

**TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**

Minutes of the Summer Quarterly Meeting

Nashville Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Tennessee Tower

July 22, 2021

Link to recording:

[THEC Commission Meeting 7/22/2021 \(tn.gov\)](https://www.tn.gov/newsroom/2021/07/22/2021-07-22-thec-commission-meeting-7-22-2021-tn.gov)

Chairman Evan Cope called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

<b>Member</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Chairman Evan Cope	X	
Commissioner Nancy Dishner	X	
Secretary Tre Hargett	X	
Commissioner Tara Scarlett	X	
Commissioner Pam Koban	X	
Treasurer David Lillard		X
Commissioner Sarah Morrison		X
Commissioner Jay Moser	X	
Commissioner Vernon Stafford	X	
Commissioner AC Wharton		X
Comptroller Jason Mumpower	X	
Commissioner Dakasha Winton	X	

At the start of the meeting there were nine (9) members physically present, constituting a quorum. At 10:00 a.m. two (2) members, Secretary Tre Hargett and Comptroller Jason Mumpower, left the meeting, leaving seven (7) members, still constituting a quorum.

**APPROVAL OF MAY 20, 2021 MINUTES**

Commissioner Stafford made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Scarlett seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:**

Chairman Cope delivered his report.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Koban made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Moser seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:**

Executive Director Dr. Emily House provided her report.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

Chairman Cope stated that there were three (3) items on the consent calendar and without questions or objections, that he would entertain a motion and second to approve the consent calendar as one (1) item. Secretary Hargett made a motion to approve the consent calendar as one (1) item. Commissioner Stafford seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

### **I. Outcomes-based Funding Formula Update**

Dr. Steven Gentile presented information on the outcomes-based funding formula with the recommendation to implement a stop-out provision for university-conferred associate degrees and for the recommendation to match university associate degree values to the community college sector.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed. Secretary Hargett made a motion to approve. Commissioner Moser seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

### **II. University of Tennessee Southern**

#### **A. Appropriation Request Integration**

Dr. Gentile presented information on incorporating University of Tennessee Southern as an outcome formula unit after the institution produces four (4) years of high-quality outcome data. UT Southern would be treated, for appropriation request purposes, like all other specialized units which do not participate in the outcomes formula. The Outcomes-Based Funding (OBF) formula utilizes four (4) years of data to produce an appropriation request for each of the state's community colleges and undergraduate-serving universities. The requirement of the University of Tennessee Southern to produce outcome data consistent with the Commission's standards will ensure public funds are distributed in a fair and equitable manner.

Dr. Gentile presented the recommendation of requiring UT Southern to produce a facilities master plan, per THEC policy, prior to participating in the capital outlay appropriation process. The University of Tennessee System is developing a Strategic Plan for UT Southern, which will in turn inform the facilities master plan.

Dr. Gentile also presented the recommendation of allowing the University of Tennessee System to request capital maintenance support on behalf of University of Tennessee Southern in the FY23 appropriation request, but not to revise the University of Tennessee System's Sherman-Dergis Formula calculation to reflect University of Tennessee Southern's campus footprint until the FY24 appropriation cycle.

Chairman Cope motioned to approve that UT Southern be treated as a specialized unit until 2025, at which time adequate data will be available to include UT Southern in the outcomes-based funding formula. Secretary Hargett seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, the motion passed.

Chairman Cope motioned to approve that UT Southern is eligible to request capital outlay projects, pursuant to THEC's capital outlay process, once their campus facilities master plan is approved by the Commission and the University of Tennessee's capital maintenance share reflect UT Southern's footprint in FY2024. Commissioner Stafford seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

## **B. Academic Programs**

Betty Dandridge Johnson presented information regarding the current academic programs offered at the University of Tennessee Southern. This includes one (1) undergraduate certificate program, one (1) associate degree program, twenty-three (23) bachelor's degree programs, and two (2) graduate degree programs.

Chairman Cope motioned to vote on the bachelor's and graduate programs at University of Tennessee Southern as a slate and treat the associate degree separately. Commissioner Scarlett seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Scarlett motioned to approve the bachelor and graduate degree programs. Commissioner Koban seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Scarlett motioned to approve the associate degree program on the condition that the program would wind down by 2026. Commissioner Moser seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

## **III. New Academic Programs**

**A. University of Memphis, American Sign Language and Deaf Studies, Bachelor of Arts**

Dr. Julie Roberts presented information on the Bachelor of Arts in American Sign Language (ASL) and Deaf Studies. The university currently offers a minor in ASL and has established ASL as an acceptable course to fulfill the university's world language requirements. The University of Memphis expects that a major in ASL and Deaf Studies will attract new students to the university because a similar degree is not offered within a 200-mile radius of Memphis. Additionally, the program is designed to offer the ability for students to double major in ASL and another major at the university.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed with Dr. Linda Jarmulowicz, Dean of the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Commissioner Stafford motioned to approve. Commissioner Scarlett seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

**B. University of Memphis, Applied Physiology and Neuromechanics, Ph.D.**

Dr. Roberts presented information on the Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Physiology and Neuromechanics with two concentrations: Applied Physiology and Nutrition and Applied Biomechanics. The proposed program will focus on the function and structure of the human body related to its health, nutrition, and movement.

Commissioner Winton motioned to approve. Commissioner Stafford seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

**C. University of Memphis, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Dr. Roberts presented information on the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program that is dedicated to developing graduates that are trained to practice independently or as part of a multidisciplinary health team. The broad educational foundation focuses on understanding disease etiology and progression across the lifespan while developing and refining the knowledge and skills of assessment, evaluation, and therapeutic intervention. The proposed program will seek accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed with Dr. Doug Powell, Associate Professor of the College of Health Sciences. Commissioner Dishner motioned to approve. Commissioner Winton seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

**D. University of Tennessee Chattanooga, Applied Leadership, Bachelor of Applied Science**

Dr. Roberts presented information on the Bachelor of Applied Sciences in Applied Leadership which will provide a flexible online program targeted to adult learners and transfer students who have completed general education requirements and are seeking to complete a bachelor's degree. The program will leverage opportunities to award transfer credit via prior learning assessments for skills gained in the workplace to earn a baccalaureate degree in an expedited manner.

Secretary Hargett motioned to approve. Comptroller Mumpower seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed with Commissioner Stafford abstaining from voting.

**E. University of Tennessee Martin, Cybersecurity, Bachelor of Science**

Dr. Roberts presented information on the Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity which will help students become cybersecurity professionals. There are currently only eighteen (18) cybersecurity programs certified by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET) existing in the United States and this program will be the first accredited program at a public university in Tennessee.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed with Dr. Philip Cavalier, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Commissioner Scarlett motioned to approve. Secretary Hargett seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

**F. University of Tennessee Martin, Veterinary Science and Technology, Bachelor of Science**

Dr. Roberts presented information on the Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Science and Technology program that prepare students to become a licensed veterinary technician or apply to veterinary school. Currently there are only twenty-two (22) accredited veterinary technology bachelor's programs existing nationwide.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed with Dr. Cavalier. Secretary Hargett made the motion to approve. Commissioner Moser seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

**G. University of Tennessee Martin, Criminal Justice, Master of Science**

Dr. Roberts presented information on the Master of Science in Criminal Justice program that will offer two optional certifications in law enforcement and corrections administration. The program will be delivered online with five (5) week courses to allow working professionals the flexibility to balance their academic coursework and work responsibilities. Additionally, the University of Tennessee Martin will award credit for prior learning experiences for students who have attended specific federal and state law enforcement academies.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed. Secretary Hargett motioned to approve. Commissioner Stafford seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

**IV. Facilities Master Plans**

**A. University of Memphis**

Neal Kessler with the SmithGroup presented the 2021 Master Plan update as a comprehensive ten (10) year plan, with the analysis of space needs, enrollment, site considerations, facility conditions and renewal plans, design guidelines, land acquisition, infrastructure, student life/services, and implementation and capital plan for the University of Memphis.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed. Commissioner Stafford motioned to approve. Commissioner Koban seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

**B. Walters State Community College**

Woody Giles from TSW presented the Walter State Community College Master Plan which provided a comprehensive and flexible plan to guide all campuses for the next decade.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed with Dr. Tony Miksa, President of Walters State Community College. Commissioner Dishner made a motion to approve. Commissioner Moser seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

**V. Appointments to Advisory Board for HBCU Success**

Dr. Brittany Mosby presented information on the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Advisory Board, including that the board shall be appointed by

the Commission and include representatives of a variety of sectors, including philanthropy, education, business, finance, entrepreneurship, innovation, and private foundations, as well as sitting HBCU presidents. Commission staff recommended the reappointment of Ms. Laschinski Emerson and Dr. Doug Magee and the appointment of Dr. Andre Churchwell, Officer Shelley Clemmons, Dr. Carol Johnson-Dean, Ms. Ashley Northington, Ms. Brandi Smith, Ms. Elaine Stallworth-Washington, and Mr. Ernest Strickland as new members to the Advisory Board for HBCU Success beginning on August 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed. Commissioner Scarlett motioned to approve. Secretary Hargett seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

## **VI. Election of Officers**

Chairman Cope addressed the election of THEC officers for 2021-2022. Pursuant to Article V of the THEC Rules of Procedure, the Commission elects officers annually at the regular summer meeting to serve one-year terms. The officers consist of a chair, two vice-chairs, and a secretary. The chair and vice-chairs must reside in different grand divisions of the state.

Chairman Cope opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Koban nominated Chairman Cope to continue as Chair of the Commission for the coming year. Commissioner Stafford seconded it. Chairman Cope then passed the gavel to Commissioner Koban to conduct that portion of the meeting.

Secretary Hargett motioned to vote on all nominations at one time. Commissioner Scarlett seconded the motion. A vote was taken, the motion passed.

Commissioner Moser motioned that Commissioner Stafford remain the Vice Chairman for the Western Grand Division. Secretary Hargett seconded the motion. Commissioner Dishner motioned that Commissioner Winton remain the Vice Chairwoman for the Eastern Grand Division. Secretary Hargett seconded the motion. Commissioner Stafford motioned that Commissioner Wharton remain the Secretary. Secretary Hargett seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motions passed. Commissioner Koban congratulated the officers and passed the gavel back to Chairman Cope.

## **VII. Selection of Audit Committee Member**

Brett Gipson presented information on the Audit Committee Charter that outlines the requirements for membership on the audit committee. The committee and its chair shall be selected by the Executive Director of THEC/TSAC and confirmed by the Commission/Board of Directors. The audit committee consists of five (5) members with representation from both THEC and TSAC and who are generally knowledgeable in financial, management, and auditing matters. Each member shall serve for a term not to exceed three years and may be reappointed. Executive Director House selected Commissioner Vernon Stafford to serve on the committee for a three-year term effective immediately. Executive Director House also selected current member, Commissioner Pam Koban, as the Committee Chair effective immediately.

Commissioner Stafford motioned to approve Dr. House's selections. Commissioner Scarlett seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

### **VIII. Academic Program Review**

Dr. Corey Gheesling presented information on the monitoring of the state's academic program inventory (API) at Tennessee's public postsecondary institutions including degree production. THEC works with governing boards and institutions to assess the health of academic offerings, make necessary adjustments to academic program policy, and ensure all programs are fully aligned to student success. THEC periodically conducts an Academic Program Review which is comprised of Post Approval Monitoring and Program Productivity.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed with Dr. Flora Tydings, Chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents.

Chairman Cope adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

#### **NEXT THEC COMMISSION MEETING:**

Thursday, November 18, 2021 in Nashville

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**THEC Chairman Evan Cope**

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**THEC Secretary AC Wharton, Jr.**