

MINUTES
TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
Winter Quarterly Meeting
January 26, 2006, 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. Jim Powell
Mr. Riley Darnell	Mr. Dale Sims
Mr. Adam Green	Mayor A C Wharton
Mr. Ransom Jones	Ms. Katie Winchester
Ms. Debbie Koch	Dr. Brad Windley
Mr. Jack Murrah	Ms. Eleanor Yoakum

Mr. Powell began the meeting by asking Dr. Richard Rhoda, Executive Director, to introduce guests. Dr. Rhoda introduced Mr. Adam Green to the Commission. He noted that he is the new student member who is a junior at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Dr. Rhoda noted that he and Mr. Jack Murrah had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Green to provide him with an overview of issues and reported that Mr. Green will be a valued member of the Commission.

Adoption of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes, November 17, 2005 Meeting

Mr. Powell called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2005, Commission meeting. Dr. Windley made the motion which was seconded by Ms. Eleanor Yoakum. The motion was duly adopted.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Powell noted that in lieu the regular presentation on examples of cost effectiveness on one of our campuses a special guest would address the Commission and asked Dr. Rhoda to introduce the new president of the Southern Regional Education Board, Dr. David Spence. Dr. Rhoda noted that Dr. Spence has served in senior policy positions within higher education systems in Georgia, Florida and California, and in two previous stints at SREB.

Dr. Spence thanked Mr. Powell and Dr. Rhoda for the opportunity to speak to the Commission. He noted that one of his priorities as SREB president will be to increase the emphasis that is placed on higher education. This will be done through addressing such issues as college completion rates, academic advising, college readiness and the need for higher education to speak in one voice to establish and require completion of a set high school core curriculum.

Dr. Spence told the Commission that he looks forward to speaking further at the Commission's joint meeting with the State Board of Education later in the day.

Executive Director's Report

Dr. Rhoda was recognized to provide his report. He introduced Mr. Rob Anderson, Director of Academic Affairs, who is a graduate of the Citadel and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and has completed the coursework toward his Ph.D. in higher education at the University of Georgia. Mr. Anderson replaces Eric Ness who recently left the Commission to complete his dissertation.

Dr. Rhoda next recognized Dr. Shauna Jackson who is a TBR Maxie Smith Fellow. Dr. Jackson is the coordinator of off campus sites at Volunteer State Community College where her duties include the coordination of the dual enrollment program. She will be working most directly with Dr. Bradley. Dr. Rhoda noted that while the purpose of the program is to allow academic personnel to benefit from administrative positions, he is confident that the Commission will be a beneficiary of this relationship.

Finally, Dr. Rhoda noted the return of Mr. Karl Kruger to the Commission staff. He reminded the Commission that Mr. Kruger's National Guard unit was activated in the spring of 2004 and after he completed officer training school his unit was deployed to the Middle East in the following fall.

Systems' Reports

University of Tennessee

Mr. Powell recognized Dr. Bob Levy, Vice President for Academic Affairs of the University of Tennessee to present the UT system report. Dr. Levy indicated that Dr. John Petersen, President of UT, asked him to announce the filing of two senior staff positions. In addition to his own appointment to the position of Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Levy announced the appointment of Dr. Joe DiPietro as Vice President for Agricultural Science. Dr. DiPietro comes to UT from the University of Florida where he served as Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Levy also announced that SACS recently completed its reaccreditation review of the institution and announced that there were no audit findings or areas of concern. He noted that the accrediting agency commended the institution's utilization of electronic technology to streamline the reaccreditation process.

He next noted several accomplishments in the UT system. These included recognition of UT Knoxville by *Hispanic Outlooks in Higher Education* as one of the best institutions in the country at recruiting and graduating Hispanic students. Dr. Levy also noted the success at the Knoxville campus where the number of new transfer students increased from 1159 in the fall 2004 semester to 1560 in the fall 2005. Finally, he noted the success of UT Martin in the increase in students taking dual enrollment courses.

Mr. Powell congratulated Dr. Levy on his promotion and noted that Dr. Petersen will be well served by the move.

Tennessee Board of Regents

Dr. Charles Manning, Chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents, was next recognized. Chancellor Manning briefly addressed the TBR commitment to continued coordination with the Commission on strategic planning and their continued emphasis on P-16 issues.

Chancellor Manning also noted that TBR is not satisfied with graduation rates and while there are sometimes extenuating cultural circumstances that are impacting the graduation rates, the rates are unacceptable. He reiterated the TBR's commitment to increasing these rates.

Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation

After being recognized by Mr. Powell, Dr. Robert Ruble, Executive Director of the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, announced that since the last meeting he has hired two of four senior staff positions; one being the agency's first internal auditor, as well as an attorney.

Dr. Ruble also made the Commission aware of College Goal Sunday, which is a joint project between TSAC, THEC and the higher education financial aid community in Tennessee. He noted that it will take place on February 12 across the state and its goal is to provide parents and students with information on financial aid options and assistance in completing the necessary applications.

Finally, Dr. Ruble noted that the TSAC Board will meet on March 23 and would welcome members of the Commission to attend. The focal discussion item will be on the Tennessee State Student Assistance Award.

Academic Affairs

New Academic Programs

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

- Ph.D. in Computer Science, University of Memphis;
- Master of Science in Computer Science, University of Memphis;
- Master of Science in Health Informatics & Information Management, UT Memphis Health Science Center;
- Master of Science in Cytopathology Practice, UT Memphis Health Science Center;
- Master of Science in Military History, Austin Peay State University;
- Master of Occupational Therapy, Tennessee State University;
- Master of Science in Allied Health, East Tennessee State University;
- Master of Professional Studies, RODP;
- Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies, Middle Tennessee State University;
- Associate of Science in Teaching, TBR Community Colleges;
- Associate of Applied Science in Veterinary Technology, Chattanooga State Technical Community College; and
- Associate of Applied Science in Occupational Therapy Assistant, Jackson State Community College.

Dr. Bradley provided an overview of the approval process and reviewed the documentation in support of these new programs and highlighted the more relevant points. She also indicated that the institutions recognized that there would be no new FTE funding generated through the funding formula, but must be funded through student fees and gifts. Dr. Windley then made a motion to approve the programs as presented, effective immediately. It was seconded by Mr. Riley Darnell and duly adopted by the Commission.

Mr. Darnell raised the issue at this point about the proliferation of diploma mills offering false degrees from allegedly from prestigious institutions upon payment of a fee. He suggested that the Commission should create a public awareness campaign to warn unsuspecting individuals of the true nature of the bogus degrees.

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. Much progress has

been made through each institution now employing at least one staff member to address problems that arise, as well as work on greater cooperation between the institutions. She further noted that this is an on-going process and while much has been done, all involved are committed to continue to meet the aim of the program.

Post Approval Monitoring 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. She noted that a total of 94 programs were reviewed under this process.

Post approval reviews include, but are not limited to enrollment and graduation ratios, program cost, progress toward accreditation, library acquisitions, and student performance.

Dr. Bradley stated that staff recommended the termination of the following programs approved in 2002, but never implemented:

- Dyersburg State Community College – Industrial Mechanisms, Technical Certificate
- Dyersburg State Community College – Industrial Welding, Technical Certificate
- Pellissippi State Technical Community College – Social Services, A.A.S.
- Walters State Community College – Social Services, A.A.S.

Dr. Bradley also recommended termination of the following programs for the reason stated for each:

- Motlow State Community College – Computer Aided Design, Certificate, effective August 2005, on the recommendation of the TBR.
- Roane State Community College – Technical Communications, A.A.S. This program was approved in 2002 and has not met projections.
- Southwest Tennessee Community College – Arts and Science, Academic Certificate. Staff recommended termination in January 2004; however the college requested an extension of one year to address program deficiencies. The extension ended July 2005 and there have been no gains in attaining benchmarks.

Finally, Dr. Bradley recommended that Program Productivity Plans be required of the following programs that did not meet approved benchmarks:

Pre-Baccalaureate Programs

- Nashville State Technical Community College -Technical Communications, Certificate
- Nashville State Technical Community College - Web Page Authoring, Certificate
- Southwest Tennessee Community College – Social Services, A.A.S.
- Volunteer State Community College – Social Services, A.A.S.
- Volunteer State Community College - Desktop Publishing-Academic Certificate

Graduate Programs

- Tennessee State University– Computer & Info Systems Eng, Ph.D.
- University of Memphis – Women’s Studies, M.A.
- University of Memphis – International M.B.A.

A motion was made by Mr. Ransom Jones to adopt the staff recommendation as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Winchester and duly adopted by the Commission.

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 and approve the new programs listed on the agenda, but with two exceptions. The TechSkills campuses in both Memphis and Nashville have requested that the Administrative Professional and Professional in Human Resources programs be removed from the agenda due to low enrollment in other states. The new institutions and new programs are found in Attachment A to the official copy of the minutes.

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

Fiscal Affairs

October 31 Revised Budgets, FY 2005-2006

Mr. Jim Vaden, Associate Executive Director for Fiscal Affairs, provided summary comments on the FY 2005-2006 revised operating budgets. Specifically, he noted that this process allows the institutions to revise their July 1 operating budgets into more refined budgets reflecting actual circumstances such as enrollment. Mr. Vaden noted that Tables 2 & 3

reflects the movements from the original July 1 budgets and October 1 revised budgets.

Finally, Mr. Vaden noted that all budgets are balanced and meet all Commission budget guidelines. A copy of the report is included in the official copy of the minutes as Attachment B.

Ms. Winchester made a motion to adopt the staff recommendation to approve the revised FY 2005-2006 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

Challenge 2010: Annual Master Plan Progress Report

Dr. Brian Noland, Executive Director of Policy, Planning and Research, was recognized to present a report on the *Challenge 2010* report. Dr. Noland pointed out that this report replaces the *Conditions Report* and the *Challenge 2000* report. The report reflects the progress that is made toward meeting the 2010 goals of the *2005-2010 Master Plan for Tennessee Higher Education*. A copy of this report is included in the official copy of the minutes as Attachment C.

2005 Lottery Profile

Dr. Noland was recognized to present a report submitted to the General Assembly on the lottery scholarship program. He advised the Commission of matters such as the rate of retention of the scholarship by recipients broken down by various demographics.

GEAR UP Status Report

Mr. Powell announced that the presentation for the GEAR UP initiative, agenda item IV., would be deferred to the joint meeting with the State Board of Education to be held subsequent to this meeting.

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. Mr. Burns noted that the five year term contemplated in the consent decree passed earlier this month and the parties to the cases have entered into negotiations aimed at obtaining dismissal of the case by the federal courts. This in essence involves a determination of the extent that the provisions in the consent decree have been achieved.

Administrative Items

Spring Commission Meeting

Dr. Rhoda announced the Commission's Spring Quarterly meeting would be held on April 20, 2006. Mr. Powell noted that the joint meeting of the State Board of Education would begin later today at 3:30 when Governor Bredesen will address the two entities.

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