

Board of Trustees Meeting
December 5, 2019
Roaden University Center, Room 282

MINUTES

AGENDA ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Tennessee Tech Board of Trustees met in regular session on December 5, 2019, in the Roaden University Center, Room 282. Chair Trudy Harper called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Chair Harper asked Kae Carpenter, Secretary, to call the roll. The following members were present:

- x Mason Hilliard
- x Tom Jones
- x Fred Lowery
- x Sally Pardue
- x Rhedona Rose
- x Johnny Stites
- x Teresa Vanhooser
- x Barry Wilmore
- x Trudy Harper

Tennessee Tech faculty, staff, and members of the public were also in attendance.

Chair Harper welcomed the Board's newest member, Fred Lowery, and announced he would be serving as a member of the Academic & Student Affairs C

AGENDA ITEM 2 SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT AND FACULTY EXCELLENCE

Chair Harper welcomed the representatives from the Tennessee Tech GeoClub, which placed third in the 36th annual GeoConclave event. She introduced the faculty advisor Dr. Jeannette Wolak and students Alexis Bowen, president of the GeoClub, and Allison Bohanon, member of the GeoClub and president of the campus chapter of the Earth Sciences Honor Society. Dr. Wolak introduced students Eric Fry and Alex Guerra

Dr. Wolak stated that the GeoConclave was a yearly competition in which students competed against other universities that Alex Guerra placed first in the Pace and Compass competition, and Allison Bohanon placed first in the Geologic Mapping competition.

The GeoClub presented the Board members with Sphalerite mineral samples, which were mined at the Gordonsville, Tennessee mine.

Chair Harper asked Dr. Wolak to talk about her work with a Mars crater. Dr. Wolak stated that as a result of her work mapping for NASA she was able to name a crater that she discovered. She stated that Allison Bohanon was also able to name a crater this year.

Dr. Williams stated that the Student Conduct Rule, which the Board approved in 2017 was being revised to add language that complied with the Student Due Process Protection Act of 2018 and changed the standard for finding of a violation from clear and convincing evidence to a preponderance of the evidence. She stated that adoption of a preponderance standard of evidence aligned Tennessee Tech with all other state public institutions. She stated that, in addition, some terms related to prohibited conduct and disciplinary holds on records were clarified and a provision related to the application of the student conduct rule to prospective students' pre-attendance conduct was added. (SAC 0002 Top 5 Terms) (a)

AGENDA ITEM 4: RULEMAKING HEARING -

AGENDA ITEM 5: ~~APPROVAL OF POLICIES RELATED TO RULES~~ POLICY 415
(GENERAL PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION POLICY)

Dr. Stinson stated that TTU Policy 415 (General Parking and Transportation Policy) was revised to align with the changes made in the parking, traffic, and safety rule.

Capt. Wilmore moved to approve TTU Policy 415 (General Parking and Transportation Policy) as presented. Ms. Vanhooser seconded the motion. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, the motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5: ~~APPROVAL OF POLICIES RELATED TO RULES~~ POLICY 110

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President Oldham stated the search for the next Vice President for Research was entering the interview stage. He stated Provost Bruce was heading the search and anticipated having candidates on campus for interviews in January.

President Oldham stated that the first component to the budget was the recommendation from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC). He stated that the proposed engineering building was the top priority in the THEC recommendation. He stated that the engineering building was awarded \$250,000 of appropriation during the past legislative session for the purpose of beginning the design process. He stated that a designer had been selected and the process would begin soon.

President Oldham stated that THEC would be recommending an additional \$2,300,000 for the funding formula and \$8,100,000 in capital maintenance funds. He stated that these were recommendations only and would be more fully considered in the spring.

President Oldham stated Rural Reimagined projects were ongoing and that Tennessee Tech was becoming synonymous with rural issues and rural solutions. He stated that a number of strategic partnerships were being evaluated from regional, state, and national levels. He stated that NSF, SAIC, various State of Tennessee departments, and local governments in many of the distressed counties surrounding Cookeville had expressed interest in working with Tennessee Tech on Rural Reimagined projects. He stated that economic development continued to be a Tennessee Tech focus due to its impact on the surrounding communities and students. He stated that classrooms and clubs on campus were putting more focus on innovation and establishing solutions for the future. He stated there were 500 students engaged through classes and clubs involving Rural Reimagined, including 15 freshman courses focused on rural projects and a student club that was organized around the topic.

President Oldham stated that this particular Board meeting was focusing on demystifying the process of going to college, paying for college, finishing college, and launching a successful career. He stated that as a part of this goal, this year a university-wide Student Success Center was being launched that would focus on freshman and undeclared students. He stated that professional advisors would be available to serve students as they transition to university life. He stated that this effort was a product of the strategic planning process led by the faculty.

President Oldham stated that a recent Educational Advisory Board survey showed that the top three reasons a student chose to enroll in a particular university was campus environment, academic reputation, and cost. He stated that almost all the buildings on the quad have been renovated, all but one traditional residence hall has been renovated, and the final residence hall was currently being renovated. He stated the new addition to

AGENDA ITEM 8.A: AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
– REPORT- DISCUSSION OF FULLTIME/PARTTIME TUITION MODEL

~~AGENDA ITEM 8.B. AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS~~
~~– CONSENT AGENDA- POLICY 530 (DEBT MANAGEMENT), POLICY 531 (TENNESSEE STATE SCHOOL BOND INTERCEPT), AND POLICY 537 (NAMING BUILDINGS, FACILITIES, AND ORGANIZATIONAL UNITS)~~

Mr. Stites stated that TTU Policies 530 (Debt Management), 531 (Tennessee State School Bond Intercept), and 537 (Naming Buildings, Facilities, and Organizational Units) were presented to the Committee.

Mr. Stites, upon the Committee's recommendation, moved to approve TTU Policies 530 (Debt Management), 531 (Tennessee State School Bond Intercept), and 537 (Naming Buildings, Facilities, and Organizational Units). Mr. Jones seconded the motion. After an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, the motion carried unanimously.

~~AGENDA ITEM 8.C. AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS~~
~~– REGULAR AGENDA APPROVAL OF 2019-20 OCTOBER REVISED BUDGET/ORGANIZATIONAL CHART~~

Mr. Stites stated that the Committee reviewed and recommended approval of the Tennessee Tech 2019-20 October Revised Budget/Organizational Chart.

Mr. Stites, upon the Committee's recommendation, moved to approve the Tennessee Tech 2019-20 October Revised Budget/Organizational Chart, including the performance pay outcomes recommended by the Audit & Business Committee. Ms. Vanhooser seconded the motion. After an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, the motion carried unanimously.

~~AGENDA ITEM 8.C. AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS~~
~~– REGULAR AGENDA APPROVAL OF REVISED MANDATORY FEE STRUCTURE~~

Mr. Stites stated that the revised mandatory fee structure would simplify the structure by establishing a consistent maximum hour limit and packaging all mandatory fees into a "program service fee."

Mr. Stites, upon the Committee's recommendation, moved to approve the revised mandatory fee structure, including maxing all mandatory fees at six hours, not exceeding a cumulative maximum of \$639 per semester, and packaging all the mandatory fees into one fee named the Program Service Fee. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. After an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, the motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 8.C. AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
– REGULAR AGENDA APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-STATE TUITION RATE

Mr. Stites stated the approval of out-of-state tuition rate recommendation would simplify and lower Tennessee Tech's domestic out-of-state tuition model to become more competitive with other state universities, gain access to new markets, and aid in recruiting diverse students.

Mr. Stites, upon the Committee's recommendation, moved to approve the out-of-state tuition rate of \$140 per hour for part-time students and a flat rate of \$2,100 for domestic undergraduates taking greater than 11 credit hours, and a flat rate of \$1,680 for fulltime domestic graduate students taking greater than nine credit hours. Mr. Lowery seconded the motion.

Chair Harper stated that there was extensive discussion on this topic during the Audit & Business Committee's meeting earlier that day.

Ms. Vanhooser stated that she was concerned about additional funding to compensate for the lowered out-of-state tuition. She stated that there should be a plan for how Tennessee Tech would be able to reach out to out-of-state prospective students, because traveling out of state could become expensive.

Chair Harper stated that the Board was aware and was willing to take on the challenge.

Mr. Stites amended the motion to approve the out-of-state tuition rate of \$140 per hour for part-time students and a flat rate of \$2,100 for domestic undergraduates taking greater than 11 credit hours, and a flat rate of \$1,680 for fulltime domestic graduate students taking greater than nine credit hours. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Mr. Jones later move to clarify that the out-of-state- tuition rate would be effective Fall 2020 and the Board approved that clarification.

Mr. Jones stated that Tennessee Tech was attractive to prospective students not only for the cost, but many other factors, such as aesthetics and culture, make Tennessee Tech unique.

Chair Harper stated that she hoped the lowered out-of-state tuition rate would foster more diversity at Tennessee Tech.

With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, the motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 8.C. AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
– REGULAR AGENDA TUITION TRANSPARENCY ACT REPORT (T.C.A. § 14-604)

Mr. Stites stated that every year the Board is required to provide a report to the General Assembly with information regarding expenditures of revenues derived from any tuition and fee increases in the previous full academic year. He stated that the report must include how revenues were used, the effect on student financial aid, and the effect on average total cost of attendance per student.

Mr. Stites, upon the Committee's recommendation, moved to approve the Tuition Transparency Act report. Ms. Rose seconded the motion. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, the motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 9.A: ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
REPORT- LETTER OF NOTIFICATION FOR BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN FINE ARTS

Ms. Rose stated that a letter of notification for a Bachelor of Science in Fine Arts was submitted to THEC. She stated that the purpose of this degree was to provide an additional educational opportunity and graduation pathway for students wishing to major in art or music in an accredited program. She stated that the program

AGENDA ITEM 10: OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Harper stated in 2020 that the Board would hold its regular meetings on March 12, June 23, September 29, and December 1.

AGENDA ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

Approved,

Kae