



# THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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## MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE January 26, 2024

The Executive Committee of The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees met at 9:00 a.m. (EST) on Friday, January 26, 2024. 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; Decosta E. Jenkins; William (Bill) C. Rhodes III; Donald J. Smith; and Jamie R. Woodson.

Others in Attendance:

*Trustees:* Charles Hatcher, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Agriculture; Shanea A. McKinney; Christopher L. Patterson; David N. Watson; Woodi H. Woodland (Student Trustee); and T. Lang Wiseman.

*University Officers:* President Randy Boyd; David L. Miller, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; Cynthia Moore, Board Secretary and Special Counsel; Chancellor Steve Angle (UT Chattanooga); Chancellor Peter Buckley (UT Health Science Center); Chancellor Yancy Freeman (UT Martin); Interim Chancellor Linda Martin (UT Southern); and Chancellor Donde Plowman (UT Knoxville). In addition, other members of the UT senior leadership and administrative staff were present.

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.

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### Remarks of the Committee Chair

Board Chair John C. Compton, who also serves as Chair of the Executive Committee, opened the meeting and provided an overview of the meeting agenda. He also expressed his gratitude to the members of the University community who worked to ensure the safety of the University's campuses during the recent winter weather challenges.

Chair Compton called for a moment of silence in memory of two members of the University community:

- *Waymon Hickman.* Mr. Hickman was a former member of the Board of Trustees. He attended UT Martin and completed his degree at UT Knoxville. In recognition of his generosity and commitment to the University, Mr. Hickman was named one of UT's Top 100 Alumni and further recognized when the Precision Agricultural Technology Unit at the UT Middle Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center was named in his honor.

- *Dr. Bill Stacy.* Dr. Stacey served as Chancellor of UT Chattanooga from 1997 until 2004. As Chancellor, he oversaw the construction of over 1,600 beds of residential housing. Combined with the establishment of UT Chattanooga's first doctoral programs, Dr. Stacy was instrumental in transforming the campus from a commuter college to a residential university, increasing enrollment, and elevating the academic profile of the institution.

## **Capital Project - Budget Increase (Dorothy and Jim Kennedy Health Sciences Building, UT Chattanooga)**

David L. Miller, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, advised the Board that the Health Sciences Building project was included in the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Capital Budget. In 2023, at the Fall Meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Board approved naming the facility in honor of Dorothy and Jim Kennedy in recognition of the Kennedy Foundation's transformative, lead gift of \$8 million. The approved budget for the project was in the amount of \$60,800,000, which was to be financed with State Appropriations (\$55,936,000) and an Institutional Match (\$4,864,000). To account for scope and cost escalation impacts, the University Administration requested that the Board approve an increase to the budget in the amount of \$19,300,000, resulting in an aggregate project cost of \$80,100,000 (as further described in the meeting materials).

The Committee members discussed the budget approval process for capital projects and inquired as to whether the process could be streamlined similar to the changes made for non-academic buildings funded with gifts or revenue from self-supporting auxiliary projects in order to mitigate such large discrepancies. Mr. Miller noted that until the state has approved a project, the University cannot hire architects and/or project managers, which impacts the veracity of the cost projections. President Randy Boyd indicated that he believes that the state is eager improve the efficiency of the capital project process. Chair Compton requested that the University Administration prepare a report on recent capital projects, to be presented at the next Finance and Administration Committee, that provides more detailed information as to the approved project budget, subsequent adjustments, and the nature of the adjustments.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, a roll call vote was taken, and the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, unanimously approved *Resolution 001-2024* increasing the project budget for the Dorothy and Jim Kennedy Health Sciences Building and adjusting the financing plan as set forth in the meeting materials (Tab 1).

## **President's Update**

President Boyd began his presentation by observing that the experience the University community gained during the COVID-19 pandemic allowed faculty, staff, and students to quickly transition to remote learning and working during the recent winter storms.

## Review of 2023 Objectives and Results

President Boyd highlighted key accomplishments of the prior calendar year as measured against the objectives set for 2023 and organized under the five pillars of the UT System Strategic Plan: Enhancing Educational Excellence; Expanding Research Capabilities; Fostering Outreach and

Engagement; Ensuring Workforce and Administrative Excellence; and Advocating for UT. A copy of the written year-end report (2023 Objectives and Results) was included in the meeting materials under Tab 2 and is filed with these minutes.

*Enhancing Educational Excellence.* President Boyd noted that enrollment and retention rates across the University System increased by 4.8% and 2.6%, respectively. He expressed his gratitude to the University's Chancellors, their leadership teams, faculty, and staff for their efforts in moving these critical metrics forward.

President Boyd stated that, during 2023, the University continued its efforts to grow enrollment through innovative programs such as the UT Access Collaborative, expand eligibility for the UT Promise, instituted a guaranteed early admissions program, and led other initiatives designed to increase access to higher education. Additionally, in response to increased demand for housing at UT Knoxville, the University worked with the state to introduce a public-private partnership model to expedite the building of new residence halls at that campus.

*Expanding Research Capabilities.* In 2023, the University made a number of changes designed to further enhance its research initiatives, including filling several key positions, such: (i) Dr. Maha Krishnamurthy, President of the UT Research Foundation; (ii) Dr. Stephen Streiffer, Director of Oak Ridge National Labs; (iii) Dr. Sarah Pruitt, Director of the Institutional Compliance; and (iv) Shana Jennings, Director of Privacy and Associate General Counsel.

*Fostering Outreach and Engagement.* President Boyd discussed a few of the many ways in which the University is working to expand its outreach and engagement to benefit the state and its residents. In particular, the Grow Your Own Center has made a significant impact on addressing the shortage of teachers in the state since it was established two years ago. By the close of calendar year 2023, the Grow Your Own Center had established partnerships with 73 school districts in 59 counties.

*Ensuring Workforce and Administrative Excellence.* President Boyd provided a few examples of the University's continuing efforts to ensure on its workforce and administrative excellence. He reported that, for the second consecutive year, the University earned recognition as a "Great Place to Work."

*Advocating for UT.* President Boyd reminded the Committee that advocating for UT takes many forms, such as fundraising, partnering with the government, and marketing. He provided examples of the University's advocacy during 2023:

- The University achieved its second highest fundraising year in UT's history with donations reaching \$342 million.
- Working with Tennessee's locally governed institutions, the University launched "Value of Higher Education" marketing campaign to promote the importance of a four-year degree.

President Boyd concluded his remarks by announcing that this year's State of the University address be held on February 8, 2024, and will feature a panel discussion with the University's five Chancellors. The panel discussion will be moderated by President Boyd and David Plazas, Director of Opinion and Engagement for the *USA Today Network-Tennessee/The Tennessean*.

## **Appointment, Initial Compensation, and other Terms of Employment of University Officers**

Vice President for Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Success. President Boyd announced that Dr. Linda Martin will continue to serve as Interim Chancellor of UT Southern and presented Dr. Bernard Savarese to serve as Vice President for Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Success (removing the acting title). Dr. Savarese's qualifications, recommended compensation, and other terms of employment were included in the meeting materials under Tab 3.2. Upon motion duly made and seconded, a roll call vote was taken, and the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, unanimously approved **Resolution 002-2024** appointing Dr. Bernard Savarese to serve as Vice President for Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Success.

Vice President for National Labs. President Boyd recommended that the Executive Committee approve the creation of a new University officer position, Vice President of National Labs, and presented Jeff W. Smith for appointment as the inaugural holder of the position. Dr. Smith's qualifications, recommended compensation, and other terms of employment were included in the meeting materials under Tab 3.1. Upon motion duly made and seconded, a roll call vote was taken, and the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, unanimously approved **Resolution 003-2024** appointing Dr. Smith to serve as Vice President for National Labs.

## **Planning for Winter Board Meeting**

Chair Compton reviewed key topics planned for the upcoming meetings of the Board and its Committees, which will be held at UT Southern on February 29 and March 1, 2024. Among other things, the agenda for the Board meeting will include the President's Report, including a review of proposed 2024 goals and objectives.

## **Consent Agenda**

Chair Compton asked if there were any requests to remove any items from the agenda. There being none, upon motion duly made and seconded, a roll call vote was taken, and the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, unanimously approved (i) the Resolution to adopt the minutes of prior meeting, and (ii) the Resolutions pertaining to the other the action items included in the Consent Agenda. (A complete list of the approved items appears at the end of these minutes.)

## **Other Business and Closing Remarks**

Chair Compton directed the trustees' attention to the Executive Summary of Annual Institutional Review of the UT Health Science Center-Memphis (College of Medicine) (Tab 4). He noted that the ACGME's Review Committee has commended UT Health Science Center for its demonstrated

substantial compliance with the Institutional Requirements. Chair Compton extended the Board's gratitude and appreciation of all the work undertaken by Chancellor Buckley and members of the UTHSC team to fully and timely address the concerns that were raised previously.

Chair Compton announced that following the conclusion of today's meeting, the Executive Committee would meet in a nonpublic, executive session pursuant to Tennessee Code §4-35-108 to discuss audits or investigations and litigation as permitted by state law.

## **Adjournment**

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

## Approved Consent Agenda Items

- Minutes of the Prior Meeting (May 5, 2023)
- Resolution Appointing a Managerial Group for U.S. Government Contracts (*Resolution 004-2024*)
- Items from the Education, Research, and Service Committee
  - Change in a Degree Designation to establish a Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs, UTK (*Resolution 005-2024*)
  - Change in the Degree Designation and CIP Code for the Master of Public Policy and Administration, UTK (*Resolution 006-2024*)

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

- PowerPoint Presentation - Igniting the Greatest Decade

## Information Item

- Executive Summary - Annual Institutional Review, UTHSC-Memphis (College of Medicine)