



Executive Committee

December 1, 2020

Roaden University Center, Room 282

8:00 a.m.

MINUTES

AGENDA ITEM 1—CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Tennessee Tech Executive Committee met on December 1, 2020, in the Roaden University Center, Room 282. Chair Harper called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

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

- Tom Jones
- Teresa Vanhooser
- Trudy Harper

AGENDA ITEM 2—APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Jones moved to approve the October 20, 2020 minutes. Ms. Vanhooser seconded the motion. With an opportunity for further discussion and there being none, Mr. Wray called a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – DISCUSSION OF BOARD SELF-EVALUATION

Chair Harper stated that the Board Self-Evaluation was completed in late October 2020 and produced a lot of data. Chair Harper indicated she focused on the areas where more work was needed and that she had spent time with President Oldham and Mr. Wray discussing. Chair Harper directed the Board to the presentation she prepared on these items:

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1. Board had matured; should now be ready to provide more visionary (long-term) leadership.
 - a. President strongly agreed with this message.
 - b. Mr. Wray will survey other LGI and peer institution Boards to determine how they achieve.
 - c. Conduct a retreat-style meeting/workshop with no deliberation but to brainstorm ideas.

2. Board should consider "best practices" of the other LGI's and peer institutions with respect to committee structure.
 - a. Mr. Wray has already started a review of this topic.

Ms. Vanhooser suggested that we also review how new incoming Board members are provided information such as bylaws and other operating material. Chair Harper noted that Ms. Vanhooser had recently helped to develop a primer for new Tech Foundation committee members that might be useful to the Board.

3. Board would like clearer understanding of specific goals and plans for the University, and to understand how we are measuring success against those goals.
 - a. Mr. Wray had already started a review of this topic for other LGI's and will expand review to include peers.
 - b. The President and each major unit should report to Board on how success is being measured.
 - c. The President should report on the measurement of success of each major unit at least annually (and more often for the major units of Finance and Academics).

Chair Harper noted that the Risk Management document might be useful in reporting measurements. Also, the dashboard that the President reported on was a good starting point for these metrics. Mr. Stites suggested that we look outside of education for pertinent ways we could improve. Chair Harper agreed this might be helpful but first wanted to focus on how we were currently measuring ourselves. President Oldham indicated that the University is looking elsewhere, for example in Student Recruiting, for best practices that could be implemented from other sectors and he will report on items when further along in the process.

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Dr. Pardue asked what format the sharing of information on how the University currently measures success would be and Chair Harper thought it would be focused in dialogue in a state of the union type report in an ongoing manner.

Mr. Jones commented that he admired metrics on quantitative areas but other important areas were not as easily measured such as culture, ability to achieve a good quality of life, the intangibles. Chair Harper agreed and suggested that it was the Board's duty to challenge the data to ask at what cost to achieve.

4. Board would like brief but frequent reminders about the roll of the Board with focus on governance vs. management.

a. Mr. Wray will provide a report at least once per year.

Ms. Vanhooser suggested that the items we plan to cover on a regular basis should be captured on an integrated grid list on a quarterly, bi-annual or annual basis. Chair Harper agreed and noted this would fall into the next item to be discussed regarding meetings.

5. Set Board meeting calendar relative to campus calendar and/or state budget calendar.

a. Mr. Wray had been working with others to consider adjustments to the Board meeting schedule.

Chair Harper noted that this item was not received from the self-evaluation survey but was something she had observed specifically in relation to the fall meeting occurring before enrollment data was analyzed for the fall semester.

Chair Harper commented that there were a number of very good ideas received in the survey that she did not discuss in the presentation. One was the suggestion to meet more with students on a regular basis which we did this morning at breakfast. As a result, the Board met some amazing students who represent Tennessee Tech proudly. Chair Harper thanked whomever made that suggestion. Chair Harper also noted that an idea was received about addressing faculty salaries and that was going to be discussed later today. Chair Harper pointed out that there were several other tactical ideas and promised they were not lost and would be shared at a later time. Chair Harper thanked those who participated in the self-evaluation.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – OTHER BUSINESS

President Oldham updated the Board on the Sunset Audit hearing in Nashville where Chair Harper joined him. President Oldham indicated that the hearing went really well and was very


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quick and uneventful; Tech received a four-year extension on our sunset so we are clear for another four years barring any unforeseen occurrence. President Oldham thanked everyone for their contribution on the review. Chair Harper added that the auditors were very receptive to our comments and appreciated that we leaned into the review. Mr. Wray added that the full audit report was provided in Diligent.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – ADJOURNMENT

With there being no other business, Chair Harper adjourned the meeting at 8:53 a.m.

Approved,

 03-15-21
Board Secretary