

MINUTES
TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
November 20, 2014, 1:00 p.m. CST

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Randy Boyd at 1:00 p.m.

Commission Members Present:

Mr. Randy Boyd	Mr. Bill Lee
Mr. Evan Cope	Treasurer David Lillard
Mr. Robert Fisher	Mr. Alex Martin
Secretary Tre Hargett	Ms. Pam Martin
Ms. Sharon Hayes	Dr. Gary Nixon
Mr. Jon Kinsey	Comptroller Justin Wilson
Ms. Pam Koban	Mr. Keith Wilson

Commission Members Absent:

Mayor A C Wharton

Opening Remarks

Chairman Randy Boyd welcomed all and thanked them for their attendance. He commented on the new format of the work session earlier in the day and thanked staff for the excellent presentations and open discussion. Mr. Boyd then recognized special guests: Mr. Mark Schneider of College Measures, who is assisting THEC with developing score cards and student success initiatives, and Mr. Dennis Jones of NCHEMS (National Center for Higher Education Management Systems), who had to depart earlier.

Mr. Boyd then announced that Dr. Gary Nixon, executive director of the State Board of Education, is retiring at the end of year. He also announced the retirement of Dr. Rhoda, effective December 31, 2014.

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Boyd called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Alex Martin made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Sharon Hayes seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted. Mr. Boyd then welcomed Mr. Bill Lee to the Commission.

Approval of Minutes, July 24, 2014, Meeting

Mr. Boyd called for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2014, Commission meeting. Mr. Jon Kinsey made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Treasurer David Lillard seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Boyd began his report by discussion of extending Executive Director Emeritus status to Dr. Rhoda. Noting it is an honorary position, he made a motion to extend Executive Director Emeritus status to Dr. Rhoda upon his retirement in December. Ms. Hayes seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted by unanimous vote. Dr. Rhoda thanked the Commission for the honor of being named Executive Director Emeritus. Mr. Boyd then noted that a dinner will be held in honor of Dr. Rhoda and his years of service to the state.

Mr. Boyd then recognized Mr. Mike Krause, Executive Director, Drive to 55/TN Promise, to provide an update on the Drive to 55 Initiative. Mr. Krause began by reviewing the TN Promise program application process and noted that at closing on November 1, the final applicant count was 56,638; over twice the targeted goal of 25,000. Mr. Krause then discussed several components of the Drive to 55 initiative: Reconnect program for Tennessee adults, which allows for non-traditional students to return to higher education at a TCAT tuition free; the SAILS program, which addresses remedial math; the higher education scorecard, a public report of metrics over a range of quality and fiscal indicators, and the LEAP program, to create full alignment between higher education and workforce development.

Executive Director's Report

Dr. Rhoda was recognized to provide his remarks. He began by commenting on the SAILS program, which started out as a pilot program and has become successful. He then introduced Mr. Philip Cramer, Assistant Counsel, replacing Emily Petro, and announced the departure of Mr. Wilson Finch, Assistant Director of Postsecondary Completion Initiatives. Dr. Rhoda then recognized Mr. Paul Robertson with the fiscal division and Mr. Lou Hanemann who is on loan from UT to assist with the Drive to 55 and Tennessee Promise initiatives.

Dr. Rhoda thanked the Commission for Emeritus status. He then commented on the structure of higher education in Tennessee and noted the current structure is strong and enables positive changes and collaboration among boards. Dr. Rhoda noted that although there will always be challenges; Tennessee is on the right path to be able to improve public policy and move Tennessee forward.

In closing, Dr. Rhoda thanked Governor Haslam and previous governors, for the support over the years as well as Emeritus status. He then recognized Mr. Mark Schneider, Vice President and Institute Fellow of AIR (American Institute of Research) to provide a report on college measures.

Mr. Schneider thanked the Commission and congratulated Dr. Rhoda on his retirement. He then briefly reviewed his report on college measures. Mr. Schneider discussed several components of the report including a breakdown of degrees earned and wage growth per degree over a period of time and the skills necessary for student success.

Systems' Reports

Tennessee Board of Regents

Mr. John Morgan, Chancellor, Tennessee Board of Regents was recognized. Chancellor Morgan began his report by stating his appreciation of Dr. Rhoda and his leadership over the years. He updated the Commission on the institutional briefings to gain a clear understanding of all institutional issues and identify all educational initiatives at the system and campus levels to enhance student success. Chancellor Morgan then reported that at end of the calendar year, the TBR system will no longer have students with undeclared majors and by fall of 2015, academic mapping will be in place at all campuses to show students specific courses needed for completion. In closing, Chancellor Morgan commented on the Tennessee Promise program and reviewed some of the basic components and benefits of the program.

University of Tennessee

Dr. Joe DiPietro, President, University of Tennessee System, was recognized. Dr. DiPietro began his report by announcing the College of Business being named the James A. Haslam II College of Business. He then announced the UT Chattanooga College of Business was ranked as one of the top schools in the nation and noted that other UT campuses were also ranked very highly in national polls. Dr. DiPietro commented on SUMMIT, the newest, fastest supercomputer in the nation, located at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He also commented on enrollment changes in the system. In closing, Dr. DiPietro commented on the Drive to 55 and Tennessee Promise program business model which will include implementation and how funds are expended.

Action Items

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

Dr. Stephanie Bellard Chase, Associate Executive Director for the Division of Postsecondary School Authorization, was recognized. Dr. Chase presented the recommendations of staff and the Committee on Postsecondary Educational Institutions to grant temporary authorization to eight new institutions and 124 new programs. A motion was made by Mr. Evan Cope to adopt the recommendations, as presented. Mr. Alex Martin seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

2015-16 State Appropriation Recommendations

Dr. Russ Deaton, Associate Executive Director for Finance & Administration, was recognized. Dr. Deaton noted the lengthy discussion in the worksession earlier in the day regarding the 2015-16 budget recommendations. He then reviewed the grand total recurring and non-recurring recommendation for all higher education operating appropriations for 2015-16 of \$1.3 billion which includes: \$25.7 million to fund outcome growth, \$10 million for other institutional operating costs across non-formula units, \$29.4 million for TSAA funding, \$630,000 for TSAC operating costs, and \$5 million for the continuation of THEC's work as part of the Drive to 55 Initiative.

Ms. Sharon Hayes made a motion to adopt the FY 2015-16 state appropriation recommendations and the Commission authorized the Executive Director to make any necessary technical corrections as necessary and transmit to the department of Finance and Administration for their approval. Mr. Cope seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

2015-16 Student Fee Recommendations

Dr. Deaton stated that the Complete College Tennessee Act requires THEC to make student fee and state appropriation recommendations concurrently. He noted that these recommendations are informed by an analysis of the income profile and financial aid packages of Tennessee students. Dr. Deaton then noted that THEC staff recommendations are maintenance fee increases of zero to four percent at universities, community colleges and colleges of applied technology. Mr. Martin made a motion to approve student fee recommendations as presented. Mr. Keith Wilson seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

2015-16 Capital Projects Recommendations

Dr. Deaton was recognized to provide the capital outlay recommendations for 2015-16. He stated that the recommendations total \$184.1 million which includes two projects for the University of Tennessee totaling \$98.1 million, and four projects for the Tennessee Board of Regents totaling \$86 million. Dr. Deaton also stated that all capital outlay projects include an institutional matching component applicable to the first \$75 million of a project and THEC intends that UT and TBR have flexibility to craft the specific parameters of the matching component. Dr. Deaton then reviewed the 2015-16 recommendation for capital maintenance. He stated that the recommendation for the Tennessee Board of Regents and the University of Tennessee systems totals \$133 million, which includes 11 projects for the University of Tennessee totaling \$53.2 million and 69 projects for the Tennessee Board of Regents totaling \$79.8 million. Dr. Deaton also reviewed the disclosure of revenue-funded projects which are projects funded through institutional funds, Tennessee State School Bond Authority, auxiliary funds, or sources other than state appropriations. He stated that for 2015-16, 46 revenue-funded projects totaling \$172 million for both the Tennessee Board of Regents and the University of Tennessee systems are being disclosed which includes 21 projects totaling \$71.6 million for the University of Tennessee, and 25 projects totaling \$100.4 million for the Tennessee Board of Regents. A motion was made by Mr. Keith Wilson to adopt the 2015-16 Capital Projects Recommendations as presented. Mr. Robert Fisher seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

TCAT Master Plan

Dr. Deaton was recognized to provide background information on this item. Dr. Deaton stated this master plan was the first comprehensive plan completed for the entire TCAT system and it differs from traditional plans in both scale and scope. Dr. Deaton stated this plan identifies immediate and near-term space and facility needs at each of the 32 TCAT owned sites as well as analyses and projections of each campus' array of programs.

Mr. Woody Giles of Tunnell-Spangler-Walsh & Associates (TSW), an Atlanta-based planning, architecture and landscape architecture firm, was then recognized to provide a powerpoint demonstration of the TCAT Master Plan. Mr. Giles stated the Master Plan was in alignment with the Complete College TN Act and includes goals such as: serving existing students adequately, increase enrollment and completion rates, addressing the most serious facility needs, and implementation. A motion was made by Mr. Jon Kinsey to adopt the TCAT Master Plan, as presented. Mr. Martin seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

ETSU Master Plan Update

Dr. Deaton briefly reviewed the presentation made earlier in the day. He stated the ETSU master plan update addresses near, mid and long-term needs of the campus with respect to building and land use, open space, vehicular circulation and parking, and land acquisition opportunities. Dr. Deaton noted that the update includes changes to the athletics facilities and reiterates several important facets of the 2010 Master Plan, including shifting traffic away from the campus interior and redevelopment of the west side campus housing. A motion was made by Mr. Wilson to adopt the ETSU Master Plan update, as presented. Ms. Hayes seconded the motion; the motion was duly adopted.

Information Items

Office of P-16 Initiatives Update

Mr. Troy Grant, Director, College Access Initiatives, was recognized to provide a status report on the GEAR UP program. Mr. Grant briefly reviewed recent projects undertaken by GEAR UP TN, such as recent market research report by Walker + Associates, the program's marketing firm, and stated the market research focused on what students and families in Tennessee see as the major barrier to college and focused on how families receive information about college. Mr. Grant also commented on the ACT Engage assessment, discussed the 2014 college summit, the College Access Challenge Grant (CACG), Latino Student Success Grant aimed at increasing the number of Latinos completing higher education in Memphis, and the Tennessee College Access and Success Network that connects college access and success programs with like-minded organizations for the purpose of increasing the number of Tennesseans participating and succeeding in postsecondary opportunities.

Articulation and Transfer Report and Special Analysis of Common General Education Core Curriculum

Ms. Emily House, Lottery Scholarship & Student Financial Aid Research Director, was recognized to brief the Commission on the 2014 Articulation and Transfer report. She stated that the analyses conducted for the report show that student transfer activity in Tennessee is multidirectional and consistent over time. Ms. House noted that most transfers take place within Tennessee and many students who transfer from out-of-state institutions are returning Tennessee residents. She also noted that transfer students have low degree efficiency in terms of earned credit hours and the majority of students listed as migrating from Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCATs) are returning or readmitted students.

2015 Improving Teacher Quality Grant Awards

Mr. Herbert Brown, Academic Affairs Analyst, was recognized to present this item. Mr. Brown stated that in accordance with the state's adoption of the Common Core State Standards in Reading, THEC and the Department of Education jointly developed the Request for Proposals (RFP) which focused on providing high quality professional development in grades 6-12. Mr. Brown stated that institutions were given the opportunity through the RFP to prepare proposals demonstrating their ability to provide a summer workshop, along with sustained activities throughout the school year, to grade 6-12 teachers. Of the 22 proposals received, the advisory committee identified 14 proposals for funding with a combined total of \$1,003,000.

2014 Report Card on the Effectiveness of Teacher Training Programs

Ms. Victoria Harpool, First to the Top Program Coordinator, was recognized to provide an update. Ms. Harpool announced the 2014 *Report Card on the Effectiveness of Teacher Training Programs* was released on October 31, 2014. She stated this is the sixth year that the state has made data available to the public regarding the effectiveness of the state's teacher training program completers. Ms. Harpool also stated that over the past year, staff members have worked in collaboration with the 43 teacher training programs, Department of Education, and other key stakeholders to improve and expand the Report Card.

Ms. Harpool noted the report, which is statutorily required, provides information on the placement and retention rates of teacher training program completers, Praxis II licensure exam passage rates, and Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS) teacher effect data. She also noted that key findings include information related to the academic preparation of Tennessee's teachers and effectiveness of completers once they enter the classroom.

Title VI Implementation Plan Update and Compliance Report

Mr. Philip Cramer, Associate Counsel, 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, as well as 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. Cramer also noted that the plan was filed with the Title VI Compliance office of the Tennessee Human Rights Commission on September 30, 2014.

Winter Commission Meeting

Dr. Rhoda advised the Commission that the next scheduled meeting would be January 29, 2015, in the THEC board room.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Approved:

