

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Cope delivered his report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Executive Director Dr. House provided her report.

AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman Cope suggested that the commission vote on the consent calendar as one item unless there were any objections. Secretary Hargett made a motion to approve the consent calendar as one item. Commissioner Stafford seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 12 ayes.

I. Financial and Statistical Reporting Policy Amendment

Amanda Klafehn presented information on the financial and statistical reporting policy amendment which aligns the policy with the format of other policies in the THEC Policy Manual, clarifies language on THEC's statutory requirements and authorities, and adds or removes language consistent with applicable legislative action.

Commissioner Scarlett moved to adopt the amendment. Commissioner Wharton seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 12 ayes.

II. Off Campus Location: East Tennessee State University, BlueSky Chattanooga Center

Dr. Jeffrey Norfleet presented information on the partnership between East Tennessee State University and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee to address the need for skilled information and technology professionals by opening an off-campus instruction center at BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee. The center will be provided at no cost to East Tennessee State University and will provide graduates with the opportunity to receive a job offer from BlueCross BlueShield upon graduation. The off-campus location will be staffed by full-time staff and faculty members.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed. Commissioner Dishner motioned to approve. Commissioner Stafford seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 12 ayes.

III. 2021-22 Binding Tuition and Fee Ranges

A. Range for Tuition

B. Range for Tuition and Mandatory Fees

Dr. Steven Gentile presented the recommended range of 0-2% for tuition and a 0-2% for tuition and mandatory fees.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed. Commissioner Wharton motioned to approve. Commissioner Stafford seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, motion passed with 11 ayes and 1 nay. Commissioners voting aye were: Cope, Dishner, Hargett, Hassler, Koban, Moser, Mumpower, Scarlett, Stafford, Wharton, and Winton. Commissioner Watson voted nay.

IV. New Academic Programs

A. East Tennessee State University, Digital Media, Master of Fine Art

Dr. Tony Pittarese, Associate Dean of the College of Business and Technology at East Tennessee State University presented information on the Master of Fine Art in Digital Media. The Master of Fine Art in Digital Media aligns with the National Association of Schools of Art and Design for the purpose of providing a terminal degree to meet the growing need in the industry for highly qualified digital artists. Those graduating from this program will also be credentialed to teach at the college level post-graduation.

Commission members asked questions regarding the program and discussion followed. A motion to approve the program was made by Treasurer Lillard. Commissioner Scarlett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 12 ayes.

B. East Tennessee State University, Orthotics and Prosthetics, Master of Science

Dr. Don Samples, Dean of the College of Clinical and Rehabilitative Health at East Tennessee State University presented information for the Master of Science in Orthotics and Prosthetics program. This program is a specialized healthcare profession that combines a unique blend of clinical and technical skills needed to care for patients who have neuromuscular and musculoskeletal disorders or patients who have partial or total absence of a limb. This program would complement the existing Doctor of Physical Therapy and the proposed Doctor of Occupational Therapy to provide a variety of physical rehabilitation programs through the College of Clinical and Rehabilitative Health Sciences. This program will seek accreditation from Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs and the National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education.

Commission members asked questions about the program and discussion followed. A motion to approve the program was made by Commissioner Lillard. Secretary Hargett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 12 ayes.

C. East Tennessee State University, Doctor of Occupational Therapy

Dr. Don Samples, Dean of the College of Clinical and Rehabilitative Health at East Tennessee State University presented information for the Doctor of Occupational Therapy program. The curriculum will emphasize in-depth evaluation and intervention skills with a focus on disease, body functions and structure while integrating activity limitations, participation restrictions, and contextual factors. The program will utilize a problem-based learning approach with an interprofessional focus, which will prepare graduates to practice with appropriate skills and expertise in diverse practice settings that require collaboration, teamwork, and the ability to break down silos that are prominent in traditional health care curricula. This program will seek accreditation from the Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).

Commission members asked questions about the program and discussion followed. A motion to approve the program was made by Commissioner Dishner. Commissioner Scarlett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 12 ayes.

D. University of Memphis, Master of Non-Profit Management

Dr. Tom Nenon, Provost, University of Memphis presented the Master of Non-Profit Management program. This program was designed based on the guidelines provided by the Nonprofit Academic Centers Council (NACC) which is the accrediting body for nonprofit programs. Students in the program will have a choice of two educational tracks to pursue, fundraising/philanthropy or social justice, as well as the option of a generalist nonprofit management program. These specializations will benefit the local nonprofit community and better define its niche among NACC accredited programs.

Commission members asked questions about the program and discussion followed. A motion to approve the program was made by Commissioner Stafford. Treasurer Lillard seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 11 ayes and 1 abstention. Commissioners voting aye were: Cope, Dishner, Hassler, Koban, Moser, Scarlett, Stafford, Watson, Hargett, Lillard, and Mumpower. Commissioner Wharton abstained.

E. University of Tennessee Knoxville, Geographic Information Science and Technology, Bachelor of Science

Dr. R. J. Hinde, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at University of Tennessee Knoxville presented information on the Bachelor of Science in Geographic Information Science and Technology. The Geographic Information Science program is an interdisciplinary field that encompasses a wide range of application areas, including transportation logistics, network analysis, emergency management, urban planning, public health, resource and environmental management, location intelligence, and energy analytics. This program will allow graduates to bridge the gap between advanced geographic information technology and real-work problems/applications and to use spatial mapping, modeling, and analytics to make informed decision.

Treasurer Lillard made a motion to approve the program. Commissioner Scarlett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed with 11 ayes. Secretary Hargett was out of the room during the vote.

V. Legislative Update

Lou Hanemann gave the legislative update.

Chairman Cope adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

NEXT THEC COMMISSION MEETING:

Thursday, July 22, 2021 in Nashville

THEC Chairman Evan Cope

THEC Secretary AC Wharton, Jr.