

TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Winter Quarterly Meeting

Senate Hearing Room 1

Cordell Hull State Office Building

January 31, 2020

Link to recording:

<https://sts.streamingvideo.tn.gov/Mediasite/Play/e568fef15e9848ed982189eee63013cc1d>

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Evan Cope called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Member	PRESENT	ABSENT
Chairman Evan Cope	X	
Commissioner Nancy Dishner	X	
Secretary Tre Hargett		X
Commissioner Jimmy Johnston	X	
Commissioner Pam Koban	X	
Treasurer David Lillard	X	
Commissioner Sarah Morrison		X
Commissioner Jay Moser	X	
Commissioner Vernon Stafford	X	
Commissioner Celeste Riley	X	
Commissioner Frank Watson	X	
Commissioner AC Wharton	X	
Comptroller Justin Wilson	X	
Commissioner Dakasha Winton		X

At the start of the meeting, there were eleven members present, constituting a quorum.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Comptroller Wilson made a motion to adopt the agenda and Commissioner Stafford seconded it. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Stafford made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2019 Fall Quarterly Commission Meeting held on November 7, 2019, Commissioner Dishner seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Chairman Cope delivered his report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Executive Director Krause provided his report.

AGENDA ITEMS:

CONSENT CALENDAR (Action Item):

Chairman Cope recommended voting on all three items under the consent calendar as one item and to approve said items. Commissioner Wharton made a motion to approve and Commissioner Dishner seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR CALENDAR:

I. Master Plan Interim Update (Action Item)

Dr. Emily House, Deputy Executive Director of THEC, presented the interim update to the Master Plan for Tennessee Postsecondary Education 2015-2025. Published in 2015 as Tennessee was launching the Drive to 55, the 2015-2025 Plan includes state- and system-level projections of the necessary degree production to reach our state's ambitious attainment goal. As a complement to the Plan, this update, entitled Enabling the Competitive Edge: Tennessee Higher Education in the New Economy, presents action-oriented, tactical strategies to support Tennessee's students and institutions toward greater success and improved workforce alignment, while continuing to focus on increasing the state's educational attainment. Commissioner Koban made a motion to approve the updated Master Plan and Commissioner Johnston seconded it. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

II. New Academic Programs (Action Item)

A. University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Bachelor of Science

Dr. Lori Gonzales, Vice Chancellor at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, presented a proposal for a new academic program, a Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences. This program would allow for students who are admitted to the College of Pharmacy prior to completing a bachelor's degree to earn a Bachelor of Science while enrolled in pharmacy school, which is a trend that is occurring nationwide. Commissioner Dishner made a motion to approve the program, and Comptroller Wilson seconded it. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

B. University of Memphis, Engineering Management, Master of Science

Dr. Thomas Nenon of the University of Memphis presented a proposal for a new academic program, a Master of Science in Engineering Management. This program will be a collaborative effort between both the Engineering and Business Colleges. This program will increase training of current engineers and will be fully online

with a concentration on transportation and manufacturing. Commissioner Stafford made a motion to approve this program, and Treasurer Lillard seconded it. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

C. University of Memphis, Doctor of Social Work

Dr. Nenon presented a proposal for a new academic program, the Doctor of Social Work at the University of Memphis. This is a part-time, online program that will take three years to complete with a focus on leadership, management, research, and evaluation. Commissioner Stafford made a motion to approve this program, and Commissioner Wharton seconded it. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

D. University of Memphis, Applied Physics Ph.D.

Dr. Nenon presented a proposal for a new academic program, the Ph.D. in Applied Physics at the University of Memphis. This program will use existing staff and courses and will be the only Applied Physics program in Tennessee and in the mid-south region. Dr. Nenon stated that any student admitted to the program with only a Bachelor of Science would earn a Master of Science degree on the way to completion of the Ph.D. Commissioner Lillard made a motion to approve the program, and Commissioner Wharton seconded it. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Fiscal Policy – Funding Formula Review Committee

Dr. Steven Gentile, THEC Chief Fiscal Policy Officer, presented an information item regarding the Formula Review Committee (FRC). In February, the FRC will formally begin the five-year review of the current Outcomes-Based Funding formula model. The review process will also incorporate a working committee comprised of higher education personnel, government stakeholders, and THEC staff. The process will culminate in the creation of the 2020-2025 Outcomes-Based Funding formula model, which will be presented to the Commission in July 2020, and all budget items in November 2020 will be based on the new formula.

IV. Administrative Rules – Fee Discount Programs (Action Item)

A. Adoption – Fee Discounts for Children of Public School Teachers

Brett Gipson, THEC Deputy General Counsel, presented Chapter 1540-01-12, new rules for fee discounts for children of public school teachers that, along with Chapter 1540-01-13 (Agenda Item IV.B.), will replace an old rule that combined fee discounts for children of public school teachers and those for children of state employees. A public rule hearing for the new rules was held on January 8, 2020, and there were no public objections or comments. Commissioner Dishner made a

motion to adopt the new rules, and Commissioner Wilson seconded it. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Adoption – Fee Discounts for Children of State Employees

Mr. Gipson presented Chapter 1540-01-13, new rules for fee discounts for children of state employees. A public rule hearing was held on January 8, 2020, and there were no public objections or comments. Commissioner Dishner made a motion to adopt the new rules, and Commissioner Stafford seconded it. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Repeal – Fee Discounts

Mr. Gipson presented the staff recommendation to repeal Chapter 1540-01-05, the old rule combining fee discounts for children of public school teachers and children state employees. A public rule hearing was held on January 8, 2020, and there were no public objections or comments. Commissioner Dishner made a motion to repeal Chapter 1540-01-05, and Commissioner Koban seconded it. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

SYSTEM REPORTS:

Tennessee Board of Regents – Chancellor Flora Tydings provided her report.

University of Tennessee –President Randy Boyd provided his report.

Locally Governed Institutions- Dr. Brian Noland provided his report.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Cope adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

NEXT THEC COMMISSION MEETING: Friday, May 15, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. CDT in Nashville

THEC Chairman Evan Cope

THEC Secretary AC Wharton, Jr.