

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

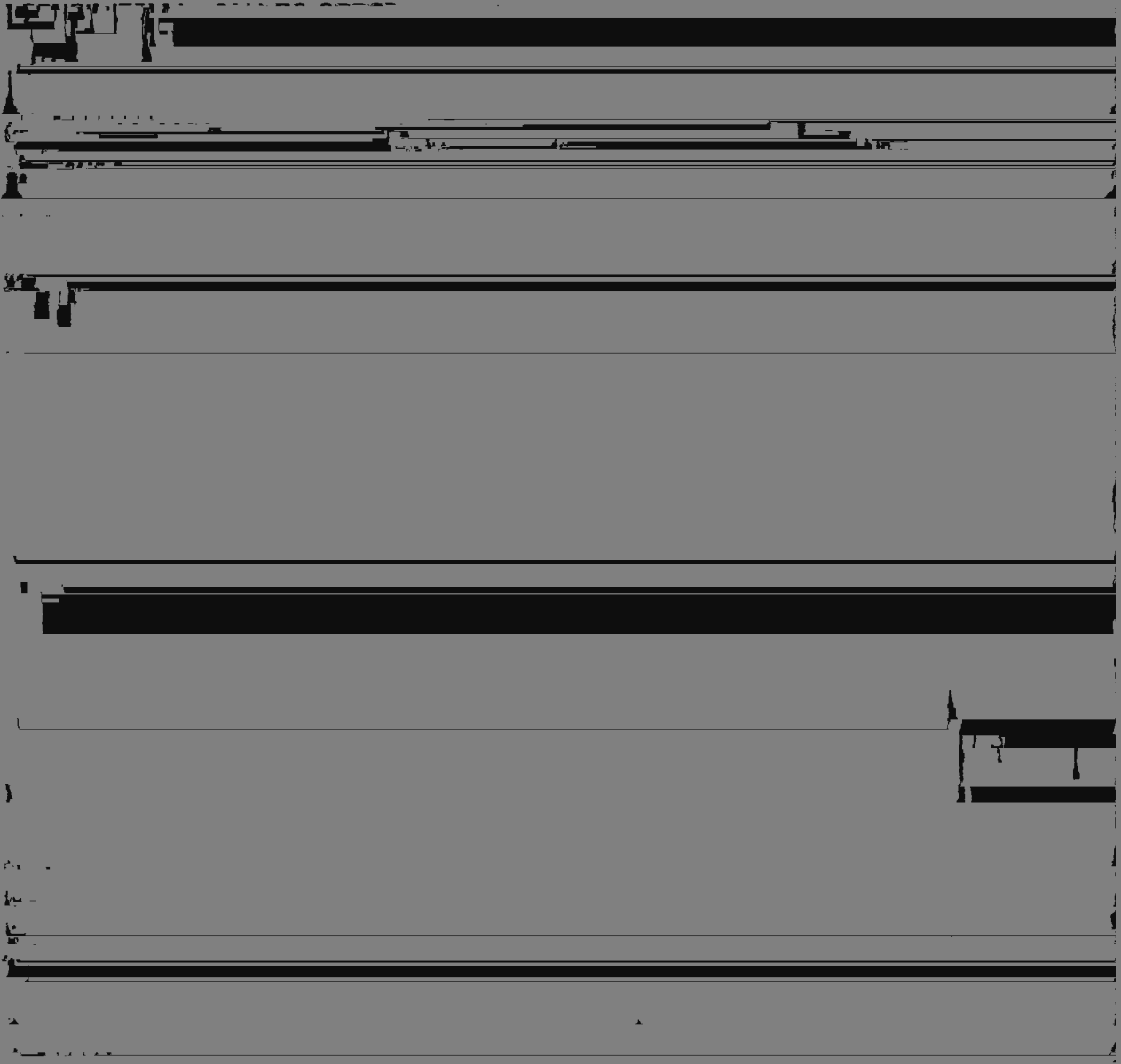
June 20, 2024

Roaden University Center, Room 282

## M NUTES

Meeting streamed live via link found on this web page:

<https://www.tntech.edu/board/board-and-board-committee-meetings.php>

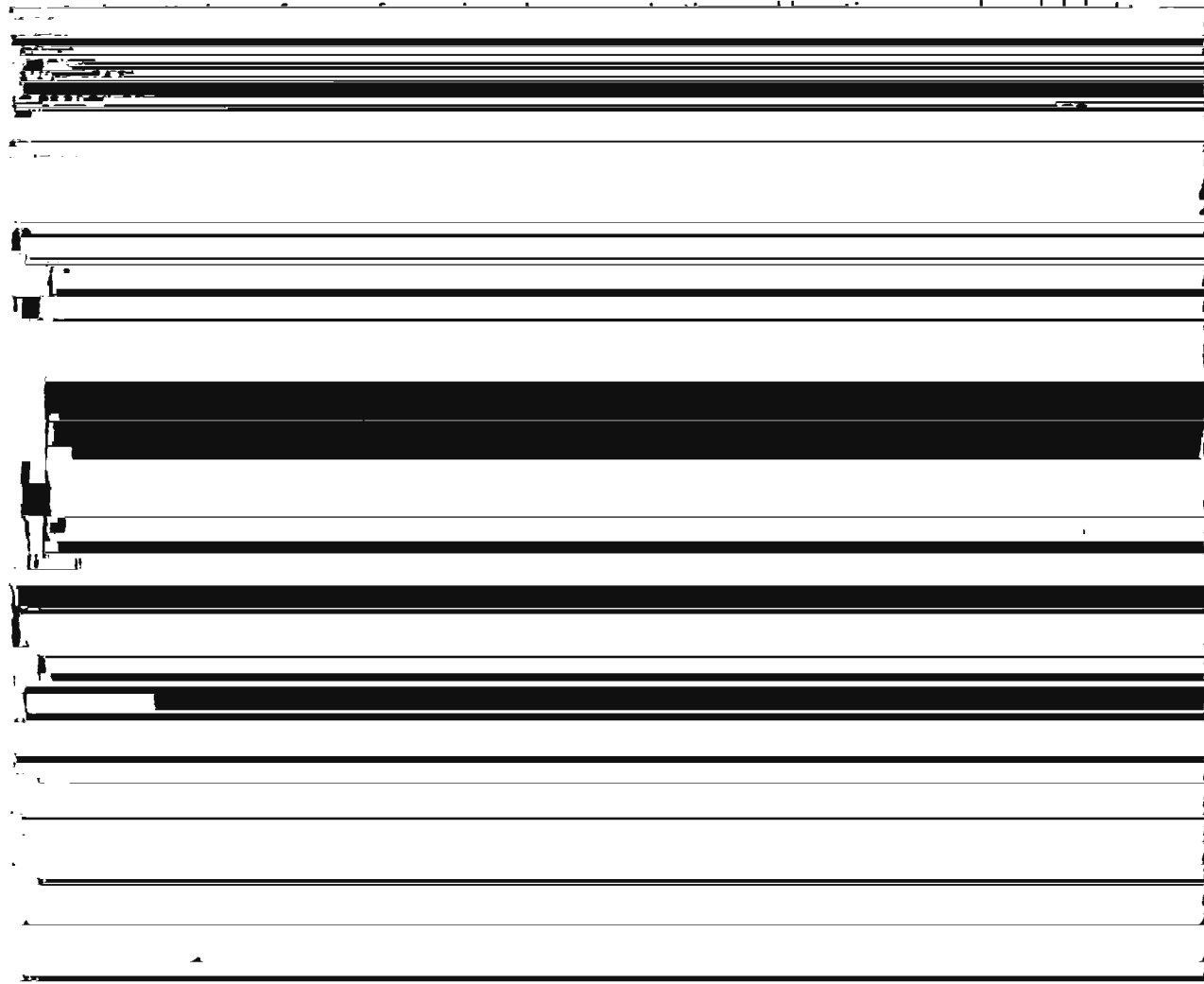


**AGENDA ITEM II – SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS**

Three successful student-athletes – Tim Coutras, Reghan Grimes and Grant Slatten -- shared their experiences while at Tennessee Tech, why they chose to attend Tech, how they manage their time commitment, and what they plan to do after graduation.

Winners of the Eagle Works competition were also recognized. Eagle Works is Tennessee Tech’s version of Shark Tank and is based on student creativity, ideas, viability and business plans for marketing the products. Addison Dorris and Vivekanand Naikwadi were members of the winning teams where the students presented their ideas and prototypes or inventions, and faculty and staff and local industry members voted to select the winners.

**AGENDA ITEM III – RECOGNITION OF RETIRING FACULTY**



team coach, was unable to join the meeting but was recognized for 58 years of distinguished service to Tennessee Tech. Dr. Kash began employment at Tech in 1966 and will be retiring

...has been set up in his and his wife's names. A

Enrollment kicked off fall semester with the fourth largest freshman class in University history. The large class size will help us reach our short-term enrollment goal of 12,000 students.

Tennessee Tech is ranked as a top national university in the country for the ninth straight year by *U.S. News and World Report* and moved up 35 rankings this year. Tech continues to be ranked the second highest public university in the state of Tennessee. Tech continues to have the highest return on investment by pay scale of any Tennessee public university and is one of the top 250 graduate schools as ranked by *Abound*. Faculty continue to excel and lead the state in research and teaching. Evidence of this is

the perfect score received this past year from Tennessee Higher Education Commission on the Quality Assurance Funding Review.

Tech established a new Machine Intelligence and Data Science Center (MInDS) that will bring the power of AI in solving real-world problems and will prepare our students for careers in the digital age.

Tennessee Tech will end this fiscal year in about a week at roughly \$45 million in externally funded research activations. About four years ago, we stated we were going to double research funding and get to \$40 million by 2025. We are now at \$45 million and we achieved the goal a year early. He thanked Vice President Liu for all his efforts.

Dr. Olheim thanked the Present Dean Slater, engineering faculty, members of the

Board of Trustees and university federal partners, Congressman John Rose and Congressman Chuck Fleischmann, for helping Tech secure the final Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) approval to launch the new nuclear engineering degree program this fall, only the second nuclear engineering program in the state of Tennessee.

- Major renovations are ongoing at Johnson Hall and design is in the final detail stage. As part of that project, Foster Hall is beginning demolition and the area will be converted into greenspace for the foreseeable future.

The JJ Oakley Innovation Residence Hall and the ACME building are progressing well now. We expect the Oakley Residence Hall to be completed for the Fall '27 semester and the ACME building design is being finalized now.

The overall quality of campus landscaping is outstanding. The grounds crew that plans and maintains the campus landscape does an outstanding job.

The new west side of Tucker Stadium is finishing up design and will accommodate a new home dressing room, new press box and all premium seating. Demolition on the old west side will begin in the next few weeks. The new west side is scheduled to open fall 2026.

Dr. Oldham stated that he especially wanted to thank all our partners for making these

possible: the District Board of Trustees, the Cookeville City Council,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Averitt Express, members of the Board of Trustees and community supporters who have given generously to help support all these efforts and many more

with other universities, community colleges and K-12 entities around the state. Most of

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



vote. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM IX – ELECTION OF STUDENT TRUSTEE**

Chair Harper stated that the FOCUS Act requires the Board to select a student as a non-voting member. Tennessee Tech’s Student Government Association (SGA) developed a process for selecting a candidate to present to the Board for consideration. The nominee selected by the SGA was Claire Myers.

Dr. Luna moved to approve Claire Myers to serve as the student trustee for fiscal year 2024-25.

Mr. Stites seconded the motion. Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM X – BOARD SECRETARY REPORT**

Mr. Wray stated that Vice Chair Deane will coordinate the President’s evaluation and Deb Combs

[REDACTED]

will communicate to Trustees when the evaluation is available in Diligent.

Mr. Wray will continue to send training materials, podcasts, FAQs, general topic points, etc. about Boards around the country to Trustees. He also stated that the Diligent Resource Center

Lee Wray, Secr