



THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND SERVICE COMMITTEE
June 24, 2021
Memphis, Tennessee

The Education, Research, and Service Committee of The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees met at 2:30 p.m. (CDT) on Thursday, June 24, 2021, in the Refectory, Mooney Building, located at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, Tennessee.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Committee Chair Donnie Smith called the meeting to order. Board Secretary Cynthia Moore called the roll, and the following members were present: Donald J. Smith, Committee Chair; Leighton Chappell, Student Trustee; John C. Compton, Board Chair; Charles Hatcher, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Agriculture; Kara Lawson; and Christina Vogel, Faculty Representative. In addition, Trustees Bradford D. Box; Decosta E. Jenkins; Amy E. Miles; Christopher L. Patterson; and Kim H. White were in attendance.

Others present included: President Randy Boyd; Linda C. Martin, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success; Tim L. Cross, Senior Vice President/Senior Vice Chancellor, UTIA; Stacey Patterson, Vice President for Research, Outreach and Economic Development; Chancellors Carver, Plowman, and Schwab; Philip Cavalier, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UTM; Jerold L. Hale, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UTC; Jorge Pérez, Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness, UT System; Karen Etzkorn, Director of Academic Affairs, UT System; and other members of the UT senior leadership and administrative staff.

Ms. Moore addressed requirements for meetings conducted with members participating electronically and announced the presence of a quorum. The meeting was webcast for the convenience of the University community, the general public, and the media.

II. Opening Remarks of the Committee Chair

Committee Chair Donnie Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided a high-level overview of the agenda.



III. Requests to Address the Board

None.

IV. Consent Agenda

Committee Chair Smith called the Committee members' attention to the Consent Agenda and asked if there were any requests to remove an item from the agenda. There being none, upon motion duly made and seconded, a roll call vote was taken, and the Committee approved: (i) the minutes of the February 25, 2021 meeting of the Committee, and (ii) the Resolutions pertaining to the other action items included on the Consent Agenda. (A complete list of the approved items appears at the end of these minutes.)

V. Proposed Faculty Handbook Revisions, UTC

Jerold L. Hale, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UTC, presented the proposed changes to Section 4.7.1 of the UTC Faculty Handbook, pertaining to non-tenure-track appointments. He indicated that the proposed changes are intended to provide clearer and more uniform campus-wide criteria for evaluating non-tenure-track Teaching faculty for appointment and/or promotion.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, a roll call vote was taken, and the Committee approved a recommendation that the Board of Trustees adopt the Resolution approving the proposed revisions to the UTC Faculty Handbook (as presented in Tab 2 of the meeting materials).

VI. Tenure Recommendations

Grant of Tenure upon Initial Appointment

President Boyd stated that he and the Chancellors of UTC and UTK are recommending that tenure be granted to a combined total of 9 faculty (a detailed list of the recommended individuals was set forth in the meeting materials). President Boyd advised that the candidates meet the requirements to be considered for tenure upon initial appointment, all steps in the review process outlined in the Board policy have been completed, and they have received strong support at each level of review.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, a roll call vote was taken, and the Committee approved a recommendation that the Board of Trustees adopt the Resolution approving the grants of tenure upon initial appointment (as presented in Tab 3.1 of the meeting materials).



Grant of Tenure upon Early Consideration

President Boyd indicated that he and the Chancellors of UTC, UTHSC, and UTK are recommending that a combined total of 16 faculty members for tenure who have served less than a six-year probationary period at the campuses (a detailed list of the recommended individuals was set forth in the meeting materials). President Boyd advised that the candidates meet the requirements to be considered for tenure upon early consideration, all steps in the review process outlined in the Board policy have been completed, and they have received strong support for tenure at each level of review.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, a roll call vote was taken, and the Committee approved a recommendation that the Board of Trustees adopt the Resolution approving the grants of tenure upon early consideration (as presented in Tab 3.2 of the meeting materials).

VII. Proposed New Academic Programs

Bachelor of Applied Science in Applied Leadership, UTC

Dr. Hale explained that the proposed Bachelor of Applied Science in Applied Leadership (BAS), in the College of Health, Education, and Professional Studies at UT Chattanooga, will provide a flexible and fully online completion pathway for students with prior college, employment, and military experience. He highlighted key features of the program, including the following:

- Equips students with skills and knowledge needed to practice innovative leadership across a variety of professional contexts in a broad range of industries
- Only applied leadership degree program at a public university in Tennessee
- Designed for working adults, online modality, 7-week terms, and maximizing transfer credit and credit for prior learning
- Beginning August 2021

He reviewed the target audience, the expected student demand for the program, employer interest, and the need to support the anticipated demand for talent in the area.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, a roll call vote was taken, and the Committee approved a recommendation that the Board of Trustees adopt the Resolution approving the new academic program (as presented in Tab 4.1 of the meeting materials).



New Programs, UTM

Philip Cavalier, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UTM, presented an overview of each of the following proposed academic programs:

- Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Science and Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity
- Master of Science in Criminal Justice

Dr. Cavalier reviewed the number of credit hours, the proposed time period for implementation, the projected enrollment, and the resources, if any, needed for each program. In addition, he discussed the intended purpose of each program, how it relates to the UT Martin Strategic Plan, and the intended outcomes.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, a roll call vote was taken, and the Committee approved a recommendation that the Board of Trustees adopt the Resolution approving all three proposed academic programs (as presented in Tab 4.2 of the meeting materials).

VIII. Presentations

Update on UT Research Enterprise

Stacey Patterson, Vice President for Research, Outreach and Economic Development, began the presentation by defining “research” as the:

“Studious inquiry or examination especially: investigation or experimentation aimed at the discovery and interpretation of facts, revision of accepted theories or laws in the light of new facts, or practical application of such new or revised theories or laws.”

Dr. Patterson reported on research expenditures by campus for the period FY 2011 through FY 2020. She then provided information on the aggregate amount of research expenditures for the UT System. In this regard, UT System total research expenditures increased 1.3% in the last year and 37.5% in the last five years. From FY 2010 through FY 2019, the UT System captured 1.1 times it’s “fair share” of the growth in national research funding at US universities.

Additionally, the amount of federal research expenditures by campus was presented for the period FY 2011 through FY 2020. UT System federal research expenditures decreased 3.3% in the last year and increased 17.6% in the last five years. From FY 2010 through FY 2019, the UT System captured 97% of its “fair share” of the growth in federal research funding at US universities.



Dr. Patterson reviewed the UT rankings by campus (NSF Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) Survey Rankins, Public Universities, FY 2019). She stated that the University had another all-time high in research expenditures for the 4th year in a row (\$431 million). Dr. Patterson shared publication and citation metrics, along with the global impact pertaining thereto. She concluded her remarks by noting the growth in the number of license and option of UT intellectual property which has doubled since 2016.

Dr. Patterson introduced the chief research officers from across the UT System, who shared highlights of some of the research efforts being undertaken at each of the UT campuses. A full copy of the presentation is attached.

UTHSC Covid Testing and Vaccination efforts in the City and County Overview

Scott E. Strome, MD, Robert Kaplan Executive Dean of the College of Medicine and Vice Chancellor of Health Affairs, UTHSC, shared information about UTHSC's response to COVID-19. He discussed the campus' community engagement efforts, which included developing a dedicated website, providing drive-through testing, data research in tracking cases in Shelby County, and providing vaccinations. He shared that UTHSC students had more than 14,500 hours of volunteer service (testing and vaccinations) from January 2020 – May 2021. Dr. Strome also discussed the campus' leadership in standing up a field hospital. He concluded his remarks by focusing on the faculty's research efforts, including the surrogate viruses developed by Michael Whitt, PhD that are being used by Pfizer, Moderna, and dozens of other pharmaceutical companies.

Rural Outreach Statewide Dental Clinics

James Ragain, DDS, MS, PhD, Professor and Dean of the College of Dentistry, UTHSC, discussed a critical issue facing the State of Tennessee with respect to the lack of qualified dentists. He noted that *US News & World Report* ranked Tennessee 43rd in the country for access to dentists for citizens. Dr. Ragain indicated that 86 counties (90%) are below the American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute's recommendation (61 dentists/100,000 people). He explained that there is currently a shortage of almost 800 dentists across Tennessee and it is a public health crisis that cannot be ignored. Dr. Ragain reviewed statistics by county for the State of Tennessee and the aging population of the dentists practicing. He remarked that the dentist shortage is primarily a rural problem. Dr. Ragain then outlined the mission of UTHSC and how the College of Dentistry is stepping up, directing its attention to the problem, and helping craft a solution.

Student Experience Survey

Linda C. Martin, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success, presented the results of the student survey, which was a follow-up to the Fall 2020 survey. She reviewed the component elements of the survey and the participation rates (by campus, status, and



race). In all categories, the average scores improved from Fall 2020 to Spring 2021. Dr. Martin indicated that the top 5 concerns reported by students are: (1) mental health, (2) academic success, (3) finances/economy, (4) general uncertainty, and (5) pandemic/public health.

Board Chair Compton stressed the value of the Board hearing the voice of the students. He believes that the surveys should continue. He inquired as to how the survey is distributed and what could be done to improve the participation rate, while acknowledging the fatigue factor during the pandemic. Student Trustee Leighton Chappell offered that many students see the survey email from the campus and may not even open it thinking that it is just another general message. He suggested promoting the survey through the presidents of the student government bodies on each campus. Trustee Miles added that it is very important for the participants to understand why the survey is being conducted, along with any improvements stemming from the survey results.

Committee Chair Smith thanked Dr. Martin for the update.

Enrollment Data

Dr. Martin reviewed the UT System's performance, as compared to peers. She explained that due to COVID the most recent peer data available is from 2019. This presentation provided an overview of total enrollment, enrollment of racial/ethnic minorities, first-year retention, four-year graduation rates, six-year graduation rates, and new freshman admit rates. A full copy of the presentation materials is included with these minutes.

IX. Other Business

Committee Chair Smith called for any other business and recognized President Randy Boyd, who recommended having a workshop on the topic of admissions, standardized testing, and test-optional practices. He highlighted the challenges students have faced in sitting for the standardized tests during the pandemic. He noted that, last year, the campuses permitted test-optional admissions so as to not penalize applicants. Given the ongoing pandemic, this practice was extended for an additional year. President Boyd advised the Board that UT Knoxville has expressed in interest in having a 5-year pilot on test-optional admissions, with annual assessment of the program.

President Boyd indicated that he believes that this is a very important topic to be considered by the Committee. Committee Chair Smith agreed with the suggestion. Discussion amongst the Committee members and other trustees ensued regarding which items they felt would be important for planning the session (e.g., participants, experts, peer data, amount of time needed, and other considerations) in order to fully understand the advantages/disadvantages of such an approach on a long-term basis.



Committee Chair Smith stressed the importance of having the right resources, people, and time to have a thoughtful discussion given the importance of the topic. Although it will be structured as a Committee meeting, all trustees will be invited to attend. Committee Chair emphasized that the topic is within the scope of the Committee's responsibilities, and, as such, they should consider what recommendation(s) should come to the Board.

X. Adjournment

There being no other business, the Committee Chair adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cynthia C. Moore".

Cynthia C. Moore
Secretary and Special Counsel

Approved Consent Agenda Items

- Minutes of the February 25, 2021 meeting
- 2021 Institutional Mission Profile Statements
- Granting of Honorary Degree to Joy Harjo, UTK
- New Academic Units, Engineering, UTC.
- Academic Program Modifications
 - Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology, UTK
 - Bachelor of Science in Recreation and Sport Management, UTK
 - Bachelor of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology, UTM
- Diploma Guidelines
- Authorization for Conferral of Degrees, 2021-22 Academic Year

List of Information Items Presented to the Committee

- Certification of Degrees Conferred

Attachments. Copies of the following presentation materials are filed with the official minutes of this meeting.

- Update on UT Research Enterprise
- UTHSC Covid Testing and Vaccination efforts in the City and County Overview
- Rural Outreach Statewide Dental Clinics
- Student Experience Survey
- Enrollment Data