

**MINUTES**  
**TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**  
**November 10, 2011, 1:00 p.m. CDT**

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

Ms. Sue Atkinson	Mr. Jon Kinsey
Mr. Charles W. Bone	Mr. Charlie Mann
Mr. Greg Frye	Mr. Zack Walden
Ms. Sharon Hayes	Mr. Robert White
Mr. Cato Johnson	

**Adoption of Agenda**

Mr. White welcomed all and thanked them for their attendance. He also welcomed the newest THEC member, Greg Frye, a student at UT Martin representing the University of Tennessee System. Mr. White then called for a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Cato Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Charles Bone seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

**Approval of Minutes, July 28, 2011, Meeting**

Mr. White called for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2011, Commission meeting. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Zack Walden seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

**Chairman's Report**

Mr. White began his report by reviewing highlights of the worksession earlier in the day. He thanked Dr. Russ Deaton and Mr. David Wright for their presentations regarding implementation of the Complete College Tennessee Act; he emphasized the importance of the on-going work of the funding formula committee. Mr. White then noted that the following day was Veterans Day. He acknowledged the Veterans in the audience and thanked them for their service.

**Executive Director's Report/Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation**

Dr. Richard G. Rhoda began by thanking everyone for their attendance and acknowledging former staff members and presidents emeritus who were present.

Dr. Rhoda discussed the status of the Complete College Act and noted that most of the agenda for the Commission meeting was within the context of the Act. He gave as an example the mission-distinctive B.S. in Environmental and Sustainability Studies at Tennessee Technological University. Dr. Rhoda also discussed specific completion initiatives: an outcomes-based funding Strategy Lab sponsored by the Lumina Foundation and hosted by THEC on October 24

with participants from ten other states; a recent Complete College Academy at which eight Tennessee institutions convened to discuss best practices and completion measures; and work that will begin in 2012 with the Public Agenda organization to increase community engagement in higher education across the state. He also noted that recommendations of the Senate Lottery Scholarship Stabilization task force were designed to enhance student completion.

In closing, Dr. Rhoda announced the retirement of Dr. Linda Doran at the end of December. He spoke to the many contributions of Dr. Doran over the course of her career that has been devoted to Tennessee higher education.

## **Systems' Reports**

### **Tennessee Board of Regents**

Dr. Paula Short, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Tennessee Board of Regents, was recognized to present the report. Dr. Short began her report by noting that the University of Memphis-Lambuth Campus had opened its doors to students for the fall semester. She introduced Dr. Dan Lattimore, Dean of the campus, to give a brief overview of current activities. Dr. Lattimore stated that classes started on August 29 with a headcount of 284 and anticipates an increase for the spring semester with the addition of more programs at both the undergraduate and graduate level. He also discussed recruiting plans, the physical condition of the Lambuth campus, and the legal status of Lambuth University's bankruptcy.

Dr. Short then discussed significant progress in efforts to improve student transfers among institutions. She also discussed the completion academy and noted that institutions will hold similar academies on campus.

### **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 increase in enrollment at the UT Chattanooga campus. He then informed the Commission of the renaming of the UT Knoxville Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Graduate Education in honor of former Governor Phil Bredesen. Dr. DiPietro expressed concern about budget cuts and the need for capital funding, for planning, new buildings, and correcting maintenance problems. In closing, he spoke to the complete college academy, recommended changes in the lottery scholarship, and a UT compensation study that was underway.

## **Action Items**

### **Approval of B.S. in Environmental and Sustainability Studies, TTU**

Dr. Linda Doran, Associate Executive Director of Academic Affairs, was recognized. Dr. Doran briefed the Commission on the background of the Environmental and Sustainability Studies program. She stated that staff recommends approval of the program as presented. Dr. Doran noted that the program will: align to the existing interdisciplinary Environmental Science doctoral program; fulfill the educational goal of TTU's Center of Excellence for the Management, Utilization, and Protection of Water Resources to enhance

research, university instruction and educational outreach; draw on the resources of the University's Environmental Village; and capitalize on the services of the TTU Millard Oakley STEM Center, which fosters innovation in teaching and learning. After discussion, Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the staff recommendation. Mr. Jon Kinsey seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

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

Dr. Stephanie Bellard-Chase, Assistant Executive Director for Postsecondary School Authorization, was recognized. Dr. Bellard-Chase presented the recommendations of staff and the Postsecondary Education Authorization Advisory Committee to grant temporary authorization to proposed new institutions, new programs, and conditional authorization of 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. Walden to adopt the recommendations as presented. Mr. Bone seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

Ms. Julie Woodruff, Director of Regulatory Affairs & Complaint Resolution, was recognized to update the Commission on the Rule Making proceeding held in 2008. Ms. Woodruff stated that on October 17, 2011, Chancellor Ellen Hobbs Lyle issued an order in a declaratory action brought by National College of Business and Technology, and Remington College. It was determined that the proceeding to adopt the rules did not comply with Uniform Administrative Procedures Act. She noted that DPSA was working with the Attorney General's office to determine how to proceed and will keep the Commission informed of the progress.

### **2012-13 State Appropriations Recommendations**

Dr. Deaton briefly reviewed 2012-13 state operating appropriation recommendations, as summarized on Attachment B to the official copy of these minutes. He noted that the recommendations include an increase of \$19 million for formula units, \$3.2 million for the TSAA award, and \$6 million for non-formula units; a 2.7 percent overall increase. The recommendations also included a five percent reduction distribution, as requested by the Department of Finance and Administration. Following discussion, Mr. White called for a motion. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve. Ms. Sharon Hayes seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

### **2012-13 Student Fee Recommendations**

Dr. Deaton reviewed the staff recommendations for student fee increases, as summarized on Attachment C to the official copy of these minutes. He noted a recommended increase of 3-6 percent for in-state tuition at all institutions, with the exception of University of Memphis and UT Knoxville where a 5 to 8 percent increase was recommended, and 5 to 10 percent at technology centers. A motion was made by Mr. Kinsey to approve staff recommendations. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

## **Information Items**

### **Capital Outlay and Maintenance Priorities Assessment**

Dr. Deaton then discussed Capital Outlay and Maintenance Priorities Assessment. He noted that UT and TBR had been asked to review their priorities listing to ensure that what was on the list is a top priority as well as to link those projects to the Complete College Tennessee Act and incorporate a matching requirement. Dr. Deaton stated that the proposals will be submitted to THEC in December.

### **Title VI Implementation Plan Update and Compliance Report**

Mr. Will Burns, Associate Executive Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs, reviewed the Title VI Implementation Plan Update and Compliance Report. He noted that the purpose of the plan is to show how the state agency, and the entities to which its federal funds flow, is assuring compliance of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of a person's race, color, or national origin. Mr. Burns also gave an overview of the plan and noted that the plan was filed with the Comptroller's office on October 1, 2011.

### **Fall 2011 Update on Enrollments and Graduates**

Mr. David Wright, Associate Executive Director of Policy, Planning, and Research was recognized. Mr. Wright presented an overview of the Fall 2011 enrollments and graduates. He stated that after a period of above-average enrollment growth, public sector enrollments leveled off in the current term. He also stated that the statewide focus on postsecondary completion began to be evidenced by sizeable increases in completions, particularly in community college certificate programs. Mr. Wright noted that among graduate awards were post-bachelor's certificates, which were up 41.4 percent, and education specialist degrees, which decreased by 20.7 percent. He also noted that adult undergraduate completers were up 10 percent and increased their share of all undergraduate awards.

### **Articulation and Transfer Report**

Mr. Wright presented the annual report on articulation and transfer, submitted to the General Assembly in October 2011. He noted that transfer activity is analyzed for students who transferred in the fall 2010 semester. He then reviewed the tables and noted that the tables include transfer student demographics, a crosswalk of sending and receiving institutions, and an analysis of graduation for transfers compared to native students. Mr. Wright also reported on the progress of legislation and system activity to improve articulation.

### **GEAR UP and College Access Challenge Grant Status Reports**

Mr. Troy Grant, Director of the College Access Challenge Grant, was recognized to provide an updated report on the progress of GEAR UP TN and College Access

Challenge Grant (CACG). Mr. Grant gave a brief overview on highlights from the Latino Student Success, GEAR UP TN, and College Access Challenge Grant.

### **Report on Effectiveness of Teacher Training Programs**

Ms. Emily Carter, Higher Education Assistant Director for Race to the Top, was recognized to provide the report on the effectiveness of teacher training programs. Ms. Carter noted that the report was released on Tuesday, November 1, and it is the fourth year the state has made data available to the public regarding the effectiveness of graduates from teacher training programs in the state. She also noted that over the past year, THEC staff have worked in collaboration with the teacher training programs, the State Board of Education, the State Department of Education, and other key stakeholders to redesign the report card. The report provides information on teacher education completers' placement and retention rates, Praxis II exams, and the Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System teacher effect scores. Key findings of the report include information related to the academic preparation of Tennessee's teachers and how well the programs' completers perform in the classroom.

### **Race to the Top Implementation Status**

Ms. Katrina Miller, Director of THEC First to the Top, was recognized to provide a status report on the Race to the Top Grant. Ms. Miller stated THEC's responsibility for implementing several projects of the state's First to the Top initiatives. She noted that THEC has been working closely with institutions of higher education and the TN Department of Education to ensure that the work aligns with the overall goals of education reform. Ms. Miller noted that one of the primary goals of the First to the Top agenda is implementing the Common Core State Standards that will dramatically increase the rigor of K-12 education and lead to high school graduates who are college and career ready. Ms. Miller also noted that THEC convened a working group of Deans of Colleges of Education and Arts and Sciences to integrate the Common Core State Standards into teacher training programs and briefed the Commission on the working group's plan for implementation.

### **Partnership for Achieving Readiness in College and Career Update**

Mr. Mike Krause, Director of Academic Affairs, was recognized. He stated that in January 2011, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission began a statewide engagement campaign to engage faculty from public institutions of higher education regarding the implementation of the Common Core Standards and ultimately, the PARCC assessment.

He commented that the PARCC assessment will be able to determine the college readiness of a student in Mathematics and English/Language Arts at the end of the junior year of high school. THEC, as well as both systems, have agreed to utilize the results of the PARCC assessment to determine whether the student will be eligible to enroll in credit-bearing courses or engage in remedial study.

Mr. Krause stated THEC constituted a Tennessee PARCC Steering Committee consisting of ELA and Math faculty, as well as institution administrators, who have been nominated and approved by their institution/system to serve as

representatives regarding all PARCC related matters. Specifically, to help ensure that college and career performance levels meet the needs of higher education in determining student readiness. The committee will guide the work the consortium undertakes to develop and/or identify effective intervention programs to increase the number of graduating high school seniors who meet college readiness standards prior to enrollment.

### **Recent Trends in Veteran Enrollment in Tennessee Higher Education**

Mr. Krause was recognized to provide an update on the Veteran enrollment in higher education institutions. He stated that there has been a statistically significant increase over past years. He also noted that the number of public institutions enrolling more than 200 veterans almost doubled, from 7 to 13, with an overall trend statewide of substantial growth in veteran enrollment.

### **Schedule of 2012 Commission Meetings**

Dr. Rhoda advised the Commission that the meetings for 2012 would be: January 26, April 26, July 26, and November 15, 2012, in the THEC board room.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Approved:

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Robert White  
Chair