

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COMMITTEE

May 13, 2013
Nashville, Tennessee

The Trusteeship Committee of the Board of Trustees of The University of Tennessee met at 9:30 a.m. CDT on Monday, May 13, 2013, in the offices of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings in Nashville, Tennessee.

I. CALL TO ORDER

James L. Murphy, III, Chair, called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Catherine S. Mizell, Secretary, called the roll, and the following members of the Trusteeship Committee were present:

James L. Murphy, III, Chair
Anne Holt Blackburn
Joseph A. DiPietro
Don C. Stansberry, Jr.

The Secretary announced the presence of a quorum of the Committee. Trustee Tanner was unable to attend. Trustee Crawford Gallimore and members of the administrative staff were also present.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Chair Murphy called for any corrections to the minutes of the January 28, 2013 meeting of the Committee. There being none, Trustee Stansberry moved approval of the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

IV. 2013 WINTER MEETING EVALUATION

Secretary Mizell noted that 16 of 20 Trustees responded to the Winter Meeting Evaluation survey, which was a significant improvement in response rate. The evaluation summary (Exhibit 1) shows numeric scores for the six committee meetings and the full Board meeting.

Trustee suggestions to improve meetings included: (1) a request for Research,

Outreach, and Economic Development meetings to include more specific data demonstrating how the University is carrying out its research mission; (2) a request for more time in committee meetings to discuss hot topics; and (3) a request for all data presentations to be provided in advance of the meeting.

To improve the value of the meeting evaluation process, the Committee requested that standing committee chairs be informed of Trustee comments; that the survey instrument be revised to require an explanation for a "less than satisfactory" rating; and that future survey reports indicate numbers rather than percentage of responses.

V. BYLAW AMENDMENTS ON APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRS

The Secretary explained that the subject of appointing committee vice chairs had been raised at a prior meeting of the Committee and that the purpose of appointing vice chairs would be to promote training of Trustees for Board leadership positions, to avoid a leadership gap when a vacancy occurs in a chair position before the expiration of the term, and to facilitate the scheduling of meetings.

Trustee Stansberry questioned whether naming a vice chair creates the expectation of the Trustee becoming that committee's next chair, and a discussion ensued. As a result of the discussion, the consensus of the Committee was to defer action on the proposed Bylaw amendments pending further study of the need for and function of committee vice chairs.

Trustee Stansberry moved to defer action on the proposed Bylaw amendments (Exhibit 2) to a future meeting. Trustee Blackburn seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

VI. PLANNING THE 2013 SUMMER WORKSHOP

The Secretary explained that members of the Trusteeship and the Executive and Compensation Committees had been asked to review the System Strategic Plan, Dashboard, and Implementation Actions to identify possible topics for the workshop. The Secretary reported that retention/graduation rates – and the related subjects of advising and summer school – were the most frequently suggested topics. The Committee concluded that the 2013 workshop should focus on those subjects.

The Committee also concluded that the workshop should present best practices and strategies being implemented by comparable institutions to improve retention and graduation rates, how more effective use of the Summer Term might promote

improvement in graduation rates, and the effectiveness of campus advising programs. With respect to the effectiveness of advising, Trustee Gallimore suggested a profile of advising services provided to students from first entering the University through graduation. Trustee Stansberry noted that the results of the internal audit of advising programs should be presented at the workshop. At President DiPietro's suggestion, the Committee agreed that Chancellor John Morgan of the Tennessee Board of Regents should be invited to address community colleges and pathways to UT programs. The Committee also suggested that Commissioner Kevin Huffman be invited to address K-12 initiatives to improve preparation for higher education.

Concerning format, the Committee urged that presentations focus less on what campuses are currently doing and more on best practices/strategies for the future. The Committee also urged that presentations be brief and followed by sufficient time for Trustee discussion.

Concerning the schedule, the Committee concluded that the workshop should begin at noon on September 5, include Chancellor Morgan's address at dinner that evening, and conclude mid-afternoon on September 6. The Committee also concluded that the workshop should be held at the Ellington Agricultural Center in Nashville.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to come before the Committee for action.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,


Catherine S. Mizell, Secretary