

TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Spring 2023 Commission Meeting

Third Floor, Tennessee Tower Office Building

312 Rosa L. Parks Ave.

Nashville, TN 37243

May 11, 2023

Link to recording: [THEC Spring 2023 Commission Meeting 5/11/2023 \(tn.gov\)](https://www.tn.gov/newsroom/2023/05/11/thecc-spring-2023-commission-meeting-5-11-2023)

Chairwoman Scarlett called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Member	PRESENT	ABSENT
Chairwoman Tara Scarlett	X	
Commissioner Whitney Allmon	X	
Commissioner Evan Cope		X
Commissioner Andrew Kingsolver	X	
Commissioner Pam Koban	X	
Commissioner Jimmy Matlock	X	
Commissioner Jay Moser	X	
Commissioner Vernon Stafford, Jr.	X	
Commissioner AC Wharton	X	
Commissioner Dakasha Winton	X	
Secretary Tre Hargett	X	
Treasurer David H. Lillard, Jr.	X	
Commissioner Sara Morrison	X	
Comptroller Jason Mumpower	X	

At the start of the meeting there were ten (10) voting members physically present and two (2) voting members participating electronically, constituting a quorum. Commissioner Whitney Allmon and Commissioner Andrew Kingsolver participated electronically. Commissioner Allmon left the meeting at 10:09 a.m.; Secretary Tre Hargett, Treasurer David Lillard, and Comptroller Jason Mumpower left the meeting at 10:21 a.m.; and Chairwoman Scarlett left the meeting at 11:51 a.m. At all times that voting occurred, there was a physical quorum present at the meeting.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairwoman Tara Scarlett made a motion to amend the agenda and adopt the amended agenda by moving the Item V. Executive Director Search Discussion to new Item II. and the Executive Director’s Report to the heel of the calendar. The motion was seconded by Secretary Hargett. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 12 ayes.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 27, 2023, MEETING MINUTES

Secretary Hargett made a motion to approve the January 27, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vernon Stafford. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 12 ayes.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chairwoman Scarlett gave her report.

AGENDA ITEMS

Chairwoman Scarlett 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 Stafford made a motion to approve both items on the consent calendar. The motion was seconded by Comptroller Mumpower. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 12 ayes.

I. 2023-24 Binding Tuition and Fees Ranges

Ms. Crystal Collins, Senior Director of Fiscal Policy, presented information on the Commission's statutory authority to set binding tuition and fees ranges for public higher education institutions. Ms. Collins provided information on the Commission's state appropriations request and the actual budget appropriations and identified three (3) binding tuition range options for the Commission to consider: to set binding tuition and tuition and fees ranges with maximum increases of five point five percent (5.5%); to set binding tuition and tuition and fees ranges with maximum increases of three percent (3%); or to set binding tuition and tuition and fees ranges with maximum increases between three and five point five percent (3-5.5%). Ms. Collins also stated the Commission had the authority to set the range to any value they saw fit.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion was held. Secretary Hargett made a motion to set binding tuition and tuition and fees ranges from zero to three percent (0-3%). The motion was seconded by Comptroller Mumpower. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 12 ayes.

Chairwoman Scarlett requested that staff provide the Commission with funding needs by institutions and the all-in costs for students by institutions.

II. Executive Director Search Discussion

Mr. Lou Hanemann, Chief of Staff, presented, on behalf of the Executive Director Search Committee, an update on the Executive Director search and information on the process of a request for proposal for an Executive Search Firm.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion was held. Commissioner Stafford made a motion to hire an Executive Search Firm to assist in the search for an Executive Director. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pam Koban. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed with 11 ayes and one (1) nay by Commissioner Jimmy Matlock.

Treasurer Lillard moved to appoint the Executive Search Committee to complete a study on Executive Director's salary package and make a recommendation for the full Commission to consider at a Special Called Meeting in June. The motion was seconded by Secretary Hargett. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed with 11 ayes.

III. University of Tennessee, Knoxville Master Plan

Mr. Allen Bolton, Interim Senior Vice Chancellor for Finance Administration, introduced Ms. Jessica Leonard, Principal of Ayers Saint Gross, who presented information on the University of Tennessee, Knoxville's Master Plan. Ms. Leonard provided information on the analysis of space needs, enrollment,

site considerations, facility conditions and renewal plans, land acquisition, infrastructure, student life/services, and implementation and capital plan.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion was held. Commissioner Koban made a motion to approve the master plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Matlock. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with eight (8) ayes.

Chairwoman Scarlett announced that without objection, the Commission would take up the Ford BlueOval City Presentation item before the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga Master Plan.

IV. Ford BlueOval City Presentation

Ms. Vanessa Presson, Director of Employee Relations at BlueOval City, and Mr. Andy Bianco, Manufacturing Learning and Development Manager at BlueOval City, presented information on Ford's investment in electric vehicles and the BlueOval City campus in Haywood County, which will create approximately 6,000 new jobs and reimagine how vehicles and batteries are manufactured. Ms. Presson and Mr. Bianco provided information on how Ford BlueOval City will impact Tennessee and how postsecondary education can help prepare upcoming workforce needs.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion was held.

V. University of Tennessee, Chattanooga Master Plan

Dr. Steven R. Angle, Chancellor, introduced Ms. Krisan Osterby, Campus Planning Leader and Principal of DLR Group. Ms. Osterby presented information on the analysis of space needs, enrollment, site considerations, facility conditions and renewal plans, land acquisition, infrastructure, student life/services, and implementation and capital plan.

Commission members asked questions and a discussion was held. Commissioner A.C. Wharton made a motion to approve the master plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jay Moser. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with eight (8) ayes.

Chairwoman Scarlett announced that to save time, the Commission would receive notes following the meeting for the remaining three (3) agenda items.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Robert Smith, Interim Executive Director, gave a truncated report.

Vice Chairwoman Winton adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

NEXT THEC COMMISSION MEETING:

Thursday, July 20, 2023, in Nashville

THEC Chairwoman Tara Scarlett

THEC Secretary AC Wharton, Jr.