



ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

March 7, 2024

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 March 7, 2024 in Roaden University Center, Room 282. Chair Rhedona Rose called the meeting to order at 8:13 a.m.

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

- Rhedona Rose
- Jeannette Luna
- Addison Dorris
- Barry Wilmore
- Camron Rudd

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

AGENDA ITEM 2 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Rose asked for approval of the minutes of the November 30, 2023 Academic & Student Affairs Committee meeting. Trustee Wilmore moved to recommend approval of the November 30, 2023 Academic & Student Affairs Committee minutes. Trustee Luna seconded the motion. Chair Rose called a voice vote. The motion carried unanimously.

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AGENDA ITEM 3 – Enrollment Update

Karen Lykins, vice president for enrollment and communication, began her presentation by sharing early freshmen enrollment indicators for Fall 2024. The three indicators that she highlighted were spring showcase attendance (in line with previous years), housing applications (numbers are higher than last year), and SOAR registration (upcoming event that is one of the largest indicators).

Mrs. Lykins then shared information on new domestic freshmen applications for fall 2024, which were at an all-time high and significantly up from last year and the three-year average for the same date. She explained that UT and the LGIs are also seeing increased applications due to prospective students doing more cross applications than in the past. Mrs. Lykins then shared information for new domestic freshmen fall 2024 admits. The number of admits were also significantly up from last year and the three-year average for the same date.

Next, Mrs. Lykins shared information about the new enrollment management platform, Slate. She explained that Slate is an all-in-one enrollment management platform that covers recruitment, admissions, and student success. She further explained that Slate offers features for communication, application processing, and data analytics and with its flexibility and customization options will be a great tool to increase recruitment.

Mrs. Lykins concluded her presentation by summarizing data projects that were completed in 2023-2024. Some of these data projects included reviewing and analyzing student view surveys of high school students across Tennessee, reviewing and analyzing surveys of admitted freshmen who did not enroll at Tennessee Tech, analysis of National Student Clearinghouse data, and creating a detailed profile of fall 2023 new freshmen. She explained that data from these projects is being used to better utilize Slate.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Provost's Report

Provost Lori Bruce introduced Dean Tom Payne from the College of Business to give a focused update on the College of Business, as a first in a series of College updates presented by College Deans. This series was initiated as a result of the most recent Board self-evaluation.

Dean Payne began his presentation by sharing data that displayed how College of Business students are career ready. He shared that College of Business students consistently exceed national performance benchmarks in all business disciplines and that in the College of Business experiential learning is an expectation. He explained that students can gain experiential learning in a variety of ways, including but not limited to, externally engaged projects, industry internships, and international study. He also shared that College of Business graduates have a very high job success rate after graduation, with most obtaining jobs related to their fields of study.

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Next, Dean Payne went over the undergraduate and graduate programs offered in the College of Business and gave an overview of the academic departments, administration, and centers housed within the college. He then shared College of Business 2023-2024 enrollment trends, which were in line with the university's enrollment trends. He mentioned that College of Business undergraduate enrollment has increased over the last five years, with new freshmen enrollment significantly increasing during those five years. He also shared degrees and certificates awarded for the academic year 2022-2023.

Next, Dean Payne gave a few examples of experiential learning opportunities available to students. Examples included the student banking advisory boards, students working with a local business to upgrade their website and increase security and speed of their internet connectivity, and a student program focused on supply chain management with Averitt.

Dean Payne concluded his presentation by showing Board members the design plans for the renovation of Johnson Hall, where the College of Business is usually housed. He relayed the importance of this renovation to the students and the college and gave examples of what the remodel will include.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Policy 261 (Academic Credit from Other Institutions)

Provost Bruce explained that every policy has a review cycle. When a policy needs revisions, it goes through the shared governance process. Provost Bruce explained that during the review process this policy was found to have some technical changes that needed to be changed. She explained that the overall meaning of the policy was not altered. She informed Board members that the changes were approved by the lower levels of shared governance and that the proposed revisions were being brought before the Board for approval as the final step.

There were a few questions from Board members regarding this policy. Provost Bruce answered these questions. Trustee Willmore asked for clarification on bullet H of this policy, which states that Tennessee Tech reserves the right to limit transfer credit in religious studies to a maximum of 12 semester hours. Provost Bruce said that she would find the answer and bring that information before the Board.

Trustee Wilmore moved to send Policy 261 to the Board for approval and to be placed on the Board's consent agenda. Trustee Rudd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – Expedited New Academic Program Proposal (ENAPP) for the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Nuclear Engineering

Provost Bruce began her presentation by thanking Dean Slater, Dr. Yelamarthi, and Dr. Rao for their hard work along with their staff on the Expedited New Academic Program Proposal (ENAPP) for the Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering. She explained that the new degree program for which approval is sought is a BS degree in Nuclear Engineering proposed by the Department of Mechanical Engineering in the College of Engineering. An Expedited Letter of

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Notification (ELON) for the program was presented to the Board as an information item on March 9, 2023. She explained that if approved by the Board of Trustees, this ENAPP will be presented to the THEC Commission for final approval.

Provost Bruce explained to Board members that the proposed program in nuclear engineering aims to meet the current demand for nuclear engineers trained at the baccalaureate level, as well as to address emerging needs as Tennessee grows a nuclear development and manufacturing ecosystem. She shared program specifics that included the programs credit hour requirements and math and basic science course requirements as required by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).

Provost Bruce also shared projected enrollment for the proposed program, as well as mentioned letters of support for the program, and estimated cost to support the proposed program. She mentioned that Tennessee Tech has well established engineering programs with associated infrastructure. Thus, the estimated cost to support the proposed nuclear engineering program is predominantly tied to recruiting new faculty and establishing appropriate laboratories. She also pointed out that the university did secure federal funding to help cover some of these costs.

After many questions and discussion regarding the new program, Trustee Luna moved to send the Expedited New Academic Program Proposal (ENAPP) for the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Nuclear Engineering to the Board for approval and to be placed on the Board's consent agenda. Trustee Willmore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – Letter of Notification (LON) for the Master of Science (MS) in Child Life

Provost Bruce began her presentation by thanking Dean Smith, Dr. Anderson, and Dr. Sisk for their hard work on the Letter of Notification (LON) for the Master of Science (MS) in Child Life. Provost Bruce explained that this item comes from the School of Human Ecology in the College of Agriculture and Human Ecology as an information item in the pre-proposal stage. Provost Bruce explained that the purpose of the program is to prepare professionals to serve in child life roles in healthcare. She further explained that as a practitioner's degree, the proposed program would provide advanced content knowledge in child life clinical practice, psychosocial care of children and families, and evidence-based practice to meet the needs of credentialed Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS) professionals seeking to enhance employment prospects with a graduate degree. It would also serve bachelors-prepared individuals pursuing child life academic preparation for professional certification, along with undergraduate human development and family science students seeking eligibility for professional child life certification. Provost Bruce explained the need and feasibility for this proposed online program and informed Board members that the proposed program has many strong letters of support from child life leaders.

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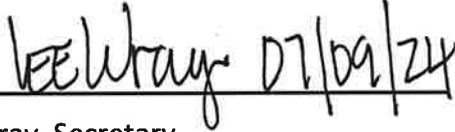
AGENDA ITEM 8 – Other Business

There was no other business.

AGENDA ITEM 9 – Adjournment

There being no further business, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Approved,



Lee Wray, Secretary