

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING  
May 10, 2018  
Knoxville, Tennessee

Upon the call of the Vice Chair, a special meeting of The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees was held at 11:00 a.m. CDT, on Thursday, May 10, 2018, by teleconference originating from the offices of Adams and Reese, LLP, 424 Church Street, Suite 2700 in Nashville, Tennessee.

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION**

Raja J. Jubran, Vice Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Secretary Catherine S. Mizell called the roll, and the following members were present in person or by telephone:

Charles C. Anderson, Jr.  
Terrance G. Cooper  
Spruell Driver, Jr.  
William E. Evans  
John N. Foy (joined by telephone after the roll call)  
Crawford Gallimore  
Vicky B. Gregg  
Raja J. Jubran  
Brad A. Lampley  
Andrew P. McBride  
Candice McQueen  
Sharon J. Miller Pryse  
David A. Shepard  
Rachel M. Smith  
Jai Templeton  
John D. Tickle (joined by telephone after the roll call)  
Julia T. Wells  
Tommy Whittaker

The Secretary announced the presence of a quorum. The Secretary reminded the members of the requirements of the Open Meetings Act for meetings in which members participate by electronic means, and she identified those other than Trustees who were

presidents earlier in the day or whether it was only a statement of the three presidents. Trustee Smith said she understood the presidents consulted with their executive cabinets but to her knowledge there was no formal vote. Trustee McBride confirmed that the Executive Council of the Student Government Association at UTHSC voted against participating in the joint letter from SGA presidents.

The Vice Chair commented that students are the University's clients and the most important thing about what the University does. He said he has known many students who have thought highly of Dr. DiPietro, and many faculty members as well. For that reason, he said, and in light of the recent censure resolution, it is very important to set the record straight and offer this Resolution by the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Evans said he agreed with everything the Vice Chair had said and is committed to voting in support of the Resolution indicating full confidence in President DiPietro but added that he did not see any value in point number one on page three of the Resolution, which expressed thoughts about whether the UT Knoxville Faculty Senate had sought the truth. He said he did not think they found the truth, but does not know what they did to seek it. He reiterated that he did not see value in making that a public argument between the Trustees and the Faculty Senate, knowing the Faculty Senate is a very small percentage of the total faculty. He said he would prefer that the Resolution be framed in a positive sense on points two and three being the Board's support of Dr. DiPietro and removing the expression of disappointment with the Faculty Senate.

The Vice Chair asked Trustee Evans if he was making a substitute motion, and Trustee Evans responded he was. Trustee Pryse, who made the original motion, accepted the substitution of Trustee Evans' motion, and the substitute motion was seconded. The Vice Chair called for discussion on Trustee Evans' substitute motion, and to be clear noted that the substitute motion by Trustee Evans deleted article one on page three of the Resolution. The Vice Chair added that the language being deleted from the Resolution was included to document that some of the statements in the censure resolution were not true and were unfair to Dr. DiPietro, who has done such a great job for the University. He mentioned increased appropriations from the state, increase in capital projects, and restoration of credibility in the institution and the office of President. He said he will vote in favor of the substitute motion because he agrees that an argument with the faculty is not productive as long as the reputations of Dr. DiPietro and the institution are protected.

The Secretary announced that Trustee Tickle had joined the meeting by telephone and informed him of those present at the meeting location in Nashville.

Trustee Cooper said he was not speaking for the UTHSC Faculty Senate or the University Faculty Council but was personally disappointed that a censure of this type was made. He said he did not think it was a course of action that should have been taken.

but for the other 2%, it might be about accountability. He added that the procedures for post-tenure review have not yet been developed, and the faculty will have an opportunity to participate in the development.

A Trustee called the question, and the Vice Chair asked the Secretary to take a roll-call vote on the motion made by Trustee Gallimore and seconded by Trustee Whittaker. The motion carried with only Trustee Smith voting "no." Commission McQueen had to leave the meeting for a speaking engagement before the vote.

As adopted, the Resolution reads as follows (with deleted language shown in strikethrough):

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RESOLUTION

Vote of Full Confidence in President Joe DiPietro  
May 10, 2018

WHEREAS, President Joe DiPietro has led The University of Tennessee System with humility, honor, and integrity since January 1, 2011; and

WHEREAS, President DiPietro has led the University under a strategic plan, "Defining the Future," to align the University with the state's goal to increase enrollment and graduation rates, enhance economic development, and respond to the changing needs of the state workforce; and

WHEREAS, under President DiPietro's leadership, the University has experienced unprecedented growth in a number of areas, including enrollment, graduation rates, retention, and research; and

WHEREAS, President DiPietro has established credibility in the office of President, resulting in support by the Governor and the General Assembly for increased state appropriations which, in turn, have directly resulted in a record-setting fourth year of self-limited tuition increases of three percent or lower for University students and their parents; and

WHEREAS, under President DiPietro's leadership, and due to the Governor's strong commitment to higher education and the support of the General Assembly, the University has experienced an unprecedented increase in capital funding, especially at the flagship campus in Knoxville;

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate at the flagship campus in Knoxville has attempted to harm the reputation of President DiPietro and the University by censuring the President for certain administrative actions; and

WHEREAS, President DiPietro's actions were undertaken with integrity and courage and, as always, in the best interest of the University.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees, meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, on May 10, 2018:

1. Declares disappointment with the Knoxville Faculty Senate's censure resolution ~~and calls for the Knoxville Faculty Senate and its leadership to seek the truth before making unfounded accusations;~~ and
2. Commends President Joe DiPietro for his integrity, courage, and invaluable service to The University of Tennessee and the State of Tennessee; and
3. Declares a "Vote of Full Confidence" in President Joe DiPietro's judgment and leadership.

## **XII. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, the Vice Chair adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Catherine S. Mizell, Secretary