

Staff Advisory Committee
June 7, 2017

Members Present: Elizabeth Clemens, Anna DeBord, Liz Kassera (presiding), Deborah Mayberry, Becky Stafford, Cheryl Sullivan, Toni Nelson

Others Present: Thomas Heard, Logan McCormick, President Phil Oldham

Election of Chairman:

Chairman Kassera extended the welcome to the group and began the meeting at 11 a.m.. The meeting began with Chairman Kassera opened the floor for nominations for the 2017-2018 Chairman for the committee. Elizabeth Clemens nominated Jerry Keeton. Deborah Randolph seconded. Chairman Kassera called for the vote for Jerry Keeton as chairman in absentia. Mr. Keeton was elected by acclamation. Chairman Kassera thanked the committee for their service on the committee while she served as Chair.

President's Comments

President Oldham advised the TTU Board of Trustees second meeting is set for on June 15 in Bell Hall. The meeting will host a full agenda including review of a 3.7% tuition increase and review and approval of the FY 18 budget. The Board will also be reviewing many housekeeping items including, multiple policy reviews and approvals and confirming a new academic college, the College of Fine Arts. The instatement of the new college would then go before THEC and could be in place in the Fall.

All Board meetings are open to the public and will be streaming live online and additional monitors will be set up in the Bell Hall rotunda for those who would like to attend the meeting but are unable to find seating. After the Board meeting there will be a short reception for attendees to meet with the new Board members.

President Oldham expressed his confidence that all of the pieces are falling into place for a successful transition from TBR to the new Board. Procurement will move from TBR by December 1. Capital Project Management will also make the transition over the course of about two years. This will reduce the annual cost paid to TBR from the previous three quarters of a million dollars to somewhere between forty and fifty thousand dollar range. Some things will continue to have small ties with TBR such as Banner Services and some Information Technology functions.

He advised the university is in good shape from an enrollment standpoint for Fall 2017 with new applicants and transfer applicants up around 20% from last year's numbers. The legislature and the Tennessee Government has been kind this year and given TTU funds to continue the Carnegie Classification for our Ph.D. programs. Spring commencement included 23 Ph.D. graduates. Our goal is to keep that number above 20. TTU also was allotted funds over the next four years to maintain and increase cyber security on campus.

The many campus improvements are continuing on schedule. Jere Whitson will be back on line this Summer semester. Those in Bartoo and Kittrell Halls are already making moves to Foundation Hall in preparation for upgrades and maintenance to those buildings. The new Student Fitness Center ground breaking went well and is ready to begin infrastructure work to support the new facility and the new Science building is scheduled to break ground this Fall. The parking lot by Tech Village is slowly underway due to all of the recent rain. The RUC renovation bids are open now and will be reviewed in the coming weeks.

President Oldham also advised the Chartwells contract was approved for the next 10 years and will include more food options for students.

Other Such Matters:

President Oldham advised he will make an announcement on the appointment of an Interim Provost by the end of the week.

President Oldham also confirmed he does not for see any additional budget cuts or layoffs in the immediate to near future. With implementation of the new Board, it was the best time for a review of the University. Layoffs and budget cuts are not enjoyable but were necessary to ensure we provide the students with the best possible service. He advised the Huron Consulting Group will be assisting in aligning high-level administrative positions but no layoffs are foreseen in that review. It will be in relation to the organizational charts for the University to ensure which parent organizations house and oversee second tier programs with the most continuity. This will give TTU a successful structure to function more efficiently and serve the students to the extent of our capabilities.

There were no additional questions following President Oldham's updates. Chairman Kassera moved to adjourn the meeting. Deborah Randolph seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

B. Logan McCormick, Recorder