

2.1

Degree-granting Authority

The institution has degree-granting authority from the appropriate government agency or agencies.

Judgment

Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance Not Applicable

Narrative

Tennessee Technological University (TTU) has degree-granting authority from the State of Tennessee per the Tennessee State Legislature’s adoption of Tennessee Code Annotated (T.C.A.) § 49-8-101a, which states, "There is established a state university and community college system to be composed of . . . Tennessee Technological University (et al.)" [1].

Degree-Granting Authority

TTU received initial degree-granting authority from the State in 1929 and initial accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) in 1939. Currently, TTU is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to grant associate, bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees [2]. TTU grants such degrees at its main Cookeville campus, and does not offer degrees at branch campuses or off-campus instructional sites in other states or other countries. TTU has no conditional approvals pending.

The Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR), which was created by the General Assembly as the governing body of the State University and Community College System of Tennessee in 1972, is TTU’s governing body. According to T.C.A. § 49-8-101b-c, "the government, management, and control of the state university and community college system shall be vested in a board of regents . . . Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the Board of Regents, in consultation with the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC), shall establish a comprehensive statewide community college system of coordinated programs and services to be known as the Tennessee community college system" [1]. TTU is one of 46 institutions within the TBR system. Specifically, it is one of the six state universities within the system; the other 40 institutions consist of 13 community colleges and 27 colleges of applied technology (i.e., Tennessee Technology Centers) [3]. The TBR governing body consists of 18 members, which includes the state governor, the commissioners of Education and Agriculture, and the executive director of THEC [4].

With specific regard to degree-granting authority, the TBR is responsible for establishing, governing, managing, and controlling the 46 institutions outlined in T.C.A. § 49-8-101a [1]. Accordingly, it has the power to "[p]rescribe curricula and requirements for diplomas and degrees" and to "[a]ssume general responsibility for the operation of the [institution], delegating to the chief executive officer... such powers and duties as are necessary and appropriate for the efficient administration of the institution and its programs" (T.C.A. § 49-8-203-a1E) [5].

Although the TBR has the authority over curricula, programs of study, and requirements for degrees, such policies require approval of THEC. THEC coordinates both the TBR and the University of Tennessee systems, which are the only two university systems in the state. THEC is responsible for monitoring "the use of public funds for higher education in [Tennessee] and . . . analyz[ing] programs and needs in the field of higher education" (T.C.A. § 49-7-202-a) as well as maintaining a "statewide master plan for future development of public universities, community colleges and colleges of applied technology" [6].

Whereas, the TBR manages all aspects of the degree-granting process at its 46 institutions, THEC is

responsible for the final “review and approv[al] or disapprov[al of] all proposals for new degrees or degree programs or for the establishment of new academic departments or divisions” at all TBR and University of Tennessee institutions [6], with specific emphasis on assessing the appropriation of public funds for higher education in manners consistent with THEC’s Statewide Master Plan [7].

Conclusion

TTU received degree-granting authority from the State of Tennessee in 1929 and holds membership in both TBR and THEC. The University is, therefore, in compliance with Core Requirement 2.1.

Sources

 [1] Tennessee Code Annotated_49_8_101


 [2] SACSCOC Member Directory

 [3] TBR Institutions

 [4] Board Members 2014

 [5] Tennessee Code Annotated 49_8_203

 [6] Tennessee Code Annotated_49_7_202

 [7] The Public Agenda for Tennessee Higher Education 2010-2015 (THEC's Statewide Master Plan)