



THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE ATHLETICS PROGRAMS
June 19, 2019
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Special Committee on University of Tennessee Athletics Programs of The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees was held at 6:00 p.m. EDT, on Wednesday, June 19, 2019, in the Student Union on the campus of The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Charlie Anderson called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Matthew Scoggins, General Counsel, called the roll, and the following members were present:

Charlie Anderson, Chair
William (Bill) C. Rhodes III

Mr. Scoggins announced the presence of a quorum. Trustee Lawson was unable to attend the meeting due to travel complications. Others present included UTK Athletics Director Phillip Fulmer, University faculty, staff, members of the general public, and media representatives.

III. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

The Chair recognized Dr. Beauvais Lyons, Professor in the School of Art at UTK, to address the Board on the subject of freedom of conscience and the student-athlete. Dr. Lyons read from a 2015 magazine article about former UTK football student-athlete, Arian Foster, in which Mr. Foster shared about his experience as a member of the UTK football team. Dr. Lyons encouraged the Board to create policies that ensure free expression of conscience by all students including student-athletes. Dr. Lyons also encouraged the Board to engage faculty in the College of Law and Department of Religious Studies to help develop policies regarding pre-game invocations and guidelines for athletics directors and coaches.

IV. CHARGE OF THE COMMITTEE

Chair Anderson led a discussion about the charge of the committee, a copy of which was provided to Committee members prior to the meeting. The first priority for the Committee is



to adopt a policy outlining the Board's oversight of intercollegiate athletics, which will accomplish several aspects of the Committee's charge. In addition to the issues outlined in the Committee's charge, Chair Anderson raised the possibility of discussing Title IX issues in a future meeting, and Trustee Rhodes raised the possibility of discussing issues relating to student-athlete safety including concussions.

V. UPDATE ON INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS AT UTK FROM PHILLIP FULMER, UTK DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

Phillip Fulmer, UTK Director of Athletics, provided the Committee with a comprehensive update on the state of the UTK intercollegiate athletics program. His presentation included the following information:

- The "four pillars" of the athletics department are communication, trust, warmth, and intensity.
- For the 2018-19 season, UTK finished 26th in the Learfield Director's Cup, the leading comparative performance metric in intercollegiate athletics, which was nine places higher than the previous year's finish.
- UTK is enjoying what Coach Fulmer believes to be the greatest recorded run of academic success in its history. Thirteen out of eighteen teams have a multiyear Academic Progress Rate higher than the national average for their respective sport.
- In 2017-18, the UTK Athletics Department had an operating deficit of approximately \$6.5 million due to \$13.7 million in one-time severance costs. In 2018-19, the UTK Athletics Department had an operating surplus of \$405,401.
- The Committee received information on reserves, sources of revenue, the 2019-20 operating budget, and historical and projected principal debt balances.
- Coach Fulmer discussed historical trends in football and basketball season ticket sales and ticket revenue. Football season ticket sales have trended downward from 2008-2013 and since 2016. Average football attendance was down approximately 7,000 people in 2018.
- Coach Fulmer provided an update on capital projects including the Dickey Hall of Fame Plaza.

Chair Anderson and Trustee Rhodes commended Coach Fulmer on the positive direction of the intercollegiate athletics program as a whole. Reid Sigmon, Executive Associate Athletics Director/Chief Operating Officer, agreed to meet with Trustee Rhodes to provide more detailed information on the finances of the UTK Athletics Department.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.



VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Matthew Scoggins
Matthew Scoggins, General Counsel