



# THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES September 8, 2023

A Special Meeting of The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees was held at 10:00 a.m. (EDT), on Friday, September 8, 2023. The meeting was held virtually with all Board members participating electronically or by telephone. The meeting was hosted from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville campus.

Trustees Present: John C. Compton, Board Chair; Bradford D. Box; Charles Hatcher, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Agriculture; Decosta E. Jenkins; Shanea A. McKinney; Christopher L. Patterson; Donald J. Smith; William (Bill) C. Rhodes III; David N. Watson; T. Lang Wiseman; and Jamie R. Woodson.

University Officers in Attendance: President Randy Boyd; David L. Miller, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; Cynthia C. Moore, Board Secretary and Special Counsel; Chancellor Steve Angle (UT Chattanooga); Chancellor Yancy E. Freeman (UT Martin); Interim Chancellor Linda Martin (UT Southern); and Chancellor Donde Plowman (UT Knoxville). Other members of the UT senior leadership and administrative staff were also in attendance.

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.

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Board Chair Compton opened the meeting and thanked the Trustees for making time to attend.

### **Admissions Policy Proposal (All Campuses)**

Board Chairperson Compton noted that the Admissions Policy Proposal was described in detail at the meeting of the Education, Research, and Service Committee, which was held immediately prior to the Board meeting. He asked Board Secretary Cynthia Moore to read the amended Resolution approved by the Committee into the record (a copy of the amended Resolution is attached to these minutes, along with background information as presented in the meeting materials under Tab 1).

Upon motion duly made and seconded, a roll call vote was taken, and the Board of Trustees unanimously approved *Resolution 067-2023* amending the admissions policies for all campuses, effective immediately.

### **Proposed Building Naming (UTK)**

Board Chairperson Compton noted that on February 24, 2023, the Board approved elevating the status of the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy 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). In light of that approval, Dr. Donde Plowman, Chancellor of UT Knoxville, requested that the name of the building be updated to reflect the full title of the new Baker School.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, a roll call vote was taken, and the Board of Trustees unanimously approved **Resolution 068-2023** 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 as presented in the meeting materials (Tab 2).

### **Proposed Budget Increase University Center Renovations Project (UTC)**

David L. Miller, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, advised the Board that the UT Chattanooga University Center Renovations project was disclosed in the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Capital Budget and approved by the State Building Commission (SBC) in June 2022. The project includes an extensive renovation of the building. Due to inflation, the University is requesting Board approval to: (i) increase the project budget for the University Center renovations project at UT Chattanooga by \$5 million to \$38 million; and (ii) increase and adjust the debt funding for the project to \$30.2 million. In responses raised by members of the Board, Mr. Miller indicated that the requested increase in budget will ensure the quality of the building structure, infrastructure, systems, and allow adequate finishes and furniture in the public areas. He further confirmed that the increases were primarily due to inflation and that the items impacted were not such that they could be eliminated or modified to meet the programmatic and facility needs.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, a roll call vote was taken, and the Board of Trustees unanimously approved **Resolution 069-2023** increasing the project budget for the University Center renovations project at UT Chattanooga and increasing and adjusting the debt funding for the project as set forth in the meeting materials (Tab 3).

### **Update from the President**

President Boyd began his remarks by expressing his gratitude to the Trustees for voting to amend the admissions policy for all campuses. He focused his remarks on four topics:

Enrollment. President Boyd advised the Trustees that sometime during the week of September 18, 2023, enrollment information for all campuses for the current term will be available. Dr. Bernard Savarese (Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Success) will send the Trustees a copy of the enrollment report, which will also include information on demographics and retention.

UT Promise Tour. President Boyd advised the Trustees that the UT Promise Tour has reached the halfway point, with two full days of visits completed. When the Tour has concluded President Boyd, Dr Savarese, and other members of the administration will have visited 15 high schools across the state. The Tour has attracted widespread media coverage and is helping to raise awareness of how the UT Promise can help eligible high school seniors afford and attend the University.

Senior Vice Chancellor and Senior Vice President of the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA). President Boyd updated the Board on Dr. Keith Carver's performance and the town halls being conducted to consider appointing Dr. Carver as the permanent Senior Vice Chancellor and Senior Vice President of UTIA (Dr. Carver was initially elected to serve in that position for a limited two-year appointment). To date, Dr. Carver, joined by Dr. Plowman and President Boyd, has participated in two town halls, with a third town hall being held on the afternoon of this meeting. In addition, more than 300 individuals have submitted surveys, which are being reviewed by President Boyd and Dr. Plowman. President Boyd stated that there has been overwhelmingly positive support for Dr. Carver to serve in this role on a permanent basis.

UT System Enrollment Analysis. President Boyd stated that he and Dr. Savarese will be meeting with representatives of the Huron Consulting Group for a status report on the UT System Enrollment Analysis. President Boyd hopes to have an update for the October meeting of the Education, Research, and Service Committee.

### **Planning for Fall Board Meeting**

Chair Compton reminded the Trustees that the Fall Meeting of the Board and its Committees will be held at UT Knoxville in Knoxville, TN, on Friday, October 13, 2023.

### **Closing Remarks**

In his closing remarks, Board Chair Compton announced that, on September 20, 2023, he and President Boyd will appear before the Tennessee Joint Committee on Government Operations in connection with the University's sunset hearing. The University's responses to survey questions were submitted to the Division of State Audit on September 6, 2023. Board Chair Compton thanked the Trustees who cleared their schedules to attend the hearing.

Ohio Valley Conference Certification. Board Chair Compton advised the Board that UT Martin is a member of the Ohio Valley Conference, which 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, the 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 Conference.

Board Chair Compton 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.

## **Adjournment**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/Cynthia C. Moore  
Cynthia C. Moore  
Secretary and Special Counsel

## Attachment

- Amended Resolution 067-2023 Guaranteed Admissions Policy (All Campuses)

## Information Item

- Ohio Valley Conference -Governing Board Certification Form