

## **ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**December 1, 2022**

**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 December 1, 2022 in Roaden University Center, Room 282. Chair Rhedona Rose called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m.

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

Rhedona Rose  
Dan Allcott (Virtual)  
Savannah Griffin  
Barry Wilmore

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

Chairperson Dan Allcott participated via Zoom and confirmed that he could simultaneously hear and speak to the Committee members, received the Committee materials in advance of the meeting, and was alone in the room.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 2 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Rose asked for approval of the minutes of the October 6, 2022 Academic & Student Affairs Committee meeting. Chair Rose asked if there were questions or comments regarding the minutes. There being none, Trustee Wilmore moved to recommend approval of the

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October 6, 2022 Academic & Student Affairs Committee minutes. Trustee Allcott seconded the motion. Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3 – Provost’s Report**

Provost Bruce provided updates on recent activities in Academic Affairs, including the final approval from Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) on November 3, 2022 for the establishment of a Bachelor of Science degree in Music at Tennessee Tech.

Provost Bruce then recognized Dr. Jessie Carrick, a faculty member in the Chemistry Department in the College of Arts and Science, for winning the prestigious Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award that included an unrestricted research grant for \$75,000. He was the first at Tennessee Tech and the first in the state of Tennessee to win this award. He won the award for his research in the field of chemical synthesis.

Provost Bruce also recognized the celebration of 40 years of graduates in the School of Nursing. She remarked that during those 40 years the Whitson-Hester School of Nursing has graduated over 2,700 nurses with bachelor, master, or doctoral degrees. She informed Board members that to mark this milestone, the school hosted a 40 Years of Graduates celebration during the fall semester. Attendees and guests included alumni and current students, community and clinical partners and leaders, healthcare workers from throughout the state, and organizations such as the Nurse Honor Guard, Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society, Nursing Christian Fellowship, Student Nurses Association, and members of the Whitson-Hester School of Nursing Development Council and Community Advisory Board.

### **AGENDA ITEM 4 – Quality Assurance Funding**

Provost Bruce provided a presentation of an Academic Affairs success metric, i.e. the quality assurance score. The metric is based on numerous inputs related to undergraduate senior exit exams and major field assessments, academic program reviews and accreditations, student surveys, student access, and student academic success. The data is submitted to THEC, and the university is provided a quality assurance score on a scale of 1 to 100. Tennessee Tech’s score the previous year was 95, with the state average being 90. This score resulted in state funding to the university of approximately \$3million. This year Tennessee Tech scored 93. The state average for this year is not available yet, but Tennessee Tech’s score is consistently higher than the state average. Provost Bruce ended her update on the quality assurance score by emphasizing the importance it plays in the process of continuous quality improvement of our academic programs.

### **AGENDA ITEM 5 – Academic Program Update: Post Approval Monitoring**

Provost Bruce provided a post approval monitoring (PAM) update on new academic programs previously approved by the Board of Trustees. She explained that new academic programs are closely monitored for a period of 5-7 years, including the monitoring of enrollment levels and

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numbers of graduates, including a comparison of the actual numbers of enrollment and graduates to the projections made during the proposal process. The progress of achieving national accreditations is also monitored. Based on PAM reports, whenever enrollment and graduation goals are not being met, Academic Affairs develops and employs corrective actions.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6 – TTU Policy 271 (General Graduate Degree Requirements)**

Provost Bruce presented Policy 271, General Graduate Degree Requirements, to the Board of Trustees for approval of recommended revisions.

Provost Bruce explained that Policy 271 is scheduled for review every four years or whenever circumstances require review. Based on feedback on the University's SACSCOC Fifth Year Interim Report, revisions were recommended. The purpose of the revisions was to (i) streamline and clarify policy language, (ii) align the policy with SACSCOC standards, and (iii) modify the process for validating graduate coursework that has expired under graduation time limits. Policy 271 received all necessary university approvals before being presented to the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Wilmore moved to send Policy 271 to the Board for approval and to be placed on the Board's consent agenda. Trustee Allcott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7 – Student Affairs Report**

Dr. Polk-Johnson provided updates from the Division of Student Affairs. She gave an update on the number of students currently living in campus housing (2545) and the number of students currently placed in hotels (56) as a result of the high demand for campus housing. She informed the Board that by September the number of students in hotels had gone from 129 to 56 with the goal to move the remaining students in hotels to on-campus units by the next semester.

Next, Dr. Polk-Johnson provided highlights of the programming offered to students by the Division of Student Affairs, including more than 150 programs delivered via the office of Housing and Residential Life that are aligned with the university's Tech Tomorrow strategic plan.

Next Dr. Polk-Johnson gave highlights on several student engagement events that were designed to connect students with opportunities for learning outside of the classroom. Highlighted events included the Week of Welcome, Student Organizations Success Workshops, Fraternity and Sorority Life, SOLO concert series, College Town Weekends, and Life on the Plaza and Heritage Month Events.

Dr. Polk-Johnson also highlighted strategic initiatives created to sustain long-term improvements in the Division of Student Affairs. She discussed the formation of a strategic planning committee to look at the next five years, a student affairs newsletter, increased social media presence, and the implementation of Maxient student conduct software.

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Dr. Polk-Johnson concluded her presentation by giving a few examples of health and wellness initiatives and programs offered to students. Examples included intramural sports, a “wellness wagon”, an outdoor activities program, a CARE (Coordination, Assessment, Response, and Education) team, and the increase in staffing levels at the university’s Counseling Center.

**AGENDA ITEM 8 – Counseling Center Update on Mental Health Services**

Dr. Christina Mick, Director of the Counseling Center, provided an update on mental health services offered to students. Dr. Mick provided Board members with a presentation detailing the number of counseling sessions per academic year for academic years 2007/2008 through 2021/2022. The presentation showed there were 2,064 sessions for academic year 2021/2022, which was over a 100% increase from 2020/2021. Due to the increase in demand, the Counseling Center increased its staffing levels with the addition of a clinical coordinator and a mental health nurse practitioner. The Counseling Center has also included a wellness model to emphasize to students the importance of mental health.

The presentation also showed the number of counseling appointments by academic college for the previous academic year and the current academic year, with the College of Engineering being the highest in volume and the College of Fine Arts being the highest in percentage of students receiving services. Dr. Mick also shared data about the ages and academic level of students who received services. She also presented information about the predominant reasons for students seeking services from the Counseling Center. The top three reasons given were anxiety, depression, and grief.

Dr. Mick concluded her presentation by informing the Board that the Counseling Center is currently fully staffed and has filled the 3 vacancies from last year.

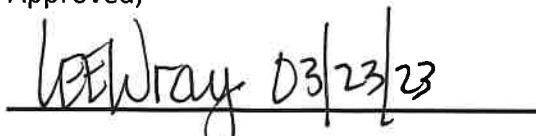
**AGENDA ITEM 9 – Other Business**

There was no other business.

**AGENDA ITEM 10 – Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee adjourned at 9:47 a.m

Approved,

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Lee Wray, Secretary