

**MINUTES**  
**TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**  
**Spring Quarterly Meeting**  
**April 23, 2015, 9:00 a.m. CST**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Evan Cope at 9:00 a.m.

Commission Members Present:

Mr. Evan Cope	Treasurer David Lillard
Mr. Robert Fisher	Mr. Alex Martin
Secretary of State Tre Hargett	Ms. Pam Martin
Ms. Sharon Hayes	Ms. Mintha Roach
Dr. Sara Heyburn	Mr. Keith Wilson
Mr. Bill Lee	

Commission Members Absent:

Mr. Jon Kinsey	Mayor A C Wharton
Ms. Pam Koban	Comptroller Justin Wilson

**Opening Remarks**

Chairman Evan Cope welcomed all and thanked them for their attendance. He introduced special guests: Ms. Mintha Roach, new THEC member from Knoxville, replacing Mr. Randy Boyd; Mr. Dennis Jones, President of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS); and Ms. Keri McInnis, TSAC board member and former student member of THEC. Chairman Cope announced that Mr. Robert Fisher, student voting member, is rotating off the Commission and noted this would be his final meeting. He thanked Mr. Fisher for his dedicated service to the Commission.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Mr. Cope inquired if any Commission member would like to place any items discussed yesterday on the consent agenda; there being no further additions, he called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Keith Wilson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Sharon Hayes seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

**Approval of Minutes, January 29, 2015, Meeting**

Chairman Cope then called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2015, Commission meeting. Ms. Hayes made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Cope discussed the new format of the THEC meeting and worksession and noted the format allows for more in-depth discussion. He then recognized Mr. David Wright for an update on the Master Plan. Mr. Wright briefly reviewed meetings and webinars held to date and recognized Mr. Dennis Jones of NCHEMS to provide a more thorough review of the Master Plan. Mr. Jones began by noting that the overarching goal for Tennessee is already well-established in the Drive to 55 initiative, with the major goal already in place, the master planning effort for the next decade needs to address the following topics: Other State goals deserving of attention; adding detail to D55; determining additional capacity needed to meet goals; and a financing strategy and gave a brief elaboration of each topic.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Dr. Russ Deaton, Interim Executive Director, was recognized. He began by thanking Mr. Fisher for his service on the Commission over the past two years and wished him well with his future endeavors. Dr. Deaton then commented on the productive worksession held yesterday afternoon, noting the new format allowed for more lengthy in-depth discussion among members on major items. He then acknowledged two staff members, one from THEC and one from TSAC for being selected to be representatives of the Tennessee Government Management Institute leadership and development training opportunities for state employees; Maryann Rainey, assistant director of postsecondary completion initiatives, and Jason Seay, director of outreach and college access and commended them for that accomplishment. He commented next on a capital task force Governor Haslam asked to be constituted to address long term challenges on capital projects. The goal is to increase the state's capacity to produce graduates in needed fields and report back to the state strategies to address weaknesses and opportunities in the program. Dr. Deaton noted the Governor requested the task force to submit recommendations by late summer. In closing, he provided a brief overview of the higher education budget. He noted the budget passed with additions which include \$25.7M for formula units; \$10M for the TSAA, which was critical for the need-based program; and the top 6 capital projects were funded. He stated that the disclosed projects were acknowledged and is included for information purposes.

Dr. Deaton then recognized Mr. Scott Sloan, General Counsel and Associate Executive Director for Legal and Regulatory Affairs to provide an update on legislative matters pertaining to higher education. Mr. Sloan began by noting the second session of the 109<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adjourned last night. He then briefed the Commission on bills passed this session beginning with SB 976 Vets Act Update and noted the recent changes; SB 299 State Authorization Reciprocity Act (SARA); SB 237 Higher Education Technical Institutions Publications Committee Sunset; SB 333 University of Memphis Out of State Tuition; SB 605 Community College Reconnect Grant; SB 1018 Test-Prep Class Exemption under the Postsecondary Authorization Act; and SB 543 Barber and Cosmetology Schools under the Postsecondary Authorization Act.

## **Recognition of Institutional Excellence**

Chairman Cope recognized Dr. M. David Rudd, President of the University of Memphis, to present this report. Dr. Rudd briefed the Commission on the Veteran's space at the University of Memphis and the mission which is "to support a transition from military life to civilian life and provide the services to pursue academic and personal interests, and integration into the campus community." He then reviewed the designations which are: being a top military friendly school; U.S. News Top 25 Online Graduate Business Programs for Veterans; and a Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support (VETS) Campus. Dr. Rudd also commented on the enrollment growth at the undergraduate and graduate levels, available resources, and community partnerships, and other additional outcomes such as the number of Veteran students served, retention and graduation rates, Veteran student organization members and engagement with the campus community.

## **Systems' Reports**

### **Tennessee Board of Regents**

Mr. John Morgan, Chancellor, Tennessee Board of Regents was recognized. Chancellor Morgan began by acknowledging the creation of an endowment by an

anonymous donation in President Rudd's name in the amount of \$100,000 to the University of Memphis. He then commented on the Pathways to Success guide for degree completion and the series of convenings for co-requisite models in English, Math, and Science where non-credit classes will only be offered if a student is also enrolled in a for-credit class. Chancellor Morgan briefed the Commission on the presidential searches for Chattanooga State Community College, Motlow State Community College and Southwest Tennessee Community College and noted that finalists have been identified for Southwest and Motlow.

### **University of Tennessee**

Dr. Joe DiPietro, President, University of Tennessee System, was recognized. He began his report by commenting on the budget and the next steps to hold tuition at low levels and identify other sources of funding. Dr. DiPietro then announced Chancellor Tom Rakes at UT Martin would like to return to a faculty position and resigned as Chancellor. He noted an interim would be named and a search to fill the Chancellor position will begin in the next six months. Dr. DiPietro briefed the Commission on the Diversity Summit held in Nashville where all components of the UT System were involved to talk about best practices and how to advance diversity and inclusiveness across the system. He then updated the Commission on UT Research reports, the final year of the Ten Score program, and tech transfer. Dr. DiPietro then announced the new Vice President of Development Rickey McCurry, and noted that in addition to serving as vice president, McCurry will fill the role of president and CEO of the UT Foundation.

### **Action Items**

Chairman Cope noted that with the new format of the THEC meeting and the detailed discussion at the worksession, all items were placed on a consent agenda and will be approved with one vote. He then called for a motion to adopt and approve the following consent agenda items:

*Approval of New Academic Degree Programs:* University of Tennessee at Martin, MA, Strategic Communication and Middle Tennessee State University, MA, Liberal Arts

*Postsecondary Education Authorization:* Institutional Reauthorization for the period of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016; Temporary Authorization of New Institutions; Approval of New Programs; Recommendations for appointments to the Committee on Postsecondary Educational Institutions; and Recommendation concerning DPSA Complaint #13-0135 to proceed with a hearing on Concord School of Grooming.

Mr. Bill Lee made a motion to approve all items on the consent agenda. Ms. Hayes seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

### **Information Items**

#### **Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement**

Mr. Sloan reviewed the annual conflict of interest policy and requested each member to fill out and return the form to him or Ms. Carter within 30 days following the spring meeting, as required by policy.

#### **Summer Commission Meeting**

Dr. Deaton advised the Commission that the next scheduled meeting would be July 23, 2015, in the THEC board room.

In closing, Dr. Deaton invited all who could attend to the 2015 Harold Love Community Involvement Award reception that would begin at 11:00 a.m. in the boardroom.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Approved:

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Evan Cope, Chair