MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

July, 18, 2001
Knoxville, Tennessee

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees of The University of Tennessee was held at 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 18, 2001, in the Board Room, Andy Holt Tower, Knoxville.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Johnnie D. Amonette, Vice Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

The Secretary called the roll, and the following were present:

- Mrs. Johnnie Amonette
- Mrs. Barbara C. Castleman
- Mr. Charles E. Coffey
- Mr. J. Steven Ennis
- Mr. Emerson H. Fly
- Mr. James A. Haslam, II
- Mr. Waymon L. Hickman
- Dr. Rhynette N. Hurd
- Mr. Jerry L. Jackson
- Mr. D. Lynn Johnson
- Mr. Frank J. Kinser
- Mrs. Andrea J. Loughry
- Mr. R. Clayton McWhorter
- Ms. Tiffany Smith
- Commissioner Dan Wheeler
- Mrs. Susan R. Williams

The Secretary announced that a quorum was present.

III. INTRODUCTION OF MS. TIFFANY SMITH

Vice Chair Amonette introduced and welcomed Ms. Tiffany Smith, newly appointed Student Trustee from The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.
Here we are again. It hardly seems like a year has gone by since the students were last asked to subsidize the State’s inadequacies. As you can imagine, I’m not in favor of raising tuition, but then again, who is? I understand that the State has left us with no other viable option, but I am disappointed. It boggles the mind the State doesn’t realize that investing in higher education is an investment in the long term well being of this great state. As a young man looking toward the future of my home, I don’t understand why Tennessee is satisfied with mediocrity in higher education. It’s terrific that K-12 is better funded. I am a product of Tennessee’s public schools since the age of five, but it’s just sad that after grade 12, the best option is elsewhere. The State of Tennessee is doing higher education a great injustice, and I hate that students once again have to shoulder the financial burden of the University. The reality is that fifteen percent increase is going to happen. That fifteen percent is a lot, just like 9.5 percent was a lot last year, and fifteen percent was a lot the year before. These are just the increases since I’ve been here. Why fifteen percent? I have no clue. I wish I had a CPA mind like my father so then maybe I’d understand it a little bit better. There are a lot of budgetary concepts that I don’t understand. However, one thing I do understand is that we have seen very high increases in costs when the rest of the world is working with a relatively constant three percent inflation rate. Since our increase is so high, we should expect to not just be maintaining the status quo. We should be seeing tangible benefits as well. It’s hard to believe that we’re paying fifteen percent more just for the same. Why have University costs gone up fifteen percent but students’ and their parent’s salaries haven’t? Fortunately for myself and I think for many of you, paying for an education at UT is still manageable but this is not true for the students who are paying their own way, the students who are working forty hours a week. Tuition is just part of the expense of attending college. Have you purchased books lately? Without this increase we could lose some of our best faculty, but with this increase we could be losing some of our best students. Tennessee is just one of the many states having this problem. This is our challenge to the State. Will Tennessee be a pioneer? Will Tennessee step up and realize that an investment in higher education is an investment in the future well being? I guess we’ll see next year. I’m just glad I’m an optimist. Thank you very
much for allowing me this opportunity to address the Board.

V. ADOPTION OF STUDENT FEES FOR FY 2001-2002

Mr. Lynn Johnson moved adoption of student fee increases for FY 2001-2002 as recommended by the Finance Committee (Exhibit 1). Mr. James A. Haslam, II, seconded.

Mr. Jerry Jackson noted he would vote for the motion because there is no choice but asked he be on record expressing concern with student fee increases.

The motion carried unanimously.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Catherine S. Mizell
Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary