

TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Access, Academics, and Student Success Committee

Minutes of the Access, Academics, and Student Success Committee

Conference Room O, Tennessee Tower Office Building

312 Rosa L. Parks Ave.

Nashville, TN

January 24, 2024

Chairwoman Winton called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Member	PRESENT	ABSENT
Commissioner Tara Scarlett	X	
Secretary Tre Hargett	X	
Commissioner Jacob Knight	X	
Commissioner Sara Morrison	X	
Commissioner A.C. Wharton		X
Chairwoman Dakasha Winton	X	

At the start of the meeting, four (4) voting members were physically present, constituting a quorum.

Adoption of Agenda

Secretary Hargett made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Scarlett seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes: November 15, 2023, Committee Meeting

Secretary Hargett motioned to approve the November 15, 2023, Committee Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Knight seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Postsecondary Education Authorization (*Action Item*)

Chairwoman Winton stated that if there were no objections, she would like the Committee to vote on these items as a slate. Dr. Stephanie Bellard-Chase, Senior Director of Postsecondary State Authorization, provided an overview of the Department of Postsecondary Education Authorization. Dr. Bellard-Chase reported that there were two institutions eligible for regular approval and two institutions eligible for optional expedited approval.

Commissioner Scarlett made a motion to approve the Postsecondary Education Authorization. Secretary Hargett seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

II. Academic Policies (*Action Item*)

Dr. Julie Roberts, Chief Academic Officer, provided an overview of the revised policies, including when the external review process occurs in the academic approval process.

Committee members asked questions and a discussion was held. Commissioner Scarlett made a motion to approve the Academic Policies. Commissioner Knight seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Discussion of Potential Changes to Academic Program Approval Process (*Informational Item*)

Dr. Julie Roberts, Chief Academic Officer, introduced Dr. Katherine Brackett, Director of Academic Affairs, and Ms. Angelica Jones, Director of Academic Affairs. Dr. Brackett provided an overview of the current Academic Program Approval Process and how staff identified three potential options for a new process, as well as campus feedback, next steps, and staff recommendations. Dr. Brackett provided an overview of the three options.

Committee members asked questions, and a discussion was held.

Ms. Jones presented feedback showing that the first and third options had scored highest among campuses. Committee members asked questions, and a discussion was held.

Ms. Jones presented staff recommendations for a pilot program using Option One. Staff would submit an analysis of the approval data from this pilot program to the Committee during the May 2024 meeting, allowing staff to analyze if additional changes are needed.

Committee members asked questions, and a discussion was held.

IV. Other Business

Chairwoman Winton asked if there was any other business. Secretary Hargett commented that the Committee should focus on resuming the leadership position of higher education by being agile, supporting industry conversations on what requirements are needed for graduation, looking at possible changes in what students are paying for their education, and considering what value accreditation agencies are adding.

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

Next Meeting

May 2024

Chairwoman Dakasha Winton