



# THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

---

## MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE September 9, 2022

The Executive Committee of The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees met at 9:00 a.m. (EDT) on Friday, September 9, 2022. The meeting was held virtually with all Committee members participating electronically or by telephone. The meeting was hosted from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville campus.

Committee Members Present: John C. Compton, Board Chair; William (Bill) C. Rhodes III; Donald J. Smith; and Jamie Woodson.

Others in Attendance:

*Trustees:* Commissioner Charles Hatcher and David N. Watson.

*University Officers:* President Randy Boyd; Brian Daniels, Chief Audit and Compliance Officer; David Miller, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; Cynthia Moore, Secretary and Special Counsel; Stacey Patterson, Vice President for Research, Outreach and Economic Development; Ryan Stinnett, General Counsel; Chancellors Steve Angle (UTC), Peter Buckley (UTHSC), Keith Carver (UTM), Linda Martin (UTS), and Donde Plowman (UTK); and other members of the senior leadership team.

Ms. Moore announced the presence of a quorum. The meeting was webcast for the convenience of the University community, the general public, and the media.

---

### Remarks of the Committee Chair

Board Chair John C. Compton, who also serves as Chair of the Executive Committee, opened the meeting by announcing that President Randy Boyd's update would include positive news on a number of fronts, including enrollment growth across all campuses.

### Ohio Valley Conference Certification

Chair Compton informed the members of the Board that UT Martin is a member of the Ohio Valley Conference. The Conference requires a signed certification from the Board Chair confirming that:

- Responsibility for the administration of the athletics program has been delegated to the chief executive officer of the institution (the Chancellor of UTM);

- The chief executive officer has the mandate and support of the board to operate a program of integrity in full compliance with NCAA, Ohio Valley Conference, and all other relevant rules and regulations; and
- The chief executive officer, in conjunction with the Director of Athletics and Faculty Athletic Representative, determines how the institutional vote shall be cast on issues of athletics policy presented to the NCAA and the Ohio Valley Conference.

He noted that these statements are consistent with and reflected in the Board's Policy on Oversight of Intercollegiate Athletics and that he would be signing the certification form following the meeting.

### **Update from the President**

#### Admissions

President Boyd began his update by noting that total enrollment across the UT System has increased by almost 4%, with undergraduate enrollment increasing by nearly 5% and freshmen enrollment up 12.2%. He reported that both transfer enrollment and graduate student enrollment also grew over the prior year.

He briefly reviewed key enrollment highlights for each of the UT System's campuses:

- UTK: Total enrollment increased from 31,701 in AY 2021-22 to 33,805 in AY 2022-2023, with undergraduate enrollment increasing by 7.9%, freshmen enrollment increasing by 15%, and transfer student enrollment increasing by 9%.
- UTC: While total enrollment declined by 1.5%, the campus experienced an 8.2% growth in freshmen enrollment and a 5.9% increase in graduate student enrollment.
- UTM: Total enrollment increased by 2.3%, with freshmen enrollment increasing by more than 6%, transfer student enrollment increasing by 5.7%, and graduate student enrollment increasing by 19%.
- UTS: Total enrollment increased by 6.6%, with transfer student enrollment increasing by 28.4% and graduate student enrollment increasing by 16.7%.
- UTHSC: Total enrollment declined by 3%\*; however, undergraduate enrollment increased 11.7% and transfer student enrollment increased by more than 17%.

---

*\* The decrease in total enrollment can be attributed, in part, to a recent change that compressed the time it takes students to graduate from a program offered by the UTHSC.*

President Boyd noted, as a land grant university, the UT System's mission is to be accessible and serve more people across the State of Tennessee. President Boyd thanked the Trustees for making enrollment growth a priority and for supporting the UT System and its campuses in those efforts.

In response to comments made by Trustees, President Boyd noted that the availability of student housing is a very important consideration as the University continues to grow its student population at all campuses. President Boyd and the Chancellors discussed a number of factors that impact the availability of on-campus housing for undergraduate students, including the current process for getting approval from the State for the construction of new residence halls and local development activities. Graduate and professional students are also impacted by the shortage of affordable housing. Following discussion, Chair Compton asked the Administration to provide more information on the capital planning process in connection with the Fall Meeting of the Board.

#### UT Promise: Moving Students Closer to a Debt-Free Degree

President Boyd provided an update on the UT Promise, which was introduced in 2019. At the time the program was introduced, students whose family incomes were less than \$50,000 could attend any UT campus free of tuition and fees. Since that time, the University has increased the income threshold to \$60,000 in order to expand the number of Tennessee residents that are eligible to participate. To ensure that students continue to take advantage of the benefits of the UT Promise program, President Boyd stated that he recently embarked on a tour, which has seen him travel more than 3,700 miles to visit 5,000 students at 21 high schools. When the UT Promise tour is completed, President Boyd will have visited 25 high schools.

President Boyd noted that the tour has generated excitement and interest in students and their families, as well as positive media coverage, including a recent article published by *The Tennessean*. He reminded the Trustees that 46% of UT's students graduate with no debt, which runs counter to the level of debt faced by college students across the country.

#### Institute for American Civics

President Boyd announced that the inaugural Board of Fellows for the Institute for American Civics has been appointed. Among the many notable appointees to the Board of Fellows are: Former Governor Phil Bredesen (2003-2011); Former Governor Bill Haslam (2011-2019); and Former U.S. Ambassador Arthur B. Culvahouse Jr., who will serve as Chair of the Board of Fellows. The Board of Fellows will be charged with two primary assignments: (i) drafting Bylaws for the Institute; and (ii) leading a search for the Institute's inaugural Director.

### Best Places to Work

President Boyd advised the Board that to ensure that the University is operating at its highest levels, it is essential that employees feel satisfied and engaged. To do so, the University utilized the services of Great Placed to Work®, a national company specializing in measuring employee satisfaction, to survey employees across the UT System. After conducting the survey, the University was recognized as a “2022 Great Place to Work.” Employees gave UT high marks for: (i) being a safe place to work; (ii) creating a culture where they feel comfortable taking time off of work; (iii) being given appropriate levels of responsibility; (iv) feeling good about the University’s contributions to the community; and (v) fostering an environment in which they can take pride. President Boyd stated that UT intends to participate in the survey annually, while continuing to develop innovative methods to ensure employee satisfaction.

### Leadership Changes

President Boyd reminded the Committee members that Stacey Patterson, Vice President for Research, Outreach and Economic Development, would be leaving the UT System in October. He thanked Dr. Patterson for her extraordinary service, including her work to establish the UT Oak Ridge Innovation Institute. President Boyd advised that he intends to separate the portfolio of responsibilities so that there is: (i) a Vice President for Research; (ii) a President of the UT Research Foundation; and (iii) an Associate Vice President for Economic Development. He indicated that the Associate Vice President position will be held by Victoria Hirschberg, who currently serves as Business Development Director for the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. Searches will be conducted for the positions of Vice President for Research and President of the UT Research Foundation, and interim appointments will be made.

Chair Compton expressed his gratitude to Dr. Patterson for her service and the impact she has had on the University. Dr. Patterson thanked President Boyd, Chair Compton, and the Board, adding that her service at UT has been the highlight of her career.

### Fiscal Year 2023-2024

President Boyd advised the Committee members that the University has been working on its appropriation request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, including submitting the Capital Priorities approved by the Board at its Annual Meeting in June. He expressed hope that the State will continue its generous support of the UT System.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the May 6, 2022 meeting (Tab 1) were approved without correction.

## **Planning for Upcoming Board and Committee Meetings**

Chair Compton then reviewed the key topics planned for the upcoming meetings of the Board and its Committees, which will be held at UTM on October 27 and 28, 2022. He noted that the agenda for the Education, Research and Service Committee will include an update on the post-tenure review process, which was paused during the pandemic. At the recommendation of Trustee Rhodes, the schedule for the Fall Meeting of the Board will include a tour of the UT Martin campus.

## **Closing Remarks**

Chair Compton noted over the past four years, he has, personally, experienced an increase in the number of families providing him with positive feedback on their children's experiences at UT – from arrival through graduation. He thanked President Boyd and his team for their efforts to ensure that students and their families have a favorable, lasting impression of the University.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/Cynthia Moore

Cynthia C. Moore  
Secretary and Special Counsel