

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE

October 18, 2013  
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee of the Board of Trustees of The University of Tennessee met at 8:30 a.m. EDT, Friday, October 18, 2013, in Hollingsworth Auditorium on the campus of The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture in Knoxville.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Vicky Gregg called the meeting to order.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Dr. Katie High called the roll.

The following committee members and faculty/student representatives were present:

Mr. Jake Baker  
Mr. Rick Drewry  
Dr. Joseph DiPietro  
Mr. Robert Fisher  
Mr. John Foy  
Ms. Vicky Gregg, Chair  
Dr. David Golden  
Ms. Monice Hagler  
Ms. Sabrina Hurlock  
Mr. Brad Lampley  
Ms. Bonnie Lynch  
Dr. Deborah McAllister  
Dr. Rich Rhoda  
Dr. Jeff Rogers  
Mr. Karl Schledwitz  
Mr. Shalin Shah

Dr. Victoria Steinberg  
Mr. Martin Walker  
Dr. Thad Wilson

The following were absent:

Mr. Charles Buford  
Dr. George Cook  
Commissioner Kevin Huffman  
Commissioner Julius Johnson  
Mr. Ben Maddox  
Mr. Chris Wilson

Dr. High announced the presence of a quorum of the voting members of the Committee. Other Trustees, administrative staff, members of the public, and representatives of the media were also present.

### **III. OPENING REMARKS BY COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Chair Gregg welcomed the group to the meeting. She asked the student and faculty representatives to introduce themselves.

### **IV. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Chair Gregg called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the last meeting. Trustee Foy moved approval, Trustee Hagler seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **V. HONORARY DEGREE, UT KNOXVILLE**

Chancellor Cheek proposed awarding an honorary doctorate to E.O. Wilson. Dr. Wilson was the Joseph Pellegrino University Research Professor in Entomology at Harvard University. He is regarded as the founder of sociobiology, the study of the genetic basis of the social behavior of all animals and humans. Wilson was a pioneer in the field of biodiversity studies and edited a key book on the subject for the National Academy of Sciences. Upon the Board's approval, the degree will be conferred at the spring 2014 commencement ceremony.

Trustee Hagler moved that an Honorary Doctor of Science and Letters in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, be

awarded to Dr. E.O. Wilson (Exhibit 1). Trustee Schledwitz seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **VI. STRATEGIC PLAN DASHBOARD REVIEW--ENHANCING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

Dr. Katie High presented an update on the first goal of the Strategic Plan as it affects the educational experience of the students (Exhibit 2). The dashboard, which contains up-to-date information, can be found on the UT President's website.

Dr. High presented metrics in the following areas: undergraduate student enrollment, graduate student enrollment, average ACT scores for new freshmen, six-year graduation rates for new freshmen, number of bachelor's degrees awarded, number of master's or education specialist degrees awarded, and number of doctoral degrees awarded. Additional data were included in the meeting materials (Exhibit 3).

## **VII. RETENTION AND GRADUATION, NEXT STEPS**

Chair Gregg recognized Dr. High to present this item as follow up to the September Board of Trustees Workshop.

Dr. High noted the report from the Education Advisory Board (Exhibit 4). Following the Workshop it was suggested that campuses look at the 130 best practices compiled from UT peers across the country and tailor those practices to best fit The University of Tennessee. Another item discussed was the use of data in order to analyze the root causes of attrition. The Board also learned that retention is high-touch and high-cost, due to the number of advisors, career counselors, and other staff necessary to retain students.

Each of the campuses will develop a retention plan, refining the high-risk students, and establish goals and strategies, using current data. These plans will be presented to the Board at the Winter Board Meeting in 2014.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the balancing of resources in order to make the high-touch approach possible. Dr. DiPietro described the University's effort to secure additional funding from the state in order to invest in hiring more professional advisors and staff to aid in student retention. Additional discussion

continued among the Committee regarding available tracking software and other best practices currently implemented by the campuses.

Trustees Stansberry and Schledwitz encouraged steps to increase in the number of students who sign waiver forms allowing parents to have access to grades and other educational records.

#### **VIII. FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENTS' REPORT ON ADVISING SUMMIT**

Dr. India Lane presented on the UT Advising Summit (Exhibit 5).

Following Dr. Lane's presentation, the faculty senate presidents from each of the undergraduate campuses reported on their reactions to the summit and their experiences as advisors on their campus.

The faculty senate presidents were questioned about the number of students they advise, the number of hours it takes to advise, and how advising fits into their annual reviews. Each of the faculty senate presidents spoke to these issues.

#### **IX. UT KNOXVILLE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING PRESENTATION**

Chancellor Jimmy Cheek introduced Dr. Wayne Davis, Dean of the College of Engineering.

Dr. Wayne Davis presented an update on the College, as it has recently celebrated its 175 year anniversary. Dr. Davis reported the various types of programs available to students. The college has seen enrollment numbers increase by about 34 percent since 2004. Dr. Davis also described the College of Engineering's 5-year plan to help UT Knoxville reach the Top 25, which includes a proposal for additional recurring financing.

Trustee Ferguson noted that while the College of Engineering seems to be growing, but enrollments in other colleges seem to remain flat. He asked whether the other colleges would follow Engineering's pattern, or if the goal is to change the mix of the enrollment.

Dr. DiPietro described the change in enrollment numbers and the demand for various programs at UT Knoxville. Biomedical and health profession fields are also economic drivers and could benefit from a similarly modeled program.

**X. OTHER BUSINESS**

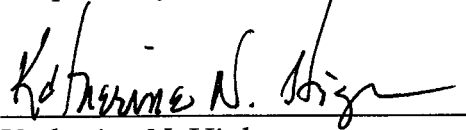
There was no other business.

Trustee Schledwitz commented on the amount of interaction with both faculty and students at the meeting, applauding Chair Gregg for encouraging such interaction from the student and faculty representatives.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Gregg adjourned the meeting at 10:21 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine N. High", written over a horizontal line.

Katherine N. High  
Vice President for Academic  
Affairs and Student Success