



Board of Trustees Meeting

June 23, 2020

Meeting via teleconference and streamed live via link found on this web page:

<https://www.tntech.edu/board/meetings/2020-06-23-board-meeting.php>

MINUTES

AGENDA ITEM 1—CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Tennessee Tech Board of Trustees met on June 23, 2020, via teleconference. Chair Harper called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Chair Harper asked Kae Carpenter, Secretary, to call the roll. The following members were present:

- Mason Hilliard
- Tom Jones
- Fred Lowery
- Sally Pardue
- Rhedona Rose
- Purna Saggurti
- Johnny Stites
- Teresa Vanhooser
- Barry Wilmore
- Trudy Harper

A quorum was in attendance but not physically present.

All participating Trustees confirmed that they could simultaneously hear and speak to the Board members, that they received the Board materials in advance of the meeting, and all except Mr. Stites confirmed that they were the only person present in the location from which they were calling. Mr. Stites stated that Dr. Claire Stinson and Becky Smith were in the conference room with him.

AGENDA ITEM 2—DETERMINATION OF NECESSITY

Chair Harper stated that a determination of necessity was required because a quorum was not physically present. She stated that the Board of Trustees meeting was required to consider several important and time-sensitive matters, including but not limited to, emergency rules, tenure recommendations, and the budget. She stated that the Board was meeting via teleconference in recognition of the need to limit personal contact during the COVID-19 Pandemic and in keeping with Executive Order 38 related to the pandemic. She stated these facts and circumstances necessitated that a meeting be held without a quorum being physically present.

Ms. Vanhooser moved that a determination of necessity existed to allow Board members to participate by electronic means. Mr. Hilliard seconded the motion. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Ms. Carpenter called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 3: SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT AND FACULTY EXCELLENCE

Chair Harper stated that Dr. Ismail Fidan, Professor in the Department of Manufacturing and Engineering Technology, recruited a workforce of graduate and undergraduate students to create several hundred face masks and shields for healthcare workers and first responders for use during the COVID-19 pandemic. Leading the students in use of the latest 3D printing technology gained him international recognition, as well as being selected as recipient of the 2020 Caplenor Research Award, Tennessee Tech's highest faculty research honor.

Dr. Fidan stated that the team's initial task was to print headbands but plastic shields were also needed. He stated that they donated over 900 fully assembled face shields to Cookeville Regional Medical Center, Cookeville Fire Department, City of Cookeville, Putnam County Emergency Medical Services, Cookeville Regional Medical Cancer Center, and Tennessee Tech Health Services. He stated that currently there were an additional 450 face shields ready for delivery.

Dr. Fidan stated that Tennessee Tech also established an additive manufacturing hub called Additive Manufacturing Workforce Advancement Training Coalition and Hub. He stated they were able to train almost 50 STEM educators on the latest trends and technologies of additive manufacturing and a 3D printer was given to each participant in the two-day workshop. Tennessee Tech labs were used and students volunteered their time to help without financial compensation. These students included Kyle Wendt, Ankit Gupta, and Seymour Hasanov.

Chair Harper welcomed Kinsey Potter and Kester Nucum who represented Tech's Generation R, students who were passionate about Rural Reimagined. She stated that Kinsey and Kester were

the energy behind the Gen R Club and Gen R Ambassadors and they provided inspiration, information, and leadership to the Grand Challenge Committee. She stated that committee was hard at work integrating rural assistance in the academic and service components of Tennessee Tech.

Chair Harper stated she wanted to congratulate Dr. Holly Stretz, of the Chemical Engineering Department, as the incoming Faculty Senate President. She stated she also wanted to thank Dr. Sandi Smith-Andrews for her leadership with the Trustees and with the Faculty Senate.

AGENDA ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Saggurti moved to approve the May 21, 2020, meeting minutes. Mr. Lowery seconded the motion. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Ms. Carpenter called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5: ELECTION OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE

Chair Harper stated that the 2016 Focus Act required the Board to select a student as a non-voting member and the Tennessee Tech Student Government Association developed a process for selecting candidates to present to the Board for consideration. She stated that the candidates selected by the SGA and listed in alphabetical order were Daniel Hinds, Jackson Lelle, and Tristan Pope.

Mr. Hines stated that he was a rising senior studying Cellular and Molecular Biology. He stated that he wanted to serve as the student representative on the Board because he believed he brought a diverse and well-rounded perspective that could represent the student population as a whole. He stated that it would be an honor to serve Tennessee Tech in this way because Tennessee Tech has given him a quality education, teamwork skills, reliability and dependability traits, and the capacity for improvement.

Mr. Lilly stated that he was a rising senior studying Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology and Science. He stated that he believed that Tennessee Tech was a family and he would continue to harbor this aspect so every student that comes to Tennessee Tech would know they belonged here and were welcome. He stated that he believed he had the communication skills and ability to work together with others so he could accomplish what needed to be done by Tennessee Tech's Board of Trustees.

Mr. Pope stated that he was from rural Smith County and was a first-generation college student. He stated that he was majoring in Agriculture Education and that Tennessee Tech had been a life-changing experience for him. He stated that being a student at Tennessee Tech prepared him not only academically, but also allowed him to gain both leadership and social skills. He stated that he believed he would be able to apply these skills to the student trustee

position to better serve and represent not only the students, but also Tennessee Tech as a whole.

Mr. Jones nominated Daniel Hines for the student representative on the Board of Trustees. Mr. Lowery seconded the motion. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Ms. Carpenter called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 6: PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Oldham stated that there continued to be an emphasis on diversity on campus, particularly with recent events. He stated that Tennessee Tech has been responding through personal statements, an official statement made on behalf of the University, and meeting with various groups of black students to encourage dialogue and educate the faculty and staff. He stated that he also met with a group of black faculty and staff that allowed the group to share what their experiences were like at Tennessee Tech. He stated that Tennessee Tech must do more, and that was what he intended to do. He stated that he instructed the cabinet to hold similar meetings with their faculty and staff in their divisions to expand this conversation across campus. He stated that he would continue to explore ways to expand the conversation so that Tennessee Tech could learn from each other and all could benefit from shared and different experiences.

President Oldham stated that there was continued progress despite the challenges of the shutdown, online learning, and budgetary restrictions. He stated that there was uncertainty regarding future financial support as well as uncertainty in fall enrollment. He stated that Tennessee Tech remained committed to having students back on campus in a safe and healthy manner in August, and Tennessee Tech was making modifications and preparations to ensure this was done successfully.

President Oldham stated that currently Tennessee Tech has seen a decrease in the amount of state support expected for this year and necessary adjustments were being made. He stated that some maintenance money was lost. He stated that the goals remained the same, and progress must maintain momentum.

President Oldham stated that Tennessee Tech remained completely committed on its expectation to keep education affordable and accessible. He stated that there was no tuition or fee increase proposed for returning students.

President Oldham stated that he asked the entire cabinet and everyone academically qualified among the senior staff, to teach a class this next year, including himself. He stated this was a way to keep the campus connected and to ensure everyone understood their purpose for being here.

President Oldham stated that capital projects would continue. He stated that the new student recreation center would open in the next couple of weeks, the new science building would be partially open this fall and would completely open later in the fall. He stated that the new engineering building remained under design, and the design process was moving along at a good pace. He stated that the plaza on the west end of the Roaden University Center was currently under construction for a new outdoor space that included a fire pit and outdoor seating for students to enjoy. He stated that the cupola on top of Derryberry Hall was being replaced. He stated that the roads around campus were being repaired. He stated that coaches have been working in less than adequate conditions underneath the stadium, and Tennessee Tech was in the process of utilizing some portable trailer facilities to temporarily replace the current offices.

President Oldham stated that enrollment was continuing to be a focus. He stated that summer school enrollment has increased five percent over last year's summer enrollment. He stated that much of the enrollment for the fall semester was still being determined.

President Oldham stated that career placement has been a major emphasis. He stated that adjustments to the current situation were being made and the prospects for the future were excellent.

President Oldham stated research was a continuing focus and he anticipated Dr. Taylor would join Tennessee Tech later in the summer as the Vice President for Research. He stated that this was a really good year for research funding and progress on campus despite the shutdown and the pandemic. He stated that Tennessee Tech had already submitted a record number of proposals to funding agencies. The approximate number submitted was 190 proposals, which was close to a 15-percent increase from last year. He stated that last year Tennessee Tech reached a record number of dollars awarded in research grants, just over \$20 million, and Tennessee Tech had already received \$20 million in research awards with one week left in the fiscal year.

President Oldham stated that online education has been a major component of this year. He stated that he expected this fall to have an increase of nine to ten percent of courses being offered online. He stated that a lot of additional work was being put into scheduling hybrid courses, which were courses partially online and partially in person. He stated that the number of hybrid courses in the fall was estimated to be about 19 percent.

President Oldham stated that he was less satisfied in the project being proposed with the public-private partnership around a residence hall project. He stated that Tennessee Tech had talked to a number of private developers but had not yet found the right partner.

AGENDA ITEM 7.A: CONSENT AGENDA—TENURE RECOMMENDATIONS, 7.B: PRESIDENTS EMERITI CONTRACTS, AND 7.C: TTU POLICY 1204 (INSTITUTIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS)

Mr. Saggurtti moved to approve all items on the consent agenda. Ms. Rose seconded the motion. With an opportunity for discussion and there being none, Ms. Carpenter called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 8.A.1—ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—REPORT—ACADEMIC PROGRAM UPDATES

Ms. Rose stated that during the morning Academic & Student Affairs Committee meeting, Provost Bruce shared updates regarding new academic minors, concentrations, and certificates. She stated that Provost Bruce highlighted the Department of Decision Sciences and Management and converted a concentration to a major in Business Information Technology. She stated that the Department of Curriculum and Instruction created a new graduate level certificate and licensure endorsement for Computer Science, which is the first licensure of its kind in Tennessee.

AGENDA ITEM 8.A.2—ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—REPORT—REVIEW AND UPDATE REGARDING CAMPUS COVID-19 RESPONSE

Ms. Rose stated that President Oldham, Provost Bruce, and Dr. Rob Owens provided updates regarding Tennessee Tech’s response to COVID-19. She stated that they shared details regarding the plans to safely reintroduce faculty, staff, and students back to campus as well as measures being taken to ensure there was the best possible learning environment for students. She stated that the report focused on three specific areas of student affairs in enrollment and academic affairs. She stated that there were reports on fall housing, the counseling center, health services and the COVID-19 testing capabilities, and the new student recreation center. She stated that domestic enrollment would be similar to what it was last fall, but there was expected to be a decline in international student enrollment. She stated that task forces had been established to create plans and procedures to ensure academic success and personal well-being. She stated that those areas were specific to hybrid courses, social distancing, pedestrian flow, policy procedures, and student success.

AGENDA ITEM 8.B.1—ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—RECOMMENDATIONS—NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSAL, M.S. IN COMMUNITY HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Chair Harper stated that the purpose of this degree program was to provide advanced content, knowledge, and rural community health for credentialed nutrition and dietetics professionals

who seek a graduate degree as well as undergraduate dietetics students who seek to achieve registered dietician nutritionist certification combined with a graduate degree. Ms. Rose moved to approve the new academic program, M.S. in Community Health and Nutrition. Mr. Lowery seconded the motion. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Ms. Carpenter called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 8.B.2—ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—RECOMMENDATIONS—TTU EMERGENCY RULE 0240-09-01 STUDENT CONDUCT AND TTU POLICY 302 (STUDENT CONDUCT)

Ms. Rose stated that on May 6th, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education published its final regulations related to Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Procedures. She stated that these new regulations, which go into effect August 2020, would make substantial changes to the procedures and processes used by institutions to address sexual harassment. She stated that this new federal regulation necessitated further revisions to the previously approved Student Conduct Rule. She stated that the Student Conduct Rule was revised to remove references to sexual harassment or sexual misconduct that fall within the scope of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and TTU Policy 302 (Student Conduct) was revised to reflect those changes in the rule. She stated that Title IX matters would be addressed in a separate rule. She stated that Tennessee Tech must file emergency rules in order to comply with the Title IX final regulations before the implementation deadline of August 14th, 2020.

She stated that upon the recommendation of the committee, she moved to approve Tennessee Tech University Emergency Student Conduct Rule 0240-09-01 (Student Conduct) and TTU Policy 302 (Student Conduct) as presented. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Ms. Carpenter called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 9.A.1—AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—REPORT—FEDERAL CARES ACT AND AUXILIARY INCOME

Mr. Stites stated that the Audit & Business Committee discussed the CARES funding received by Tennessee Tech. He stated that Tennessee Tech received funding from both 18004(a)(1) and 18004(a)(2). He stated that 50 percent of 18004(a)(1) was designated for emergency financial aid grants for students. He stated that 6,991 students have already seen a total of \$3,730,664 of these funds. He stated that the rest of the funds were designated to assist Tennessee Tech with costs associated with changes in instructional delivery due to COVID-19. He stated that Tennessee Tech used \$3,260,798 to provide refunds of housing and meal plans to students.

**AGENDA ITEM 9.A.2—AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—
REPORT—ENDOWMENTS AND BOND FINANCING**

Mr. Stites stated that Tennessee Tech was closely watching the performance of endowments as the market was quite volatile. He stated that endowments were assets of the Tennessee Tech Foundation that provided scholarships to students and support for the academic programs at Tennessee Tech. He stated that Tennessee Tech also borrowed funds to construct buildings and other assets for auxiliary enterprises such as housing, the recreation center, parking, and transportation. He stated that most of Tennessee Tech's debt was bonded Fall of 2019 at very good rates. He stated that Tennessee Tech had only one small project still under short-term capital funding. He stated those rates were under 2 percent.

**AGENDA ITEM 9.A.3—AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—
REPORT—STATE BUDGET**

Mr. Stites stated that Tennessee Tech's new state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 had been reduced to zero. He stated that the capital outlay for the new engineering building had been removed from the state budget and funds for capital maintenance projects had been significantly reduced. He stated that there were good reports that Tennessee Tech was making progress on the budget.

**AGENDA ITEM 9.A.4—AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—
REPORT—FACULTY PROMOTIONS**

Mr. Stites stated that Provost Bruce shared decisions and supporting documentation regarding promotions for eligible faculty members with the Board. He stated that 15 faculty members were awarded promotions beginning August 2020. He stated the percentage of total faculty being awarded promotions was three percent. He stated that this was presented separate from the tenure recommendations, which were addressed on the consent agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM 9.B.1—AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—
RECOMMENDATIONS—FY2019-20 ESTIMATED AND FY2020-21 PROPOSED BUDGETS**

Mr. Stites, upon the committee's recommendation, moved to approve the 2019-2020 estimated budget and the fiscal year 2020-2021 proposed budget. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Ms. Carpenter called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 9.B.2.a—AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—RECOMMENDATIONS—CAMPUS SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING

Mr. Stites stated that ceremonial gates at the main entrance close to campus and entry markers as secondary entry points including buildings, streets, and wayfinding signs would be installed.

Mr. Jones asked if it was necessary to begin this project during this time since salary increases had to be suspended and a reduction in force implemented. He asked if this was a project that could wait another year.

Dr. Stinson stated that the project would take place over the course of more than one year and would cost a total of \$490,000, but the first phase that would begin this year would cost a total of \$190,000.

President Oldham stated that the whole project would take multiple years and that, of all the surveys that were done regarding why students select certain universities, campus environment was almost always the number one indicator among students in choosing their university. He stated this was more than an aesthetic concern; it was a strategic issue. He stated that Tennessee Tech could survive another year without it, but it was important to move on with these projects when there was opportunity.

Mr. Stites moved to approve the disclosed projects for campus signage and wayfinding. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Ms. Carpenter called a roll call vote. The motion carried 8 to 1 with Mr. Jones voting nay.

AGENDA ITEM 9.B.2.b—AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—RECOMMENDATIONS—DATA CENTER FIRE SUPPRESSION

He stated Tennessee Tech would install a fire suppression system for the data center in Clement Hall.

Mr. Stites moved to approve the fire suppression system in Clement Hall. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Ms. Carpenter called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 9.B.2.c—AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—RECOMMENDATIONS—FOOTBALL OFFICES

Mr. Stites stated that Tennessee Tech would purchase and install a prefabricated portable office building for the football program.

Mr. Stites moved to approve the disclosed project for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the prefabricated portable football offices.

Mr. Stites stated that this project was not consistent with the architecture of Tennessee Tech's campus, and it would be in a very visible part of campus and would send the wrong message.

Captain Wilmore asked what other options were considered and why this was decided as the best option.

President Oldham stated that this had been an issue that Tennessee Tech struggled with for a long time. He stated that multiple options had been looked at as far as finding existing space on campus already present that could be utilized, but there was nothing available. He stated that the cost of building new space for the football program was beyond reach at this time. He stated that this was not a final solution, but there were coaches sitting in offices where water would come into the building when it rains and something had to be done even if this was not the ideal solution. He stated this was the most cost-effective way of dealing with the problem immediately.

Mark Wilson stated that Tucker Stadium as a whole was the one building that did not fit with the architecture of the rest of campus. He stated that the fundraising plan was addressing this to improve the stadium's total aesthetic. He stated that this temporary solution would put football coaches in a much better environment

Mr. Jones asked how long the portable offices would be used.

Mr. Wilson stated that he could not define short-term, but he did not consider the portable offices a permanent solution.

Mr. Lowery asked if there was an estimate as to what the improvements would cost and what the football operation improvements would include.

President Oldham stated that team operations would be around \$10 million to \$15 million.

Mr. Jones asked what the long-term goal was.

Mr. Wilson stated that it was recommended that there be a complete tear-down of the whole structure due to the water damage that had been going on for years. He stated that there was a plan to tear down one side, which was what funding was being secured for.

Mr. Jones asked how much this would cost.

Mr. Wilson stated that tearing down the one side would cost \$45 million, but this would include all team facilities underneath it.

With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Ms. Carpenter called a roll call vote. The motion carried 8 to 1 with Mr. Stites voting nay.

AGENDA ITEM 9.B.3—AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—RECOMMENDATIONS—CAPITAL BUDGET FY2021

Mr. Stites, upon the committee's recommendation, moved the Board approve the 2021-2022 capital budget request. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Ms. Carpenter called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 9.B.4—AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—RECOMMENDATIONS—TTU EMERGENCY RULE 0240-09-08 TITLE IX COMPLIANCE AND TTU POLICY 144 (TITLE IX POLICY AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES)

Mr. Stites stated that the Board held an informational meeting regarding the TTU Emergency Rule 0240-09-08 Title IX Compliance and TTU Policy 144 (Title IX Policy and Grievance Procedures) on June 2nd, 2020. He stated that on May 6th, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education published its final regulations related to Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Procedures. He stated that these new regulations, which would go into effect August 2020, made substantial changes to the procedures and processes used by institutions to address sexual harassment. He stated that an emergency rule was necessary to ensure the rule was in effect by August 14th. He stated that TTU Policy 144 (Title IX Policy and Grievance Procedures) reflected the TTU Title IX rule replacements and provided additional details as required by the federal regulation.

Mr. Stites, upon the committee's recommendation, moved the Board approve the TTU Emergency Rule 0240-09-08 Title IX Compliance and TTU Policy 144 (Title IX Policy and Grievance Procedures) as presented. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Ms. Carpenter called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 9.B.5—AUDIT & BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS—RECOMMENDATIONS—NAMING OF STUDENT RECREATION CENTER

Mr. Stites, upon the committee's recommendation, moved the Board approve the naming of the new student recreation center to the Marc L. Burnett Student Recreation and Fitness Center.

President Oldham stated that Mr. Burnett had been a staple to Tennessee Tech for over 35 years. He stated that Mr. Burnett embodied the spirit of Tennessee Tech. He stated that Mr. Burnett was very beneficial to and was a leader in securing the building funding by working with the Student Government Association to pass a referendum to institute a student fee to pay for

the building. He stated it was through Mr. Burnett's encouragement that this building was completed. He stated that Mr. Burnett had served Tennessee Tech in various capacities, such as Vice President for Student Affairs, the first and only permanent black Vice President, the first Chief Diversity Officer, and he has awarded \$1.2 million in diversity scholarships to improve campus diversity. He stated that Mr. Burnett was a five-time captain of the Tennessee Tech basketball team. He stated that Mr. Burnett was an outstanding individual and was a great credit to the campus and the community.

Dr. Robert Owens stated that these were challenging times regarding racial injustice. He stated that without Mr. Burnett, he would not be here. He stated that he owed Mr. Burnett much of his career for opening doors for him. He stated that it wasn't just about him, but he had spent much of his time in the Black Cultural Center and, without Mr. Burnett, he would not have that space. He stated that the legacy of black individuals at Tennessee Tech owed itself to Mr. Burnett.

With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Ms. Carpenter called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Burnett stated that this honor was difficult to absorb. He stated that his dreams always related to helping students and serving students in the best way possible. He stated that he never looked at a white student and a black student and decided which student to help, he just wanted to help someone. He stated that if he could change what was happening in the world in exchange for the naming of the building, he would. He stated that growing up his grandfather taught him to never treat anyone without respect, always treat everyone with respect and dignity. He stated that his grandfather taught him that we could educate people, but ultimately their hearts must change. He stated that he wanted to thank God, his family, and the Board. He thanked Dr. Oldham, the university committees, David Mullinax, and the Tennessee Tech students. He stated that Tennessee Tech had done so much for him and he always wanted to give back to Tennessee Tech.

AGENDA ITEM 10—OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Harper stated that she wanted to address the former student trustee, Mason Hilliard. She stated that Mr. Hilliard was a remarkable young man who was able to stand out at a university full of extraordinary people. She stated that Mr. Hilliard represented the interests of his fellow students with honesty and clarity and had done so with the professionalism of a seasoned executive. She congratulated Mr. Hilliard on his new position at Tennessee Tech as an Admissions Counselor.

President Oldham stated that he and Mrs. Oldham enjoyed getting to know Mr. Hilliard and he had made a legacy at Tennessee Tech. President Oldham presented Mr. Hilliard with a plaque for his service as student trustee.

Mr. Hilliard stated that it was an honor to serve as student trustee. He stated that Tennessee Tech welcomed him with open arms, and he was excited that his work at Tennessee Tech was not yet finished. He stated that he wanted to wish Daniel Hinds, the new student trustee, the best of luck. He thanked President Oldham and the Board members for working with him and giving him this opportunity.

Chair Harper stated that Kae Carpenter would be retiring very soon. She congratulated Ms. Carpenter on an exceptional career. She stated that Ms. Carpenter's work had influenced and enhanced each of the multiple organizations with which she had been involved. She stated that Ms. Carpenter had a genuine gift of quickly getting to the heart of many different issues that she was required to address. She stated that Ms. Carpenter's title of University Counsel was appropriate because she was a wonderful counselor, but the title of Board Secretary was inadequate at describing the responsibilities and burdens in shepherding the Board. She stated that Ms. Carpenter had been a teacher, a disciplinarian, a cheerleader, and a visionary thinker. She stated that Ms. Carpenter's impact at Tennessee Tech would be a legacy of servant leadership. She thanked Ms. Carpenter for her leadership and friendship.

President Oldham thanked Ms. Carpenter for all the work she had done. He stated that Ms. Carpenter took charge in getting Tennessee Tech up to speed in all matters of policy and legal status. He stated that she always provided wise counsel. He stated that Ms. Carpenter took on the additional responsibilities of helping establish the Board with grace and professional capability. He stated that Ms. Carpenter was an excellent Board Secretary. President Oldham presented Ms. Carpenter with a plaque for her time, service, and dedication to Tennessee Tech. He also presented a crystal glass with an etched Tennessee Tech seal to Ms. Carpenter as a gift from the Board of Trustees.

Ms. Carpenter thanked President Oldham and the Board for their kind words. She stated that it had been an honor to serve Tennessee Tech. She thanked the "hive", which included the administrative support staff, the Office of Communications and Marketing, Information Technology Services, and all the individuals who worked so hard to make everything seamless so the Board could address the important issues. She stated that she had never met a more generous group of individuals than the members of the Board, who were both capacious in spirit and generosity to Tennessee Tech.

Mr. Jones stated that he loved Tennessee Tech's campus and investing in it was important, but he stated that he wanted to define the environment as more than brick and mortar, and to also include student culture. He stated that he urged President Oldham, the staff, and the faculty that they invest in the culture of Tennessee Tech, including investing in the faculty and the students. He stated that the Board has done well in highlighting students, but he was concerned there were no raises this year because of budget.

President Oldham stated that he agreed and regretted that this was the first year in eight years that Tennessee Tech could not give salary raises, but it was still considered a top priority.

AGENDA ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Approved,

Lee Wray 09.30.20
Lee Wray, Board Secretary