



THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES	
Friday, September 8, 2023	Special Meeting
9:30 a.m. (EDT)/8:30 a.m. (CDT)*	Virtual/Knoxville, TN

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Remarks of the Chair
- III. [Admissions Policy Proposal \(All Campuses\)](#) – Action Tab 1
- IV. [Proposed Building Naming \(UTK\)](#) – Action Tab 2
- V. [Proposed Budget Increase University Center Renovations Project \(UTC\)](#) – Action Tab 3
- VI. Update from the President – Information
- VII. Planning for Fall Meeting – Discussion
- VIII. Closing Remarks
- IX. Adjournment

Information Item(s)

- [Ohio Valley Conference – Governing Board Certification Form](#)

(*) *Approximate start time. The meeting will begin immediately upon conclusion of the Education, Research, and Service Committee meeting. Note: Under the Bylaws of the Board, items not stated in the call of a special meeting may not be considered at the meeting.*



THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: September 8, 2023

Item: **Admission Policy Proposal (All Campuses)**

Type: Action

Presenter: Randy Boyd, President

Background

In order to expand access, recruit more of Tennessee's best and brightest students to its campuses, promote greater geographic representation, and further its land grant mission, the University's administration is proposing an enhancement to the admissions policies for each of its undergraduate campuses that would guarantee admission to those Tennessee high school students who meet certain criteria as further described in the attached Admissions Policy Proposal (Exhibit A).

In taking this step, the UT System would join public institutions in at least a dozen other states, including Arizona, Florida, and Texas, which offer guaranteed admissions to eligible students. University admissions officials project that this change would have a positive effect on the number of Tennesseans choosing to apply to and enroll at one of its campuses. If approved, this change would apply to all campuses offering undergraduate admissions and go into effect immediately for the current (Fall 2024) admissions cycle.

Results of the initiative will be reviewed annually with the Board of Trustees and adjustment may be made in future years based on outcomes and effectiveness tied to the university's mission and goals.

The proposed change to admissions policies is supported by the Chancellors at each of the University's campuses.

Board Action

The Chair will call for a motion to adopt the following resolution.

[Resolution follows on the next page.]



THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Resolved:

The Board of Trustees hereby approves the following:

1. The undergraduate admission policies applicable to each of the University's campuses shall be amended to offer guaranteed admission¹ to all Tennessee high school students who meet any of the following criteria:
 - a. Finish in the top 10%² of their high school's graduating class; or
 - b. Achieve a 4.0³ or higher GPA; or
 - c. Achieve a 3.2³ or higher GPA and have an ACT composite score of 23⁴ or higher (or an SAT score of 1130-1150 or higher).

¹ Students must meet campus application deadlines for guaranteed admission. Guaranteed admission means an offer of undergraduate admission to the University of Tennessee campus to which the applicant has applied (subject to satisfaction of the applicable eligibility requirements). Such an offer does not guarantee acceptance into a particular college, school, department, major, or program.

² Class rank and GPA will be determined based on an applicant's 6th semester transcript (i.e., following the completion of their junior year).

³ UT Knoxville calculates and utilizes a weighted Core GPA based on a student's grades in 16 Core academic subjects. Other campuses may choose to use a student's cumulative high school GPA.

⁴ UT Knoxville will require a minimum ACT subscore of 19 in Math and English.

All applicants, regardless of class rank or GPA, must submit ACT/SAT test scores.

2. This resolution shall be effective immediately, and the foregoing admission requirements shall be applicable to the Fall 2024 class.
3. The proper officers of the University are authorized to take other actions as may be necessary and deemed appropriate to effectuate the changes to the outstanding admission policies to comply with the provisions of this resolution.
4. The President (or his/her designee) is authorized to issue additional guidance to the campuses from time to time, as may be deemed appropriate and approved by the President, to further clarify the intent and applicability of the admission requirements as set forth herein.



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, RESEARCH
AND STUDENT SUCCESS

Exhibit A

PROPOSAL: UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

In a bold effort to expand access, recruit more of Tennessee’s best and brightest students to its campuses, promote greater geographic representation, and further its land grant mission, the University of Tennessee (UT) is proposing an enhancement to its admissions policies at each of its undergraduate campuses that would **guarantee admission⁽⁴⁾ to all Tennessee high school students who meet any of the following eligibility criteria:**

- Finish in the top 10%⁽²⁾ of their high school’s graduating class; or
- Achieve a 4.0⁽³⁾ or higher GPA; or
- Achieve a 3.2⁽³⁾ or higher GPA and have an ACT composite score of 23⁽⁴⁾ or higher (or an SAT score of 1130-1150 or higher).

Note: All applicants are required to submit ACT/SAT test scores, regardless of class rank or GPA.

In taking this step, the UT System would join public institutions in at least a dozen other states, including Arizona, Florida, and Texas, that offer guaranteed admissions to eligible students.* If approved, this change would apply to all undergraduate campuses and go into effect immediately for the current (Fall 2024) admissions cycle. Results of the initiative will be reviewed annually with the Board of Trustees and adjustment may be made in future years based on outcomes and effectiveness tied to the university’s mission and goals.

STATEWIDE IMPACT

In 2021, 28% of Tennessee’s public high school students who graduated with a 3.75 GPA or higher chose to go out of state for college.† By offering automatic admission to its top high school graduates, prospective students will know earlier in the college selection process that there is a place for them at their state’s top public university system. They will only be an application away from being admitted.

In 2022, Tennessee’s public high schools graduated 64,580 students.† Using this total as a baseline, UT’s new guaranteed admission policy would make upwards of 6,400 prospective students automatically eligible for admission to the university in 2024. During that same year, 15,939 (27.7%) of Tennessee’s high school graduates had an ACT composite score of 23 or higher.†

* Jessica Callahan, “States with Automatic or Guaranteed College Admissions Policies,” Connecticut General Assembly, Office of Legislative Research, March 3, 2021.
<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/rpt/pdf/2021-R-0077.pdf>.

† Source: THEC Student Information System (THECSIS)

Research by Lincove and Cortes found that guaranteed admissions programs help to encourage college-ready students from low-income backgrounds to seek out four-year degrees and more rigorous university experiences.[‡] Their study also noted that guaranteed admissions programs can result in increased applications due to reduced information asymmetry and increased transparency about the college admissions process. Outcomes like these could be especially impactful for low-income, academically prepared high school students across Tennessee.

CAMPUS IMPACT

While the university's campuses in Chattanooga, Pulaski, and Martin admit the majority of applicants who meet the above criteria, their offers are not guaranteed. Having a public promise of admission is likely to have a positive effect on applications and the number of enrolled Tennesseans at each campus. A paper by Fletcher and Mayer points to multiple studies that demonstrated how guaranteed admissions policies led to increased applications from students in the top decile of their high schools while also widening the pool of high schools that provide these applicants.[§] In the same paper, Fletcher and Mayer shared that students who were guaranteed admission were also less likely to apply to competitors, including competing private universities.

At the university's flagship campus in Knoxville, enrollment leaders project that such a change could generate a 5-10% increase in applications from in-state students, resulting in an additional 500 admitted Tennesseans and 250 more in-state students who enroll in the Fall of 2024. These positive estimates are supported by the above study by Lincove and Cortes. The authors found that a top 10% eligibility guarantee was associated with a 16-percentage-point increase in the probability of applying to a flagship campus for high-income, highly qualified students and a 22-percentage-point increase for similar low-income students.[‡]

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- (1) *Students must meet campus application deadlines for guaranteed admission. Guaranteed admission means an offer of undergraduate admission to the University of Tennessee campus to which the applicant has applied (subject to satisfaction of the applicable eligibility requirements). Such an offer does not guarantee acceptance into a particular college, school, department, major, or program.*
 - (2) *Class rank and GPA will be determined based on an applicant's 6th semester transcript (i.e., following the completion of their junior year).*
 - (3) *UT Knoxville calculates and utilizes a weighted [Core GPA](#) based on a student's grades in 16 Core academic subjects. Other UT campuses may choose to use other measures, including a student's cumulative high school GPA.*
 - (4) *UT Knoxville will require a minimum ACT subscore of 19 in Math and English.*

[‡] Jane A. Lincove and Kalena E. Cortes, "Match or Mismatch? Automatic Admissions and College Preferences of Low- and High-Income Students," National Bureau of Economic Research, August 2016, <https://www.nber.org/papers/w22559>.

[§] Jason Fletcher and Adalbert Mayer, "Tracing the Effects of Guaranteed Admission Through the College Process: Evidence from a Policy Discontinuity in the Texas 10% Plan," National Bureau of Economic Research, January 2013, <http://www.nber.org/paper/w18721>.

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE

UT CORE WEIGHTED GPA

AUGUST 2023

UT, Knoxville calculates a weighted core GPA for first-year applicants based on grades earned in sixteen core courses. The UT Core GPA calculation is utilized for undergraduate admissions review and merit scholarship eligibility.

UT's weighted core GPA is based on grades earned in the **Core Academic Subjects** listed below. **Completion of all sixteen core courses is not required for admission but strongly encouraged.**

In the core academic subjects, GPA is weighted by UT to reflect academic rigor across honors courses (0.5 quality points added), Advanced Placement (AP), Cambridge AS and A Level, International Baccalaureate (IB), and dual enrollment courses (1.0 quality points added).

UT calculates GPA on a 4-point scale and uses unweighted high school course grades as the basis of its calculation. If an applicant attends a high school that does not weight courses, UT will also not weight coursework.

UT verifies the UT core weighted GPA to determine final admissions and scholarship eligibility when the final high school transcript is received following confirmation of enrollment.

Core Academic Subjects | Used to Calculate the UT Core Weighted GPA

- 4 English
- 4 Math (algebra, geometry, trigonometry, calculus, statistics, or other advanced math)
- 3 Science (biology, chemistry, physics, or other science)
- 1 American history
- 1 European history, world history, or world geography
- 2 Single foreign language (or ASL)
- 1 Visual or performing arts

Please see the State of Tennessee's [Department of Education](#) website for graduation requirements.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: September 8, 2023

Item: **Proposed Building Naming, UT Knoxville**

Type: Action

Presenter: Randy Boyd, President

Background Information

In August 2001, the University received a congressionally authorized grant to establish the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy (Baker Center). Seven years later, on October 31, 2008, the University celebrated the opening of the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy Building, the physical home of the Baker Center, located at 1640 Cumberland Ave, Knoxville, TN 37996.

Over the course of more than two decades, the Baker Center earned a reputation for its high-quality, unique, and interdisciplinary initiatives in research, teaching, and public engagement focused on providing critical insights on domestic and international challenges.

On February 24, 2023, the Board of Trustees approved elevating the status of the Baker Center at UT Knoxville to a School with the establishment of a new academic unit to be known as the “Howard H. Baker Jr. School of Public Policy and Public Affairs” (Baker School), subject to the approval of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC). THEC granted approval of the new academic unit on March 8, 2023, effective July 1, 2023.

In light of the recent approval of the Baker School, Dr. Donde Plowman, Chancellor of UT Knoxville, is requesting that the name of the building be updated to reflect the full name of the Baker School, which action is supported by the family of the late Senator and the Baker School Advisory Board.

In accordance with the requirements of the Board’s Policy on Naming of Facilities and Other Assets (BT0017), the proposed revision to the building name is being presented to the Board of Trustees for its approval. As President, I fully support this recommendation.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board Action

As authorized by the Bylaws, the Board Chair, with the consent of the Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, has designated this item for action by the Board without prior review and recommendation by the Committee. The Board Chair will call for a motion for the Board of Trustees to adopt the following resolution:

Resolved:

The Board of Trustees hereby approves the renaming of the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy building, located at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, as the “Howard H. Baker Jr. School of Public Policy and Public Affairs” building to (i) reflect the recent establishment of the Howard H. Baker Jr. School of Public Policy and Public Affairs, and (2) continue to honor the legacy of the late Senator Howard H. Baker Jr. and his many contributions to the nation, the State of Tennessee, public leadership, and civil discourse.

The proper officers of the University are authorized to take such actions as may be deemed appropriate and necessary to effectuate the approved name change as contemplated herein.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

August 22, 2023

President Randy Boyd
University of Tennessee System
505 Summer Place
UT Tower #1288
Knoxville, TN 37902

Dear President Boyd:

In accordance with the Board of Trustees’ Policy on Naming Facilities and Other Assets, I am writing to request approval to rename the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center building, the Howard H. Baker Jr. School of Public Policy and Public Affairs building.

In August 2001, The University of Tennessee received a congressionally authorized Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) grant for \$6,000,000 to establish the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy. Those funds were used to assist in the creation of the center. From the beginning the mission and vision of the center has included the call to introduce college and high school students to the responsibilities and rewards of public service. We will continue that work through the newly created Baker School and would ask that the building name reflect the reality of this now being a School.

Dean Wanamaker worked closely with the Baker Family, Board Chair Jim Haslam, as well as the entire advisory board to select this name for the school. Howard Baker has served his country often – and well. We would ask that we continue to honor him with this new building name.

In recognition of the formation of the school, as well as the continued legacy of Senator Baker’s exemplary leadership, selfless service, and significant contributions to public leadership, we request approval from the Board of Trustees to rename the building, the Howard H. Baker Jr. School of Public Policy and Public Affairs.

Sincerely,

Donde Plowman
Chancellor

Office of the Chancellor

800 Andy Holt Tower 1331 Circle Park Drive Knoxville, TN 37996-0180
865-974-3265 chancellor@utk.edu



THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: September 8, 2023

Item: **University Center Renovations Project (UTC)**

Type: Action

Presenter(s): David L. Miller, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Austin Oakes, Assistant Vice President, Capital Projects

Background Information

The UTC University Center Renovations project was disclosed in the FY 20/21 capital budget and was approved by the State Building Commission (SBC) in June 2022. It renovates the building including: electrical system; lighting, HVAC system, plumbing, ceilings, finishes, doors, hardware, windows, roof system; upgrade restrooms; upgrade food service systems; correct drainage problems; repair building envelope; asbestos abatement; and ADA and life safety code upgrades. There will be wall reconfigurations, changing layout, and accommodating system and code upgrades. Includes all related work to complete the project.

The requested increase in budget will ensure the quality of the building structure, envelope, infrastructure, and systems, and allow adequate finishes and furniture in the public areas.

Summary of Funding Sources:

	Original Funding	Requested Funding
TSSBA Bond Funds (30-year)	\$27,200,000	\$30,200,000
Plant Funds (Non-Aux)	\$ 3,450,000	\$ 5,450,000
Plant Funds (Aux-Dining/Retail)	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 2,250,000
Gifts	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Total	\$33,000,000	\$38,000,000

The Board Chair will call for a motion to recommend adoption of the following resolution.

Resolved:

The Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the University Administration to: (i) increase the project budget to \$38,000,000; and (ii) seek to increase and adjust the debt funding for the project to \$30,200,000, as set forth in the meeting materials.

Further, the proper officers of the University are hereby authorized to take any and all such action as may be required or which they may deem necessary and appropriate to accomplish the foregoing.

**The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
University Center Renovation
Project Funding and Annual Cost**

Project Funding	Amount
TSSBA Bonds	\$ 30,200,000.00
Non-Auxiliary Funding:	
Debt Service Reserves	5,250,000.00
Institutional Reserves	200,000.00
Auxiliary Reserves	2,250,000.00
Gifts - Aramark Contribution	100,000.00
Total Project Budget	\$ 38,000,000.00

Projected Total TSSBA Bond Cost	
30-Year Bonds	\$ 30,200,000.00
Cost of Issuance	453,000.00
Total TSSBA Cost to Issue per TSSBA Feasibility	\$ 30,653,000.00

30-Year Bonds - Annual Revenues	Amount
Revenue Description	
Student Debt Service Fees	\$ 2,856,480.00
Projected Annual Debt Service*	\$ 2,587,000.00
Excess Revenue Pledge	\$ 269,480.00
<i>* TSSBA assumptions include conservative 7.85% rate and 1.5% cost of issuance</i>	



OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE

Governing Board Certification Form Academic Year 2023-24

As Chairman of the Governing Board at _____, I attest that:

- 1) Responsibility for the administration of the athletics program has been delegated to the Chief Executive Officer of the institution.
- 2) The Chief Executive Officer has the mandate and support of the board to operate a program of integrity in full compliance with NCAA, OVC, and all other relevant rules and regulations.
- 3) 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.

Date Presented to the Governing Board: _____

Signed: _____
(Chair of the Governing Board)

Please return completed form to:

*Beth DeBauche
Commissioner
Ohio Valley Conference
215 Centerview Drive, Suite 115
Brentwood, TN 37027
bdebauche@ovc.org*