

TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Fall Quarterly Meeting

Senate Hearing Room 1, Cordell Hull Bldg.

425 Rep. John Lewis Way N.

Nashville, TN 37243

January 28, 2022

Link to recording:

Chairman Evan Cope called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Member	PRESENT	ABSENT
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 Sara Morrison		X
Commissioner Jay Moser	X	
Commissioner Vernon Stafford	X	
Commissioner AC Wharton	X	
Comptroller Jason Mumpower	X	
Commissioner Dakasha Winton	X	
Commissioner Ethan Galloway	X	

At the start of the meeting there were eight (8) voting members physically present, Chairman Evan Cope, Secretary Tre Hargett, Commissioner Tara Scarlett, Treasurer David Lillard, Commissioner Jay Moser, Commissioner Dakasha Winton, and Commissioner Ethan Galloway, constituting a physical quorum. There were also four (4) voting members present via telephone, Commissioner Nancy Dishner, Commissioner Vernon Stafford, Commissioner AC Wharton, and Comptroller Jason Mumpower. A physical quorum was retained throughout the meeting.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 18, 2021, MINUTES

Commissioner Scarlett made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Moser seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with ten (10) ayes. Secretary Hargett abstained and Commissioner Wharton did not vote.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Secretary Hargett made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Koban seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with eleven (11) ayes. Commissioner Wharton did not vote.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Cope provided his report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Executive Director Dr. Emily House provided her report. Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed.

AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman Cope stated that there were two (2) 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. Commissioner Winton made a motion to approve the consent calendar as one (1) item. Commissioner Koban seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with eleven (11) ayes. Commissioner Wharton did not vote.

I. New Academic Programs

Dr. Julie Roberts presented information on the process and procedures for new program approval. Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed. Dr. Roberts introduced Dr. Maria Cronley from Austin Peay State University, Dr. Mark Byrnes from Middle Tennessee State University, and Dr. Chandra Reddy from Tennessee State University for presentation on their new programs.

A. Austin Peay State University, National Security Studies, Bachelor of Science

Dr. Maria Cronley presented information on the proposed Bachelor of Science in National Security Studies at Austin Peay State University. This program will be available with both online and traditional delivery methods and will prepare students to be well versed in areas of homeland security, international security, terrorism, and violent extremism. Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed. Treasurer Lillard made a motion to approve the program. Commissioner Koban seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed unanimously with twelve (12) ayes.

B. Middle Tennessee State University, Data Science, Master of Science

Dr. Mark Byrnes presented information on the proposed Master of Science in Data Science at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). This program will produce

graduates with the skills and knowledge required to apply data science techniques to theory to datasets and research problems. This program compliments the current Bachelor of Science and Graduate Certificate programs offered by MTSU in Data Science. Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed. Commissioner Koban made a motion to approve the program. Commissioner Galloway seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed with twelve (12) ayes.

C. Tennessee State University, Agricultural Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy

Dr. Chandra Reddy presented information on the proposed Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Sciences at Tennessee State University. This program is designed to prepare students to meet job market needs across rural and urban communities. Program graduates will accomplish vital work in animal science, food science, plant science, environmental science, and agricultural science, and will increase the number of minority doctoral degree holders in Agricultural Sciences. Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed. Commissioner Moser made a motion to approve the program. Secretary Hargett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed unanimously with twelve (12) ayes. Treasurer Lillard stepped out during the presentation, but there were still seven (7) members physically present at all times during the presentation, so no Determination of Necessity was needed.

II. Academic Policies

A. Off-Campus Instruction – Community Colleges and Universities

Dr. Jeffery Norfleet presented information on the proposed revisions to Academic Policy A1.4A. to include Exclusions to the Off-Campus Instruction Policy, Criteria for Review of Off-Campus Centers, Major Changes to Off-Campus Centers, and No Unnecessary Duplication. Additionally, the policy review schedule was changed from a three (3) year to five-year (5) cycle to align with other academic policies. Secretary Hargett made a motion to approve the changes. Commissioner Scarlett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously with twelve (12) ayes.

B. Off-Campus Instruction – Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology

Dr. Jeffery Norfleet presented information on the proposed revisions to Academic Policy A1.4B. to align and/or clarify definitions with the Council of Occupational Education (COE). The COE is the accrediting agency for career and technical programs offered at TCATs. Additionally, the policy review schedule was changed from a three (3) year to a five-year (5) cycle to align with other academic policies. Commissioner

Winton made a motion to approve the changes. Commissioner Koban seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed with eleven (11) ayes. Commissioner Scarlett was not present during vote on the motion; however, there were still seven (7) members physically present and so no Determination of Necessity was needed.

III. College Access and Success Division Overview (*Information Only*)

Mr. Troy Grant presented information on direct service programs Advise TN and GEAR UP TN. Additionally, Mr. Grant presented information on statewide services provided by the College Access and Success Division, CollegeforTN.org, Path to College Events, and the statewide transcript exchange. Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed.

IV. Governor's Investment in Vocational Education (GIVE)/ Supporting Postsecondary Access in Rural Counties (SPARC) Update (*Information Only*)

Dr. Brandon Hudson presented information on the GIVE program that has the primary goal to ensure Tennessee's education institutions are producing the credentials employers need, while also driving new industry to the state through data-driven, collaborative work.

Mr. Mitch Currey presented information on the SPARC program. The SPARC program is a targeted initiative to engage local constituencies and educational stakeholders in an effort to bridge, if not resolve, three (3) different obstacles: infrastructure need, geographic access to higher education, and unmet need for additional Career and Technical Education (CTE) dual enrollment opportunities. Commission members asked questions and a discussion followed.

Chairman Cope adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

NEXT THEC COMMISSION MEETING:

Thursday, May 19, 2022 in Nashville

THEC Chairman Evan Cope

THEC Secretary AC Wharton, Jr.