



THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE  
CAMPUS ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE SPRING MEETING  
MARCH 20, 2019  
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

The spring meeting of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville Advisory Board was held at 10:06 a.m. EDT on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, in the Student Union Executive Dining Room on the campus of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair John Tickle called the meeting to order and asked Secretary Rachel J. Rui to call the roll.

The secretary proceeded to call the roll, and the following members of the advisory board were present:

**John Tickle, Chair**  
**Louis Gross**  
**Alexia Poe**  
**Tom Smith**  
**Syreetta Vaughn**  
**Tim Williams**

The secretary announced the presence of a quorum.

**II. APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES**

Chair John Tickle asked the board to review January minutes.

Tom Smith made a motion to approve January minutes, Alexia Poe and Tim Williams seconded, and the motion passed.

**III. BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT) UPDATE ON UT KNOXVILLE ADVISORY BOARD BYLAWS**

Interim Chancellor Davis reported that the BOT approved the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Advisory Board bylaws and noted that the UT Knoxville Advisory Board would likely change the wording in Article III Section 3.2 for the student appointment from “student appointed by the Advisory Board” to “student appointed in a manner determined by the Advisory Board.”

A roll-call vote was taken to approve the change, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **IV. PROCESS FOR APPOINTMENT OF A STUDENT MEMBER TO THE UT KNOXVILLE ADVISORY BOARD**

Interim Chancellor Davis presented the process for appointment of a student member to the UT Knoxville Advisory Board. Davis explained that the advisory board has the authority to change the procedure in the future. Davis called for a motion to accept the procedure as defined. Louis Gross moved adoption and Tom Smith seconded.

Chair John Tickle opened the floor for discussion. Gross pointed out that the last sentence in the process was not clear that it included both undergraduate and graduate students and suggested a modification. Davis proposed to change the wording to the following:

The chancellor will provide the name of the undergraduate and graduate/professional student representative to the UT Knoxville Advisory Board prior to April 15 of each year.

Gross also pointed out a possible conflict of interest if a faculty member who is part of the advisory board is mentoring a student member who's also serving on the advisory board. Tickle noted that this changed wording allowed the Chancellor "final say" in such situations. Syreeta Vaughn asked what would happen if a student could not fulfill the one-year term. Davis pointed out that multiple students are recommended during the process, so if one cannot fulfill a one-year term a new student member can be appointed. Tickle added that the advisory board has final approval. Gross asked if students were involved in drafting this process. Davis responded that there was an extensive discussion with the Student Government Association, and SGA president Ovi Kabir was majorly involved in drafting the process.

Gross pointed out that the change of wording was a friendly amendment, so there was not a need for a vote. Davis said that the addition was editorial for clarity and we made note of it and would change the wording on the advisory board website. The advisory board adopted the process with amendment through a voice vote.

#### **V. STUDENT MEMBER FOR ADVISORY BOARD, FY20**

Interim Chancellor Davis recommended Johnelle Simpson II as the student member for FY20.

- Simpson is a 2016 graduate of the University of Georgia, with a BA in business administration.
- He served as the president of the University of Georgia Student Government Association (April 2015–April 2016).
- He currently represents the College of Law on the Graduate Student Senate and serves as the first-year law student representative with Student Bar Association.

Tom Smith asked if the advisory board would meet with the student; Davis said Simpson would be invited to the May meeting.

Alexia Poe made a motion to approve the student member, seconded by Louis Gross, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

## **VI. PROCESS FOR CAMPUS ADVISORY BOARD TO SUBMIT A RECOMMENDATION TO THE PRESIDENT**

## **VII. BOT MEETING UPDATE—BUDGET**

Interim Chancellor Davis provided an update on agenda items VI. and VII, including the processes for campus advisory boards to submit recommendations to the president on the proposed strategic plan and proposed annual operating budget, which were approved at the Board of Trustees meeting. Davis mentioned that this update was for information only but he would be glad to answer any questions the advisory board has. Discussions ensued.

- Louis Gross: When does the BOT request a strategic plan update? Davis responded that there is no requirement for the strategic plan update on annual basis. The advisory board would hear a metrics update from Provost David Manderscheid today. Davis also mentioned that he felt it would be appropriate for the new chancellor to review and revise or initiate a new strategic plan.
- Tom Smith: What does updating metrics mean? Davis clarified that it means updating the measures in the strategic plan. Louis Gross added that metrics had not been changed, but underlying data had been updated. Metrics are a snapshot of where we are at a specific time.
- Tim Williams asked about strategic plan goals. A discussion of university and program rankings ensued. Davis pointed out that we have to set realistic goals that could be achieved in a finite time. Chair John Tickle added that rankings are important to raise funding and recruit students. Tom Smith added that perception is important. The university should not to focus on any single metric but market other positive aspects.

Coffee break—10 minutes

## **VIII. PRESENTATION BY PROVOST DAVID MANDERSCHIED—STRATEGIC PLAN AND VOL VISION METRICS**

Presentation can be found online [https://chancellor.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/60/2019/03/03202019-Vol\\_Vision\\_PPT\\_2018\\_Metrics.pdf](https://chancellor.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/60/2019/03/03202019-Vol_Vision_PPT_2018_Metrics.pdf)

Manderscheid noted that Priority 6, Diversity and Inclusion, was added in 2015, and that diversity goals were not included in the initial strategic plan. Interim Chancellor Davis added that goals would be set based on State of Tennessee demographics and introduced Tyvi Small, interim vice chancellor for diversity and engagement. Davis also pointed out that a change or addition of goals would constitute a change in the strategic plan, requiring approval of the advisory board and BOT.



Tim Williams requested that more granular data be provided to the advisory board prior to each meeting as supporting materials.

Break for lunch at 12:10pm

Meeting resumed at 12:42pm

## **IX. PRESENTATION BY CHRIS CIMINO, SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Presentation on budget overview can be found online: <https://chancellor.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/60/2019/03/03202019-Advisory Board Meeting-Budget FINAL.pdf>

Tom Smith asked how much input UT Knoxville campus administration has about budget. Cimino responded that we currently use a performance-based formula provided by THEC. Alexia Poe pointed out that we need to voice what the campus is doing to show efficiency and what the campus needs, especially with the new governor who is not from Knoxville and does not have ties with UT Knoxville. Cimino agreed that the UT Knoxville campus has many examples to share.

Cimino will be sending the proposed budget to the advisory board seven days prior to the May meeting.

Syreeta Vaughn asked how the university determined the fee increase. Cimino explained that it was based on specific service provided—actual cost in real dollars. One example is that the transportation contract determined the transportation fee.

Cimino provided a slide differentiating between the New UT Promise and existing “UTK” Promise.

Tom Smith asked how much time is spent on efficiency analysis (staffing). Cimino responded that it is a continuous process and efficiency is reviewed on a continuous basis.

Alexia Poe asked what the process is to review existing academic programs and assess what’s important. Provost Manderscheid responded that we have a program review process in place and accreditation policy. Tim Williams added that the university should also look at where the job market demand is.

Williams asked how the university pays for new buildings such as the Student Union. Cimino responded that the new Student Union was built with zero state dollars—50 to 51 percent from student life and capitol building and renovation funds, 49 percent from the Aramark dining contract. Cimino added that each building is different. Some have donor funds and include facility fees.

Williams asked about progress on upgrading dorms. Cimino mentioned that we have four brand-new dorms and \$18 million in building repair. Davis added that we have seven or eight buildings that need to be renovated and are comparing the cost of renovating versus rebuilding.

## **X. COMPTROLLER'S REPORT AND STUDENT PROGRAMMING**

Interim Chancellor Davis shared the comptroller's report and updates on student programming, including that the process for replacing the Student Programming Allocation Committee (SPAC). Davis pointed out that this is a work-in-progress. The administrators are working with the SGA, staff and faculty to develop the process. The goal is to complete the development of the process by mid-April, so fall-semester programs can be developed for the students before they leave for the summer, because the student body is an integral part when developing the programs.

Louis Gross said the comptroller's report seemed biased, reviewing only one student organization. He then recommended that programming decisions use a democratic process in which students would vote regarding the ways in which student fees would be allocated.

Davis pointed out that the priority is to get some programming for the students in the fall and reiterated that the university will not be charging student organizations for use of university facilities. Students are already paying tuition and fees.

## **XI. UPDATE BY TYVI SMALL, INTERIM VICE CHANCELLOR FOR DIVERSITY AND ENGAGEMENT, ON DIVERSITY PRIORITIES**

Small shared the history of diversity efforts at UT Knoxville and pointed out that the campus is actively addressing the issues that have come up in the past few months.

Small added that his first three months were focused on meeting with faculty, students, staff, and legislators to assess the current climate.

Small pointed out that diversity needs a broader definition. Priority Six in strategic plan lays the foundation to educate people and help people understand.

Small shared accountability metrics:

- Diversity plan in each unit
- Climate survey
- Inclusion of diversity in the curriculum

Small pointed out that the current priority is to build infrastructure, not focused on programming, and that activity does not equal impact. Students are heard through a public forum.

Alexia Poe asked about the next step. Small responded that

- A list of actions was shared with campus a few days after the forum through a chancellor's email to campus.



- An education program was scheduled for the cabinet.
- The website belong.utk.edu will track activities.

Syreeta Vaughn commended UT Knoxville for reinstating the diversity office and asked how the office would address the issue of students feeling marginalized for having diversity of thought. Small responded that his office would provide opportunities for dialogue and added that all students need to be ready to work in an international and intercultural workplace.

Gross reported that a Faculty Senate diversity committee has been established and added that the Faculty Senate has approved a requirement for students to take one diversity course, and asked if Small had considered a campus-wide day of study focusing on diversity. Small responded that they are actively reviewing some contracts from outside companies.

## **XII. FUTURE DATES**

Interim Chancellor Davis shared future meeting dates with the board and mentioned that the dates were determined to avoid fall and spring breaks to ensure that the student representative could attend:

- a. May 15, 2019—vote on budget, including tuition and fees
- b. October 11, 2019
- c. March 4, 2020
- d. May 13, 2020

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the advisory board, the chair adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Rachel Rui*

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Rachel J. Rui, Secretary