executive Director of Postsecondary Authorization, presented the recommendation of staff and the Postsecondary Education Authorization Advisory Committee to grant temporary authorization to the new institutions listed on the agenda. She also recommended approval of the new programs. The new institutions and new programs are included in the official copy of the minutes as Attachment B.

Dr. Windley moved to approve the recommendation of the Postsecondary Authorization staff and the Postsecondary Education Authorization Advisory Committee, and Ms. Eleanor Yoakum seconded the motion. The motion was duly adopted.

#### **Fiscal Affairs**

October 31 Revised Budgets, FY 2004-2005

Mr. Jim Vaden, Associate Executive Director for Fiscal Affairs, provided summary comments on the FY 2004-2005 revised operating budgets. He noted the extensive discussion of this item at the work session and pointed out that the budgets met all criteria and recommended approval. A copy of the report is included in the official copy of the minutes as Attachment C.

Ms. Katie Winchester made a motion to adopt the staff recommendation to approve the revised FY 2004-2005 October 31 budgets and direct the Executive Director to transmit the approval, along with the appropriate commentary, to the Commissioner of Finance and Administration. The motion was seconded by Dr. Windley and it was duly adopted.

## **Policy, Planning and Research**

### 2004 Lottery Profile

Dr. Brian Noland, Executive Director of Policy, Planning and Research was recognized to present a report submitted to the General Assembly on the lottery scholarship program. Dr. Noland reviewed his report which is included in the official copy of the minutes as Attachment D. He noted that although the original participation projections were not achieved, the program was a success. As evidence of this he noted that although the number of high school graduates in 2004 remained flat as compared to 2003, there was a record increase in first time freshmen enrolling in Tennessee colleges and universities. While that increase can not definitively be attributed to the scholarship program, he noted that it was certainly a factor.

Dr. Noland indicated that more detailed information and trends will be available once the program has been operational for a few years.

### Master Plan Update

Dr. Noland presented the Commission with an update on the progress toward completion of the Master Plan. He noted that staff was on track to present the Commission with new performance funding standards, a revised master plan and a new funding formula that incorporates the principles found in the master plan by its April meeting.

### 2005 Annual Report on the Condition of Higher Education in Tennessee

Dr. Noland introduced Mr. Eric Ness, Associate Director of Policy, Planning and Research, to present the report on the Condition of Higher Education in Tennessee. Mr. Ness addressed each of the six goals within the plan, which is included in the official copy of the minutes as Attachment E.

## **Rules Revision**

### Authorization and Regulation of Postsecondary Education Institutions and Their Agents – Chapter 1540-1-2

Dr. Ballard reviewed with the Commission the changes being recommended for approval. She indicated that the rules have not been updated since they were rewritten over five years ago and that most of the changes are related to consumer protection issues. She advised the Commission that the proposed amended rules were approved by the Advisory Committee on Postsecondary

Educational Institutions and submitted to each institution governed by the Commission for review and comment.

Dr. Windley moved to approve the rules as presented and Ms. Koch seconded the motion. The rules were adopted by a roll call vote.

|                   | Aye           | No            | Absent        |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Riley Darnell     | <u>  X  </u>  | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u> |
| Wendell Gilbert   | <u>  X  </u>  | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u> |
| Ransom Jones*     | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u> | <u>  X  </u>  |
| Debby Koch        | <u>  X  </u>  | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u> |
| John Morgan       | <u>  X  </u>  | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u> |
| Jim Powell        | <u>  X  </u>  | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u> |
| Dale Sims         | <u>  X  </u>  | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u> |
| Kevin Teets       | <u>  X  </u>  | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u> |
| A C Wharton, Jr.* | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u> | <u>  X  </u>  |
| Katie Winchester  | <u>  X  </u>  | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u> |
| Brad Windley      | <u>  X  </u>  | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u> |
| Eleanor Yoakum    | <u>  X  </u>  | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u> |

\*Left meeting prior to vote.

**Geier Status Report**

Mr. Will Burns, Associate Executive Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs, was recognized by Mr. Powell to make a report on the status of the *Geier* settlement. He noted that the Fiscal Review Committee met the previous day to discuss the progress being made in the implementation of the *Geier* consent decree in the case. Mr. Burns indicated that in addition to Dr. Rhoda and Dr. Noland, representatives of the TBR, UT and attorney general’s office provided a detailed outline on the successes being encountered through the provisions in

the decree. The committee chairman, Representative Charles Curtis, concluded the hearing by commending the presenters for the thoroughness of the report and the progress that is being made in implementing the decree.

### **Administrative Items**

#### Spring Commission Meeting

Dr. Rhoda announced the Commission's Spring Quarterly meeting would be held on April 14, 2005. The time and location will be announced at a later date.

Mr. Powell concluded by commenting on the outstanding work session held earlier in the day and expressed appreciation for the candid comments and input from all participants. He also expressed his appreciation to the TBR and UT for the work they have, and continue to make on the pharmacy issue. He was also appreciative of the excellent work of Mr. Samuel in shepherding the pharmacy study through to completion. Finally, he expressed his appreciation to the THEC staff who have performed in an exemplary fashion as they have taken on additional responsibilities during the interim period at TSAC.

There being no further business, Mr. Powell declared the meeting adjourned.