

### 3.1.1

#### Mission

The mission statement is current and comprehensive, accurately guides the institution's operations, is periodically reviewed and updated, is approved by the governing board, and is communicated to the institution's constituencies.

#### Judgment

Compliance    Partial Compliance    Non-Compliance    Not Applicable

#### Narrative

Tennessee Technological University's (TTU's) mission statement addresses teaching, learning, research, and service. TTU's Joint Committee for Planning and Budgeting follows a rigorous process through the university's system of shared governance to review, evaluate, and update the mission statement.

#### University Mission Statement

The mission statement is appropriate to an institution of higher learning, focusing on the integral parts of an institution of higher learning. The University's mission statement follows:

*Tennessee Technological University's mission as the state's only technological university is to provide leadership and outstanding programs in engineering, the sciences, and related areas that benefit the people of Tennessee and the nation. The University also provides strong programs in the arts and sciences, business, education, agriculture and human ecology, nursing, music, art and interdisciplinary studies. Tennessee Tech serves students from throughout the state, nation, and many other countries, but it retains a special commitment to enrich the lives of people and communities in the Upper Cumberland region of Tennessee.*

*The University is committed to the life-long success of students in its undergraduate, master's, specialist, and doctoral degree granting programs through high-quality instruction and learning experiences. The University is engaged in scholarly activity, especially basic and applied research, creative endeavors, and public service, with special emphasis on community and economic development. The University supports student participation in a broad array of extracurricular activities as an integral component of its commitment to student life and success.*

*The University's three interdisciplinary accomplished Centers of Excellence in Energy Systems Research, Manufacturing, and Water Resources and Chairs of Excellence in Business Administration strengthen the instructional, research, and service mission of the University.*

*The University is as supportive of women as of men and as supportive of those in the minority as of those in the majority. The University provides educational opportunities to all eligible persons without regard to age, gender, ethnicity, race, religion, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation. The institution is committed to an inclusive and diverse campus that enriches the educational experience, promotes personal growth and a healthy society, prepares students for success in a global economy, and enhances America's economic competitiveness [1].*

TTU is a member of the State University and Community College System of Tennessee and is governed by the Tennessee Board of Regents.

#### Mission Statement Development and Approval Process

The mission statement is part of TTU's 2011-2015 strategic plan [2]. The plan was developed with

broad involvement and guidance from TTU's Joint Committee for Planning and Budgeting. Members of the Committee were drawn from all areas of the University and included faculty, staff, administrators, the SGA president, and a representative from the TTU Foundation Board. In addition to input from the Committee, input from all campus constituencies was sought by posting working documents on a website set up for all students, faculty, and staff to provide their comments. Committee members met with various groups including the Student Government Association, Faculty Senate, Academic Council, Executive Advisory Council, Administrative Council, and Support Staff Council to discuss the planning process. Each group was asked to encourage its constituents to review the documents and provide feedback to the Committee. The plan incorporates key priorities provided by the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR), the governing body for TTU. This strategic plan document is supported by TTU's Academic Master Plan, Facilities Master Plan, Housing Master Plan, Scholarship Master Plan, and Capital Budgeting Plan.

TTU is a member of the State University and Community College System of Tennessee and is governed by the TBR. The mission statement was revised in September 2009 and approved by the TBR on March 25, 2011, with the Strategic Plan [3]. The mission statement is brought back to the Board for periodic review at least every five years along with the strategic plan.

## **Distinctiveness**

The mission statement clearly states the uniqueness of the University in that TTU is Tennessee's only technological university. TTU provides leadership and outstanding programs in engineering, the sciences, and related areas that benefit the people of Tennessee and the nation. In addition, TTU retains a special commitment to enrich the lives of people and communities in the Upper Cumberland region of Tennessee. For instance, the Rural Policy Institute, currently in development, will provide the Upper Cumberland region with instruction, scholarly studies, policy analysis, and advocacy work on such issues as rural/Appalachian social policy, agriculture and economics, technology, STEM education, arts and crafts, education delivery, music, and culture specific to the region.

## **Guidance**

The TTU mission statement guides all activities of the University. For example, the mission statement fostered the development of the 2011- 2105 TTU Strategic Plan and the subsequent formulation of the Flight Plan. As individual units develop strategic plans, they tie those plans to the TTU mission statement and the Flight Plan. For example, the College of Agriculture and Human Ecology developed a strategic plan for 2014-2017. The plan began with the TTU vision and mission and flowed into a mission and vision for the College. The goals and objectives, targets and metrics all flow from the Flight Plan and will guide assessment strategies and reporting back to the Flight Plan, providing direction for change to improve the quality of education at TTU.

The following statement from the mission is evidenced in several ways:

*The institution is committed to an inclusive and diverse campus that enriches the educational experience, promotes **personal growth and a healthy society**, prepares students for success in a global economy, and enhances America's economic competitiveness.*

**Personal growth and a healthy society** are supported by recent innovations including Tech Togetherness, the T.E.A.M. Leadership Program, and the Tech Faculty Leadership Development Program.

The mission of the **Tech Togetherness** initiative is to create stronger relationships between administrators, faculty, staff, and the community at large. The Tech Togetherness initiative provides monthly fitness workshops for faculty to educate them about fitness, family-centered activities to assist with those who have children, competitions between faculty and departments, and collaborations with the community to improve health and wellness.

The **Tech Eagle Administrators in Mentoring (T.E.A.M.) Leadership Program** is offered by the Provost's Office in collaboration with partner institutions. The T.E.A.M. Leadership Program mentors and assists current faculty members who are interested in and dedicated to either becoming administrators

or holding other relevant leadership positions in higher education administration. T.E.A.M. mentees gain a broader understanding of the day-to-day operations in the Provost's Office as well as other administrative departments, for the 2014/2015 inaugural year of the program. Facilitators include the Provost Offices at both TTU and Middle Tennessee State University, the Provost's Cabinet, and other campus administrators within their respective institutions. The goals of the T.E.A.M. Leadership Program are to build and instill strong leadership qualities in achieving excellence for future higher education leaders.

**The Tech Faculty Leadership Development Program (TFLDP)** is offered by the Provost's Office on TTU's campus. The Tech Faculty Leadership Development Program assists faculty members in developing strong decision-making skills while enhancing team collaboration abilities with the overall goal of producing potential future administrators. TFLDP participants gain a broader understanding of how the TTU campus operates and have the opportunity to witness some of the decision-making processes. The goal of the TFLDP is to assist current faculty members who are interested in administrative positions to become future leaders.









### **Publication and Dissemination of Mission Statement**

TTU's mission statement is published in several places, including the Faculty Handbook [4], Student Handbook [5], the Undergraduate [6] and Graduate [7] catalogs, TTU's Strategic Plan 2011-2015 [2], and TTU's Flight Plan website [8].

### **Conclusion**

TTU's mission statement addresses teaching, learning, research, and service. TTU's Joint Committee for Planning and Budgeting follows a rigorous process through the university's system of shared governance to review, evaluate, and update the mission statement. The Mission Statement is reviewed and approved by the TBR. The mission statement is published in multiple places and is accessible to the public. Therefore, TTU is in compliance with Comprehensive Standard 3.1.1.

### **Sources**

-  [1] Mission Statement
-  [2] Strategic Plan 2010\_2015
-  [3] TBR Board Meeting Minutes March 25\_2011
-  [4] Faculty\_Handbook
-  [5] Student\_Handbook
-  [6] Undergraduate\_Catalog\_2014
-  [7] Graduate\_Catalog\_2014
-  [8] Flight\_Plan\_Website