

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Robert M. Smith, Interim Executive Director, gave his report. He then recognized Ms. Samantha Gutter, Chief Access and Outreach Officer. Ms. Gutter discussed Momentum Year 2023, which aims to increase the number of high school graduates who enroll in college to 60% and increase the number of Tennessee Reconnect participants. This initiative also works to coordinate and align education and workforce training for greater economic mobility. Dr. Smith then completed his reported.

AGENDA ITEMS

Vice Chairman Vernon Stafford stated that there were two (2) items on the consent calendar and that without objection, the Commission would vote on the items as a set. Commissioner Cope made a motion to approve both items on the consent calendar. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kingsolver. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 13 ayes.

I. Election of Chair for Remainder of 2022-23 Term

Vice Chairman Stafford began by thanking Commissioner Cope for serving in the position of Chairman. The floor was open for nominations of a new chairperson. Commissioner Cope nominated Commissioner Scarlett for the position of Chair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moser. The commission members asked questions and a discussion was held. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 12 ayes, and one (1) abstention from Commissioner Scarlett.

With Chairwoman Scarlett's permission, Vice Chairman Stafford continued to chair the meeting as Chairwoman Scarlett was participating electronically.

II. Executive Director Search Committee Recommendations

Mr. Lou Hanemann, Chief of Staff, presented on behalf of the Executive Director Search Committee. Mr. Hanemann provided the committee's recommendations for the job description, the proposed search process, and proposed timeline for the selection of a new Executive Director. The commission members discussed the job description. Commissioner Cope made a motion to amend the job description to change the word experience to credential in the portion of the job description describing the work done at THEC. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Allmon. The commission members asked questions and a discussion was held. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 13 ayes.

Commissioner Koban made the motion to accept the Executive Director Search Committee recommendations with the amended job description. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kingsolver. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 13 ayes.

III. Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Presentation

Mr. Scott Sloan, General Counsel, introduced Mr. Chassen Haynes, Senior Director of Business Development of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. Mr. Haynes presented information on the Department's recruitment strategies, interactions with prospective employers, and connections with higher education. Commission members asked questions and a discussion was held.

IV. Tennessee College of Applied Technology Master Plan

Dr. Flora Tydings, Chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents, introduced Mr. Woody Giles, Senior Associate at DLR Group, to discuss the changes to the Tennessee College of Applied Technology

Master Plan. Mr. Giles stated that the master plan incorporated the individual master plans for each institution and the items being requested are needed to avoid duplication of efforts for more efficient and effective programming throughout the state. Commission members asked questions and a discussion was held. Commissioner Koban made a motion to approve the changes to the master plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Matlock. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 12 ayes.

V. Middle Tennessee State University Master Plan Amendment

Dr. Sidney McPhee, President of Middle Tennessee State University, introduced Mr. Edward Norwood, Senior Associate with Brailsford and Dunlavy. Mr. Norwood presented information on the need for the development of a hotel on the Middle Tennessee State University campus to serve the hospitality management degree program along with the community of Rutherford County. Mr. Norwood stated that this amendment is in alignment with the current master plan. Commission members asked questions and a discussion was held. Treasurer Lillard made a motion to approve the master plan amendment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Koban. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 12 ayes.

VI. Academic Policies

A. A1.0 New Academic Programs: Approval Process

Dr. Julie Roberts, Chief Academic Officer, presented information on the changes needed to Academic Policy A1.0 New Academic Programs: Approval Process, which would provide additional flexibility and allow institutions to determine when governing board approval is obtained in alignment with their board policies as long as the governing board approval occurs prior to consideration by the Commission. Commissioner Matlock made a motion to approve the changes to the policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Koban. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 12 ayes.

B. A1.3 New Academic Units

Dr. Julie Roberts, Chief Academic Officer, presented information on the changes needed to Academic Policy A1.3 New Academic Units, which would streamline the approval process, align the policy with statutory language, and outline required components. Additionally, sections were added to clarify the process for modifications of existing units, including name changes. Commissioner Cope made a motion to approve the changes to the policy. The motion was seconded by Treasurer David Lillard. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 12 ayes.

VII. Move on When Ready Act – ACT Thresholds

Dr. Victoria Harpool, Senior Director of Policy and Effectiveness, presented background information on the collaboration with the State Board of Education and THEC's statutory authority under the *Move on When Ready Act* to recommend the ACT threshold for students participating in the program. Dr. Harpool introduced Dr. Jacob Kamer, Director of Research and Strategy. Dr. Kamer presented information on the evaluation of the ACT thresholds, high school grade point average (GPA), and HOPE scholarship renewal and retention. Following THEC's evaluation, THEC staff recommended a change to the required ACT Math and English subscores, under Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-8103, from a 27 to a 25. Commission members asked questions and a discussion was held. Treasurer Lillard made a motion to approve the changes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kingsolver. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 11 ayes.

Vice Chairman Stafford adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

NEXT THEC COMMISSION MEETING:

Thursday, May 11, 2023, in Nashville

THEC Chairwoman Tara Scarlett

THEC Secretary AC Wharton, Jr.