

## TSAC Board Meeting – May 18, 2017

Jayme Simmons welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order.

### ROLL CALL

The following board members/alternate representatives were present for the roll call (x=present, o=absent):

Jayme Simmons x	Dr. Katie High (via telecommunication) x
Mike Krause x	Dr. Gary Adcox x
Claude Pressnell x	John Smarrelli (via telecommunication) x
Courtney Hess x	Karen Houser x
Courtney Swim x	Tom Hughes x
Greg Turner x	Sharon Hayes x
Vicki Kirk x	Keri McInnis o
Randy Schulte x	JuliAnna Dykes (Student Member) x

15 members present.

### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Simmons called for a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was made by Dr. Pressnell and seconded. The motion was duly adopted by the following roll call vote:

Jayme Simmons aye	Dr. Katie High (via telecommunication) aye
Mike Krause (non voting)	Dr. Gary Adcox aye
Dr. Claude Pressnell aye	John Smarrelli (via telecommunication) aye
Courtney Hess aye	Karen Hauser aye
Courtney Swim aye	Tom Hughes aye
Greg Turner aye	Sharon Hayes aye
Vicki Kirk aye	Keri McInnis aye
Dr. Randy Schulte aye	JuliAnna Dykes ( Non voting Student Member)

14 ayes, motion passed.

### ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 27, 2016 MEETING

Chairman Simmons called for any proposals for edits to be made to the previous meeting's minutes prior to the roll call vote on their adoption. Ms. Hauser suggested the following edits: 1) "Fall aversion" to "default aversion", pg. 7, and 2) "EMDC" to "ECMC", pg. 8. A motion to adopt the minutes amended with the listed corrections was made and seconded. The motion was duly adopted by the following roll call vote:

Jayme Simmons aye	Dr. Katie High (via telecommunication)
Mike Krause (non voting)	Dr. Gary Adcox aye
Dr. Claude Pressnell aye	John Smarrelli (via telecommunication) aye
Courtney Hess aye	Karen Hauser aye
Courtney Swim aye	Tom Hughes aye
Greg Turner aye	Sharon Hayes aye
Vicki Kirk aye	Keri McInnis aye
Dr. Randy Schulte aye	JuliAnna Dykes (non voting Student Member)

14 ayes, motion passed.

\*Not present at the time of voting. 14 ayes and the motion was passed.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Simmons was honored to address and work with the board. She expressed gratitude for the board members' service on behalf of the governor. She emphasized the nationwide attention Tennessee's higher education initiatives have been receiving, and that Governor Haslam will be traveling throughout the state to publicly sign the Tennessee Reconnect bill in three communities selected by the Reconnect team.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Simmons called on Mike Krause who gave the executive director's report. He recognized the TSAC and THEC staff. He discussed the following issues:

- The success of the eGRandS system, and the smoothness of its implementation. Mr. Krause recognized the IT personnel who worked on the integration and maintenance of eGRandS;
- The passage of the TN Reconnect legislation, and the extensive work that TSAC and THEC must complete in order to properly prepare for the implementation of the program in fall 2018.
- The continued importance of retaining funding for TN Lottery scholarships, and the efforts of legislators to defend the program's current budget.
- The passage of the Middle College scholarship legislation, which will utilize lottery funding to enable students to graduate high school with an associate degree.
- The percentage of Tennessee high school seniors who filed a FAFSA reaching its highest recorded value.

### **TASFAA President's Report**

Chairman Simmons called on Karen Hauser who presented the TASFAA President's Report. She began with a general recognition of TASFAA's personnel, and went on to outline the agency's progress towards meeting its established goals for the 2016-17 academic year. These goals included:

- The continuance of training workshops for agency staff throughout the fall and during the TASFAA annual spring conference.
- Fall training workshops were held October 19-21, 2016, with TSAC assistance with 214 attending. Training included updates on federal and state financial aid policies. Training sessions were also held at the TASFAA spring conference April 23-26, 2017, with 273 attendees. Several sessions were presented by TSAC personnel. Ms. Hauser recognized Mr. Krause for his address to the conference attendees.
- Restructuring the TASFAA Advisory Committee to TSAC. A meeting to discuss this will be held with TASFAA Past-President Dick Smelser and TSAC staff to discuss collaborative opportunities between the two organizations.
- Supporting TSAC financial aid outreach efforts.
- From September 2016-January 2017, a collective effort was initiated between TASFAA member schools and TSAC to support FAFSA completion efforts.
- Making an official visit to the Tennessee State Capitol during legislative session in February.
- TASFAA acknowledged Darolyn Porter and Tim Phelps for their assistance in keeping the association updated regarding prospective and active legislation pertaining to higher education.

Ms. Hauser concluded by recognizing Leah Louallen, Terri Parchment, and Darolyn Porter (TSAC staff members) who served on the TASFAA board during the prior academic year.

**I. Decision Items**

**A. Appointment of Committee Members, 2017-2018 Year**

Recommendation was for members to retain their offices. Peter Abernathy presented the following changes: 1) David Gregory is no longer TBR Chairman, and 2) Sharon Hayes is recommended for Audit Committee Chairman. There were no questions or concerns from the board members. Chairman Simmons called for a motion to adopt the appointments amended with the changes above. The motion was made and seconded. The motion was adopted by the following roll call vote:

<b>Jayme Simmons aye</b>	<b>Dr. Katie High (via telecommunication)</b>
Mike Krause (non voting)	Dr. Gary Adcox aye
Dr. Claude Pressnell aye	John Smarrelli (via telecommunication) aye
Courtney Hess aye	Karen Hauser aye
Courtney Swim aye	Tom Hughes aye
Greg Turner aye	Sharon Hayes aye
Vicki Kirk aye	Keri McInnis aye
Dr. Randy Schulte aye	JuliAnna Dykes (non voting Student Member)

14 ayes and the motion was passed.

**B. Adoption of Revised Open Records Policy**

Chairman Simmons called on Peter Abernathy to discuss changes to the TSAC Open Records Policy. The majority of changes technical in nature and were made to be more consistent with the THEC policy recently adopted by the Commission. There were no questions or concerns from the board members. Chairman Simmons called for a motion to adopt which was made and seconded. The motion was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Jayme Simmons aye	Dr. Katie High (via telecommunication) aye
Mike Krause (non voting)	Dr. Gary Adcox aye
Dr. Claude Pressnell aye	John Smarrelli (via telecommunication) aye
Courtney Hess aye	Karen Hauser aye
Courtney Swim aye	Tom Hughes aye
Greg Turner aye	Sharon Hayes aye
Vicki Kirk aye	Keri McInnis aye
Randy Schulte aye	JuliAnna Dykes (non voting Student Member)

14 ayes, motion passed.

**II. Discussion items update:**

**A. Promise Scholarship Update**

Chairman Simmons introduced James Snider and Emily House who presented an update on the Tennessee Promise scholarship and results for year 2. In Fall 2017, 23,728 students will be eligible for the scholarship; 6,601 of those are Cohort I students who have retained their eligibility, and 17,127 are Cohort II students. Dr. House stated that potential decreases in recipient students from one semester or academic year to another is not necessarily indicative of a decrease in program efficacy, as students may earn a credential or transfer out of state or to a non-eligible institution

prior to completing two years of college as a TN Promise scholar. The total cost of TN Promise's full second year of operation was \$26,568,850. Dr. House provided quantitative demographic analysis of the first two cohorts, and Mr. Snider explained the ongoing effort to prepare for the third cohort, enrolling in the 2017-18 academic year.

### **B. Tennessee Reconnect Update**

James Snider and Jessica Gibson presented an update on the Tennessee Reconnect scholarship program, which will become effective in fall 2018. While scholarship recipients must be independent students, the majority of requirements are substantially identical to those imposed by TN Promise. The Reconnect program will be supplemented by a robust support structure spanning several levels of organization, including TSAC and THEC, institutional staff trained to assist nontraditional students, and local cooperatives (the "Reconnect Communities"). There are currently eight regional Reconnect Communities, and another two are to be created in the future, providing support to nontraditional learners across the state. A tentative rollout plan was presented, outlining the basic steps necessary to ensure a successful launch of Reconnect in fall 2018. They included the creation and implementation of a college success program targeted at nontraditional learners, a listening and planning tour to facilitate the exchange of policy/practice ideas between participant institutions and coordinating bodies (THEC, TSAC, TBR), the appointment of administrators from each participant institution to act as a liaison between THEC staff and institutional personnel, and assessment and implementation of feedback from institutions and learners after the program is launched. Mr. Snider and Ms. Gibson anticipate a hectic preparation phase, but a smooth launch for Reconnect.

### **C. Student and School Services**

Chairman Simmons introduced Jane Pennington who presented an update on the Student and School Services (SASS) division. She acknowledged her full- and part-time staff, who share more than 260 years in financial aid service between them. A general outline of the restructured division's functions was presented. SASS assists institutions in creating and implementing best practices for the assessment and awarding of financial aid, provides temporary staff as needed (e.g. during peak enrollment periods), and provides informative presentations at schools and conferences. Ms. Pennington reported that the division's License Review Program was a remarkable success. Only 35-40% of those who miss one payment miss another, and a negligible proportion of those miss a third. SASS also conducts financial literacy workshops to inform students of how they can best minimize their loans, establish suitable payment plans, and prepare for life after college.

### **D. Communication Services**

Diane Lejeune presented an update on the division. All of Communication Services' programs are provided to Tennessee residents and are conducive to the goals of Governor Haslam's Drive to 55 Initiative. Outreach activities, phone calls, and live chats have allowed division staff to connect with 125,000 Tennesseans in the first five months of 2017 alone. Of particular note were the FAFSA Frenzy outreach events conducted throughout the state in early 2017. The division collaborated with the TASFAA and private partner organizations to facilitate the events. Communication Services has also been working to increase participation in Dual Enrollment, a program Ms. Lejeune described as "underdeveloped". The division held 30 Junior Nights statewide to promote Dual Enrollment.

### **E. Operating Fund**

Peter Abernathy provided a report on the TSAC operating fund. He described the distinction between the corporation's federal and operating funds. The Operating fund currently holds \$24.5 million that can be allocated to various student aid projects. Mr. Krause suggests that a sizeable

portion of the funds could be used to provide one final injection of capital into the TN Promise program. Alternative suggestions from board members included provisions for learning supplies/institutional services and an increase to the \$2.4 million in the Ned Ray McWherter Scholarship endowment. Some of the funds will also be allocated to the TN Reconnect startup.

#### **F. Legislative Update**

Peter Abernathy also provided a brief update on legislature pertaining to TSAC. The following items were discussed:

- A \$10 million increase in funding to TSAA, which will enable the program to serve an additional 5,400 students.
- A recurring \$300,000 increase for McWherter scholarships. Combined with funds reallocated to McWherter from underutilized scholarships, this makes \$1.3 million in appropriations for the program.
- The Math and Science scholarship was amended to reduce the time required for teaching to one year for every one year the scholarship is received. Previously, the law required two years of service for every year that a student received aid.
- The passing of a bill that requires Dual Enrollment students to submit one application per academic year, rather than the previous requirement of one application per semester. As with the item above, this alteration was done to broaden the reach of the associated program.

Chairman Simmons thanked the board members for their attendance and participation and called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made and seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.