ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
September 26, 2024
Roaden University Center, Room 282
AGENDA

I.   Call to Order

II.   Approval of Minutes for the June 20, 2024 Committee Meeting

III.   Enrollment Report

IV.   Provost's Report

V.   Student Affairs Report

VI.   Research & Economic Development Report

VII.   University Advancement Report

VIII.   Other Business

IX.   Adjournment

ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

June 20, 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 June 20, 2024 in Roaden University Center, Room 282. Chair Rhedona Rose called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m.

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

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

Other board members also in attendance were Trudy Harper, Thomas Lynn, Fred Lowery (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 March 7, 2024 Academic & Student Affairs Committee meeting. Trustee Luna moved to recommend approval of the March 7, 2024 Academic & Student Affairs Committee minutes. Trustee Rose seconded the motion. Chair Rose called a voice vote. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Enrollment Update

Karen Lykins, vice president for enrollment and communication, began her presentation by sharing that fall 2024 total enrollment progression numbers are up from last year's numbers. She explained that with this progression, final census numbers should top last year's numbers. Next, Mrs. Lykins moved her focus to fall 2024 freshmen enrollment progression. These numbers were also up, which she explained should indicate that freshmen numbers will also be healthy. She then talked about freshmen soar registration numbers and the number that have already attended (both up from last year).

Next Mrs. Lykins presented to the Board information about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is the form that students must complete to apply for federal aid, grants, work study funds, and loans. She explained that there have been delays by the government that have affected students for fall. She explained that these delays can affect enrollment, because it is hard to make enrollment decisions before knowing your financials. She informed Trustees that Tennessee Tech has put the message out in a variety of ways that we will help parents/students with FAFSA questions to alleviate some of the stresses and help get these FAFSAs completed for students.

Next Ms. Lykins showcased what the incoming freshman class currently looks like academically, sharing the average high school GPA, the average ACT score, and the number of national merit semifinalists, which all look very strong. She then shared information regarding the demographics of the incoming freshmen. She explained that we still have work to do with the male versus female population balance, but the demographics are more racially diverse and are where we expected and wanted to be with diversity goals previously set.

Mrs. Lykins concluded her presentation by breaking the incoming freshmen class down by major. She explained that previously students would be put into interdisciplinary studies if they didn't quite meet requirements for the major that they desired (Engineering or Nursing). Previously the students were mentored and coached before being able to enter into that major and now they will be mentored and coached while under the chosen major. She explained that this change should set us up and the student up for even more success.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Athletics Update

Athletics Director, Mark Wilson, reviewed the 2023-24 year in athletics. He began his presentation by sharing the academic success of Tennessee Tech Athletes for the year. He shared that spring 2024 was the 31st consecutive semester with the athletic GPA being above a 3.0. He explained to the Trustees that Tennessee Tech students are achieving at a high level in the classroom just like the general student population. He also shared that we had two student-athletes win the OVC scholar athlete award.

Next, Mr. Wilson shared some of the athletic success for the 2023-2024 year, including soccer winning their second consecutive OVC championship and men's golf winning the OVC

championship. Mr. Wilson then transitioned into sharing information about athletes and community service, explaining that each student athlete completes community service as part of their service learning.

Mr. Wilson then updated Trustees on some facility enhancements that were made this year before moving on to fundraising efforts and updates on Tucker stadium. He concluded his presentation by sharing OVC updates, NCAA updates, transfer portal information, and Name, Image, and Likeness information with Board members.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Provost's Report

Provost Bruce began her presentation by recognizing the 2024 Derryberry Award winner and recognized Outstanding Faculty Award recipients. She then introduced Dean Lisa Zagumny from the College of Education to give a focused update on the College of Education, as a second 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 Zagumny began her presentation by sharing that the College of Education graduates the most teachers in the state and that more districts in Tennessee hire our graduates than any other educator preparation program. Next, Dean Zagumny went over the undergraduate and graduate programs offered in the College of Education and gave an overview of the academic departments, administration, and centers housed within the college. She shared undergraduate programs as well as graduate programs, including PhD programs offered within the college.

Dean Zagumny then shared College of Education 2023-2024 undergraduate enrollment trends, which have leveled off in the past few years. She explained that this is encouraging considering the decline in students pursing teaching as a profession nationwide. Graduate enrollment on the other hand has performed pretty steadily, coming in only second to engineering in enrollment. Dean Zagumny then shared information regarding degrees conferred and shared that the College of Education confers the most degrees at Tennessee Tech.

Next Dean Zagumny shared a few student highlights and gave examples of innovative spaces and experiential learning opportunities available to students. She also highlighted the Child Development Lab and the Millard Oakley STEM Center. She concluded her presentation by highlighting several faculty members and grant programs.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – Academic Program Updates

Provost Bruce shared an update on Tennessee Tech's academic programs in terms of accreditations, additions, deletions, and major revisions. She shares this information on an annual basis. She informed Board members that it is vital that we continuously update and enhance our academic programming offerings, so that our programs are relevant and are meeting the needs of students. She informed Board members that the year was very successful in terms of accreditations, reaccreditations, and program reviews. She concluded her

presentation by informing Board members that the official academic program inventory, which is the official inventory of Tennessee Tech's academic program offerings as listed on the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) website, had been included in the Board book.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – Other Business

There was no other business.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – Adjournment

There being no further business, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Approved,

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Lee Wray, Secretary

3.1

Agenda Item Summary

Date: September 26, 2024

Agenda Item: Enrollment Report

☐ **Review**   ☐ **Action**   ☒ **No action required**

PRESENTER(S): Vice President of Enrollment and Communication, Karen Lykins

PURPOSE & KEY POINTS: Vice President for Enrollment and Communication, Karen Lykins, will provide an update on enrollment numbers for the Fall 2024 semester.

4.1

Agenda Item Summary

Date: September 26, 2024

Agenda Item: Provost's Report

☐ **Review**   ☐ **Action**   ☒ **No action required**

PRESENTER(S): Provost Lori Bruce, Dean Kim Hanna

PURPOSE & KEY POINTS: Provost Bruce will provide a snapshot of Academics for Fall 2024 (e.g. number of courses taught, distribution of onground/online, etc.); and provide a report on Academic Student Success (e.g. student aggregate GPA, first-time-freshman retention rate, graduation rates, number of degrees awarded, etc.) from the 2023-24 academic year.

As a result of the most recent Board self-evaluation, the Provost is also including a focused update on the Whitson Hester School of Nursing to be presented by Dean Hanna. This will be the third in a series of College updates presented by the College Deans.

5.1

Agenda Item Summary

Date: September 26, 2024

Agenda Item: Student Affairs Report

☐ **Review**   ☐ **Action**   ☒ **No action required**

PRESENTER(S): Dr. Cynthia Polk-Johnson

PURPOSE & KEY POINTS: Dr. Polk-Johnson, Vice President for Student Affairs, will provide an update about student success beyond the classroom by highlighting key programs and services and future priorities for Student Affairs.

6.1

Agenda Item Summary

Date: September 26, 2024

Agenda Item: Research & Economic Development Report

☐ **Review**　　　☐ **Action**　　　☒ **No action required**

PRESENTER(S): Dr. John Liu, Vice President for Research & Economic Development

PURPOSE & KEY POINTS: Dr. John Liu, Vice President for Research & Economic Development, will provide an update from the Office of Research & Economic Development, including an end-of-year report for fiscal year 2024.

7.1

Agenda Item Summary

Date: September 26, 2024

Agenda Item: University Advancement Report

☐ **Review**   ☐ **Action**   ☒ **No action required**

PRESENTER(S): Dr. Kevin Braswell

PURPOSE & KEY POINTS: Dr. Braswell, Vice President for University Advancement, will provide an update from University Advancement, including an end-of-year report for fiscal year 2024.