

MINUTES
TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
July 26, 2012, 1:00 p.m. CDT

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert White at 1:00 p.m.
Commission Members present:

Mr. Charles Bone	Mr. Adam Jarvis
Mr. Evan Cope	Mr. Jon Kinsey
Mr. Greg Frye	Mr. David Lillard
Mr. Tre Hargett	Mr. Robert White
Ms. Sharon Hayes	Mr. Justin Wilson
Mr. Greg Isaacs	

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. White welcomed all and thanked them for their attendance. Mr. White then called for a motion to adopt the agenda with one change: moving all action items first to maintain a quorum due to a schedule conflict for the constitutional officers. Mr. Justin Wilson made a motion to approve the agenda with the change. Mr. Greg Isaacs seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

Action Items

Approval of New Academic Degree Programs

Ms. Betty Dandridge Johnson, Assistant Executive Director, Academic Affairs, was recognized to present the new programs. Ms. Dandridge Johnson provided a brief overview of the programs, noting the extensive review at the worksession earlier in the day. There being no questions, Mr. David Lillard made a motion to approve the following three new academic programs: Bachelor of Integrated Studies at UTC, Doctorate in Occupational Therapy at UTC, and Ed.D in Assessment, Learning, and School Improvement at MTSU. Mr. Jon Kinsey seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

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

Dr. Stephanie Bellard-Chase, Assistant Executive Director for Postsecondary School Authorization, presented the recommendations of staff and the Postsecondary Education Authorization Advisory Committee to grant temporary authorization to proposed new institutions and new programs. A listing of the institutions and programs is included as Attachment A to the official copy of the minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Wilson to adopt the recommendations as presented. Mr. Charles Bone seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

Dr. Bellard-Chase then briefly updated the Commission on Rule Chapter 1540-01-02, Authorization and Regulation of Postsecondary Education Institutions

and Their Agents, that were brought forth and approved at the April 2012 meeting and noted that the Attorney General had approved them on July 19, 2012.

July 1 2012-13 Operating Budgets

Dr. Russ Deaton, Associate Executive Director of Fiscal Policy & Administration was recognized. Dr. Deaton stated that a detailed presentation was provided to the Commission at the worksession earlier in the day. A motion was made by Mr. Greg Isaacs to adopt the 2012-13 operating budget recommendations as presented. Ms. Sharon Hayes seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

University of Tennessee, Chattanooga Master Plan

Dr. Russ Deaton, Associate Executive Director of Fiscal Policy & Administration, was recognized to present the UTC master plan. He stated that a detailed presentation was provided to the Commission at the worksession earlier in the day. He noted that the master plan addresses the long term needs of the campus with respect to academic facilities, parking, circulation, and visual improvements. Additionally Dr. Deaton indicated that the THEC Space Planning Guidelines were utilized to identify and project needs for campus space. Mr. Jon Kinsey made a motion to adopt the UTC Master Plan. Mr. Isaacs seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

Academic Common Market Policy

Ms. Penny Shelton, Research and Planning Analyst, was recognized to present the Academic Common Market Policy. Ms. Shelton stated that currently, there is no comprehensive document outlining the policies and procedures surrounding student ACM certification or the program nomination process. Ms. Shelton noted the policy provides clear directions for each facet of the program in one location and is intended to clear up gray areas and offer consistency in the program's administration. She stated that changes in current practice are: defining primary residency proof; adding an appellate process for denied certifications; adding deadlines for each semester of certification as well as recertification; and clarifying protocol on incomplete applications. Mr. Lillard made a motion to adopt the Policy as presented. Mr. Kinsey seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

Election of 2012-13 Officers

Mr. Charles Bone was recognized to present the nomination recommendations for the 2012-13 officers. Mr. Bone made a motion to approve the following recommended slate of officers: Mr. Robert White, Chair; Mr. Cato Johnson, vice chair; Mr. Evan Cope, vice chair; and Mayor AC Wharton, secretary. Ms. Hayes seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

New Academic Policy: A5.0 Dual Admissions

Dr. Rhoda was recognized to present the new academic policy. He reviewed the Tennessee Code Annotated §49-7-202, which was amended by Public Chapter 3, Acts of 2010 (1st Extraordinary Session) requiring that "the commission, in consultation with the board of regents and the University of Tennessee board of

trustees, shall develop policies under which any person who satisfies the admissions requirements of any two-year institutions governed by the board of regents and any four-year institution governed by the board of regents or the University of Tennessee board of trustees may be admitted to both such institutions.”

He noted that while Commission staff worked closely with TBR and UT academic staff to develop a protocol for developing dual admissions agreements and policies, a formal policy has not been adopted. Dr. Rhoda also noted that in a recent audit of the Commission, UT, and TBR on the status of implementation of the Complete College Tennessee Act, the Comptroller’s Division of State Audit determined that the Commission had not complied with the intent of the legislation and this policy is being brought to address that finding.

He stated that the policy is straightforward and provides a template as a guideline for campuses and noted that currently there are twenty agreements in place between community colleges and universities. He also stated that it now places THEC in full compliance of the Act Mr. Lillard made a motion to approve the new academic policy on dual admissions. Mr. Hargett seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

Approval of Minutes, April 26, 2012, Meeting

Mr. White called for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2012, Commission meeting. Mr. Lillard made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Hargett seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

Chairman’s Report

Mr. White began his report by introducing the newest THEC members: Mr. Evan Cope, representing the 4th Congressional district from Murfreesboro, and Mr. Adam Jarvis, a student member from East Tennessee State University; both expressed their appreciation for the appointment and stated they look forward to serving on the Commission.

Mr. White commented on the July 10 meeting of the higher education boards. He commended Governor Haslam for convening the UT board of Trustees, Board of Regents, THEC and TSAC boards, and representatives of the Business Roundtable and private higher education to discuss the challenges being faced in higher education across the nation in terms of containing costs while increasing student success and meeting economic and community development needs. Mr. White also thanked the THEC staff for the role they played in planning the meeting and expressed his appreciation for the Governor’s direct involvement and interest in higher education.

He then commented on the productive work session earlier in the day and noted the excellent presentations and good discussion on the items presented. In closing, Mr. White discussed the new college savings plan approved by the board of the Baccalaureate Education System Trust (BEST) program for Tennessee and recognized State Treasurer David Lillard to provide further information. Mr. Lillard stated that the launch date for the TN Stars program is

set for September 18, 2012, noting the fees for this program will be low and competitive. He stated that more details will be provided in the near future.

Executive Director's Report/Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation

Dr. Rhoda began his report by thanking the officers for their willingness to serve. He then introduced new staff: Crystal Collins in the Fiscal division and Victoria Harpool in the Race to the Top division. Dr. Rhoda then commented on the second year of the CCTA Implementation and thanked staff for the hard work. He also commented on the meeting of system and campus internal auditors to keep them engaged in the process of the CCTA. He discussed the work in best practices as it relates to reverse transfer and thanked the UT/TBR staff for embracing and moving forward with that initiative. Dr. Rhoda then commented on the positive impact that the Lumina foundation has on Tennessee higher education, Adult learners being a target of the CCTA, and the prior learning assessment. In closing he discussed the Top to bottom review of TSAC. He noted the executive committee meeting on July 24, and the development of a strategic plan to increase attainment and a program to help reduce student debt. He then commented on incorporating the new college savings plan with other TSAC programs and college access initiatives and GEAR UP programs.

Systems' Reports

University of Tennessee

Dr. Joe DiPietro, President of the University of Tennessee, was recognized to present his report. Dr. DiPietro began his report by commenting on the UT board meeting noting key areas of discussion such as the new tuition structure at UTK and the new Take Fifteen/Graduate in Four program. He also discussed incentives for early registration, the strategic plan and its five key goals, and the upcoming board retreat to focus on the future of higher education. Dr. DiPietro then commented on the impact of industry and technology on higher education, salary adjustments, and the UT Chattanooga chancellor search.

Tennessee Board of Regents

Mr. John Morgan, Chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents, was recognized to present his report. He began by noting personnel changes within the system and introduced Dr. Phil Oldham, the new president of Tennessee Tech coming from the UT system and announcing Dr. Paula Short's relocation to the University of Houston and noted that Dr. Kay Clark has stepped in as interim vice chancellor for academic affairs. Mr. Morgan then briefed the Commission on the president searches; Roane State Community College, the first search under the new provisions of law to keep certain information confidential until a group of finalists are named and made public to attract a bigger pool of candidates; the search for Tennessee State University stating that a committee will be named in August, noting that the search firm Greenwood Asher has assisted in the process.

Mr. Morgan then commented on the grading issue and the review process at Tennessee State University, noting that no evidence has been identified to support the allegations of inappropriate grading procedures and provided information on the math pilot course which instructors are asked to review and

grade students on their performance in the course. A senate committee has been appointed and will meet on August 13 for the review of the allegations.

In closing, Mr. Morgan noted the groundbreaking ceremonies at several institutions and the extended use of mobile technology to expand to system mobilization to increase student engagement and success.

Information Items

Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Annual Report

Dr. Thomas Sanford, Director of Research, was recognized to provide the report. Dr. Sanford presented an overview of the annual legislative report, which details the postsecondary outcomes of scholarship recipients from the program's inception (Fall 2004) through Fall 2011, by student demographic and academic characteristics. He stated that this year's report releases for the first time ever information relative to student employment of lottery scholarship recipient and confirms the widely-held impression about student employment - that many of scholarship recipients obtained a job to help pay for college.

First to the Top Update

Ms. Katrina Miller, Director of THEC First to the Top, was recognized. Ms. Miller provided an update on current First to the Top activities including the Year Two Review with the United States Department of Education and progress made towards implementation on nine programs that total \$23M. She then noted that a recent audit of the programs had just concluded without any findings, noting that all programs were meeting their goals. Ms. Miller then briefly discussed the Common Core math training program for teachers.

GEAR UP/College Access Challenge Grant, and Latino Student Success Grant Status Report

Mr. Troy Grant, THEC Director of College Access Initiatives, was recognized to provide the status report. He began by introducing new staff, Matt Freeman, Kathryn Watts, and Kate Derrick. Mr. Grant then provided an update on GEAR UP initiatives designed to promote student achievement and enhance awareness of the need to expand access to post-secondary education statewide, beginning with the Latino Student Success Grant. He noted that with the development of collaborative partnerships with Memphis-area organizations, the project aims to achieve Latino student success through three initiatives: an intensive mentoring program designed to facilitate the transition between high school and community college, and community college and four-year institutions; support to ensure maximization of student financial aid opportunities; and a bilingual marketing and information campaign designed to expand college access in the Latino community.

Mr. Grant also updated the Commission on the current activities of the Tennessee College Access Success Network and the recent award of \$500,000 serving 22,200 students. He then discussed the College Access Challenge Grant and the annual performance report of that grant program. In closing he discussed GEAR UP program review, selection process, proposals, and timeline of the awards.

In closing, Dr. Rhoda reviewed the Mayoral convening to discuss the efforts by city mayors and the grant from the Lumina Foundation to improve education in the Latino communities.

Fall Quarterly Meeting

Dr. Rhoda advised the Commission that the next meeting will be Thursday, November 15, 2012, in the THEC board room.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Approved:

Robert White
Chair