



ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

September 26, 2024

Roaden University Center, Room 282

MINUTES

Meeting was streamed live via link found on this web page:

<https://www.tntech.edu/board/board-and-board-committee-meetings.php>

AGENDA ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

The Tennessee Tech Board of Trustees Academic & Student Affairs Committee met on September 26, 2024 in Roaden University Center, Room 282. Chair Rhedona Rose called the meeting to order at 8:13 a.m.

Chair Rose asked Mr. Lee Wray, Secretary, to call the roll. The following members were present:

- Rhedona Rose
- Jeannette Luna
- Claire Myers
- Camron Rudd

Other board members also in attendance were Trudy Harper, Thomas Lynn, Fred Lowery (virtual), Tom Jones, and Johnny Stites. A quorum was met. Tennessee Tech faculty and staff and members of the public were also in attendance.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Rose asked for approval of the minutes of the June 20, 2024 Academic & Student Affairs Committee meeting. Trustee Luna moved to approve the June 20, 2024 Academic & Student Affairs Committee minutes. Trustee Rudd seconded the motion. Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

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AGENDA ITEM 3 – ENROLLMENT REPORT

Karen Lykins, vice president for enrollment and communication, began her presentation by sharing the overall student headcount for fall 2024, which was one of the university's largest overall headcounts in recent years. She also indicated that the university slightly exceeded their set goal for first-time freshmen numbers. In addition, she noted that transfer numbers were slightly up, as well as graduate student numbers.

Ms. Lykins then presented information about first-time freshmen for fall 2024. She shared the average ACT score and GPA for these incoming freshmen, which continued to showcase an academically strong incoming class. Next, Ms. Lykins presented information about out-of-state students and how this is an area that has potential for growth. She also shared information about the diversity of the incoming freshmen class, noting that the Hispanic population has shown a significant increase over the last few years.

Ms. Lykins ended her presentation by informing the Board that retention and graduation rates continue to be high, stating that presidential scholars helped keep the numbers high for both. She explained the university's recruitment cycle and retention process and how success was achieved through the process.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – PROVOST'S REPORT

Provost Bruce began her presentation by providing an overview of how Tennessee Tech undergraduate and graduate students are, on average, enrolling in courses both in terms of the total credit hours and the mix of online vs on ground courses. The patterns shown matched feedback obtained from surveys regarding what students prefer to take. She also informed the Board that a recent extensive marketing and advertising campaign to recruit graduate students was very successful.

Provost Bruce then provided a high-level overview of the number and types of courses being taught this fall semester and shared information related to students' progression toward degree completion. Provost Bruce then provided details about how Tennessee Tech students academically performed this past year and information about retention and graduation rates.

Provost Bruce then introduced Dean Kim Hanna from the Whitson-Hester School of Nursing to give a focused update on the college, as a third in a series of college updates presented by college deans. This series was initiated as a result of the most recent Board self-evaluation. Dean Hanna began her presentation by giving some history on the college and discussing the growth of the program over the years. Dean Hanna then shared information on the ETSU-TTU Joint Doctor of Nursing (DNP) program. She also shared other programs of study that the college offers, including undergraduate, graduate, and graduate certificate options.

Dean Hanna then presented information about the college's accreditation success and the reasons behind the importance of accreditation for the college. She remarked that Tennessee Tech nursing

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Dr. Liu concluded his presentation by highlighting Tennessee Tech's research centers and the directors for each center.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT REPORT

Dr. Braswell, vice president for university advancement, began his presentation by giving an update for the campaign titled, "It's Personal" running from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2028. He detailed the campaign goals for three major focus areas including: student experience (athletics), scholarships, and faculty support. He shared the goal amount for each area and the current amount raised.

Dr. Braswell, then highlighted fundraising totals for the last ten fiscal years, pointing out that last fiscal year was one of Tennessee Tech's best fundraising years. He shared the amount of fundraising dollars committed for several major projects that help enhance student experiences. He also shared information about the university's scholarship strategy, particularly the role of donor funded scholarships. He informed the Board that the number of awards continues to increase, as well as the total awards offered.

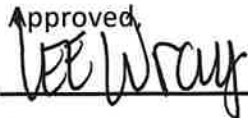
Next, Dr. Braswell discussed giving by source from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2024. He also showed a side-by-side comparison of the number of proposals placed for FY14-18 and FY20-24. Dr. Braswell concluded his presentation by discussing potential for growth and campaign next steps.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

AGENDA ITEM 9 – ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Approved,
 12/09/24

Lee Wray, Secretary

graduates are career ready; exceeding national and accreditation performance benchmarks across graduate and undergraduate programs, passing exams with a very high first-time pass rate, and being employed within a year of graduation.

Dean Hanna then discussed enrollment challenges for nursing. She informed the Board that enrollment nationwide is down for both undergraduate and graduate, however Tennessee Tech's nursing enrollment has been up for undergraduate and only slightly down for graduate, with numbers much better than the national average. She also highlighted some new admission and recruiting initiatives that the college is implementing.

She concluded her presentation by showcasing highlights of students, faculty, and staff participating in various programs and partnerships to enhance their college experience, as well as helping the community.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – STUDENT AFFAIRS REPORT

Dr. Polk-Johnson, vice president for student affairs, began her presentation by sharing the success of a new move in process and detailing the success of the fall 2024 Week of Welcome activities. She explained that this year's WOW included over 50 events, including the second annual "College Town Kickoff", which she explained as a block party-style community gathering in downtown Cookeville that brought students and the community together.

Dr. Polk-Johnson then informed the Board that Tennessee Tech is a new member of the FirstGen Forward network, which focuses on the success of first-generation college students. She informed the Board that Dr. Harry Ingle, recently joined the student affairs team as the executive director overseeing first-generation student success. Dr. Polk-Johnson also informed the Board that the University Police Department recently went through a major leadership change and that Fred Nichols was named new chief of university police.

Dr. Polk-Johnson concluded her report by giving a few updates on several grants that the university received recently. She updated Board members on some improvements that are being made and plans for improvements that are being made with the funds for two specific grants.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Dr. John Liu, vice president for research and economic development began his report by giving an update on research funding for fiscal year 2024, sharing that total research funding was up from previous years. He mentioned that this increase in funding, reflects the excellent faculty and their efforts. Dr. Liu then spent a few minutes explaining the complex, but very engaged relationship between teaching research, economic development, and education. He explained that research helps faculty teach courses more effectively with updated materials and that research makes real-world differences and economic impact.

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