

**MINUTES**  
**TENNESSEE BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**REGULAR SESSION**

March 30, 2023

The Tennessee Board of Regents met in regular session on March 30, 2023 at the TBR System Office located at 1 Bridgestone Park, Nashville, Tennessee. Due to network issues, the meeting was unable to be live-streamed, and was recorded and uploaded to the website immediately following the meeting. Vice Chair Emily Reynolds, presiding, called the meeting to order. In her opening remarks, she requested a moment of silence to honor the memory two former Regents, Buddy Bowers and Keith McCord, and the six precious lives lost as a result of the tragic shootings at Covenant School.

At the instruction of Vice Chair Reynolds, Board Secretary Mariah Perry called the roll. The following members were present in person:

Dr. MaryLou Apple  
Mr. Miles Burdine  
Mr. Mark George  
Mr. Mark Gill  
Commissioner Charles Hatcher (joined the meeting later)  
Mr. Shane Hooper  
Mr. Todd Kaestner  
Ms. Nisha Powers  
Ms. Emily Reynolds  
Ms. Ramona Shelton  
Mr. Bob Smith  
Mr. Kyle Spurgeon  
Ms. Danni Varlan  
Mr. Weston Wamp  
Mr. Tom White

A quorum was present. Members not available to attend the meeting were Governor Bill Lee, Regent John Long, and Commissioner Penny Schwinn.

Next, Vice Chair Reynolds welcomed the newest Board members: Regent Hooper, Regent Kaestner, Regent Spurgeon, and ex-officio member Regent Smith, Interim Executive Director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. She further congratulated Regent White on his reappointment as the At-Large East Representative.

Vice Chair Reynolds then recognized Chancellor Tydings for being honored as the Tennessee Woman of the Year by USA Today, and her team for producing the SOAR celebration the night before. She then called on Chancellor Tydings who expressed her thanks to the team, for producing the SOAR awards, and the event sponsors.

## **I. MINUTES**

Minutes of the December 1, 2022 quarterly Board meeting and an amendment to the December 9, 2021 minutes were provided to all Board members for review prior to the quarterly meeting. Regent Varlan moved to adopt the minutes. Regent Apple provided a second. The motion passed by voice vote. A copy of the revised December 9, 2021 minutes are attached to the official copy of the Minutes as Appendix A.

## **II. REPORT OF INTERIM ACTION**

Vice Chair Reynolds called upon Chancellor Flora Tydings, who presented the Report of Interim Action, reflecting business transacted by the Office of the Chancellor since the previous meeting of the Board. She requested approval of the report. Regent White moved to accept the report. Regent Varlan provided a second to the motion. The motion passed by voice vote. A copy of the Report is attached to the official copy of the Minutes as Appendix B.

## **III. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES**

The Board considered approval of the March 7, 2023 minutes of the Audit Committee. Regent Burdine moved to adopt the minutes. Regent Kaestner provided a second. The motion passed by voice vote. A copy of the minutes from the Audit Committee and background materials are attached to the official copy of the minutes as Appendix C.

## **IV. REPORT OF THE CHANCELLOR**

### **PRESIDENTIAL SEARCHES**

Chancellor Tydings provided an update on the ongoing search for the president of TCAT Memphis. She shared that Dr. Roland Rayner retired as President on February 28 and Dr. Jeff Sisk, former President of TCAT Jackson and current Executive Director of the TBR Center for Workforce Development, is serving as the Interim President. The search committee had its orientation meeting in November. Due to the holidays, the search was extended. The search committee met in February to consider applications received, and virtual interviews were recently conducted. On-campus interviews with two finalists are scheduled for April 4. It is projected that the new president will start by July 1.

Chancellor Tydings also announced that Dr. George Pimentel, President of Jackson State Community College, shared his intent to retire effective June 30, 2023. She reported that her office will begin the process for a search for the next President of Jackson State and will keep the Board informed of the timeline.

## **GOVERNOR'S BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROJECTS**

The Governor included a one-billion-dollar investment in the proposed state budget for capital projects for TBR. These projects were detailed in the TCAT Master Plan, which had been developed over the last five years. Chancellor Tydings called on Dick Tracy, Executive Director of Facilities Development, to discuss how we plan to manage the funds once approved. Executive Director Tracy provided a general overview related to construction, schedules, and ongoing dialogue with designers and the construction community. He shared that there are approximately nine projects per grand division, and it may take between 18 to 30 months to execute. He then called on Jeff Holmes, Director of Planning and Programming, who provided additional details on the planning process, and Angela Scott, Director of Capital and TSSBA, who discussed flexibility and how the funding for projects will occur.

## **FORD BLUE OVAL CITY EVENT**

Chancellor Tydings shared that Ford hosted an event last week at the Blue Oval City industrial complex to show guests the construction progress of what will deliver Ford's next all-new electric truck and batteries. She then requested Vice Chancellor Jothany Reed, Interim President Heath McMillan, and Executive Director Jeff Sisk to share details on the ongoing efforts with Ford on developing training and curriculum. Vice Chancellor Reed started by sharing highlights from the workforce development strategic plan for the TCAT Blue Oval City Campus, including goals related to the pillars of open access, completion, and community and workforce development. Interim President McMillan and Executive Director Sisk then shared information on the planning timeline, communications, and opportunities with Ford.

## **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business brought before the Board at this meeting.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items were presented for review and approval on the consent agenda:

1. Revisions to TBR Policy 2.03.01.05 Academic Retention and Readmission at TCATS
2. Revisions to TBR Policy 1.03.04.00 Councils
3. New TBR Policy 1.08.05.10 Mass Communications

Regent Burdine moved to approve the consent agenda. Regent Hooper provided a second. The motion passed by voice vote. A copy of the revised TBR Policy 2.03.01.05 is attached is the official copy of the Minutes as Appendix D.

A copy of the revised TBR Policy 1.03.04.00 is attached to the official copy of the Minutes as Appendix E. A copy of the new TBR Policy 1.08.05.10 is attached to the official copy of the Minutes as Appendix F.

## **B. INFORMATIONAL REPORTING**

### **1. Legislative Update**

Executive Vice Chancellor Kim McCormick first thanked the External Affairs team and other staff for their work with the SOAR events. She then provided a status update on key pieces of legislation being tracked by TBR Government Relations with an overview of legislation that could potentially impact TBR and higher education.

### **2. State Budget Update**

Vice Chancellor Alisha Fox provided an overview of the status of the State Budget recommendations for the Tennessee Board of Regents for FY2023-2024, including operating, capital, and special initiative recommendations. These recommendations were also detailed in a memorandum to the Board in early February. The memorandum and supporting documentation are attached to the official copy of the Minutes as Appendix G.

### **3. Reimagining the Community College Experience**

Executive Vice Chancellor Russ Deaton shared an update on Reimagining the Community College Experience. The Board was presented with a concept paper in June 2022, and in fall 2022, TBR solicited grant proposals from the community colleges to develop and implement the ideas within the concept paper. In September 2022, four community colleges (Jackson, Pellissippi, Southwest, and Walters) were announced as the grant winners and have been working to fully develop and implement a multi-year pilot effort. With a fall 2023 implementation, all four colleges will have their final plans ready (and some elements already launched) for a full presentation and discussion at the June 2023 Board meeting.

#### **4. Policy and Strategy Update**

##### **a. Strategic Plan Update**

Executive Vice Chancellor Deaton presented the current iteration of the strategic plan interactive infographic, as well as its accompanying public-facing, interactive dashboard that allows Board members, colleges, and members of the public to track the plan's metrics.

##### **b. Innovations, Research and Data**

Next, Executive Vice Chancellor Deaton introduced Assistant Vice Chancellor Amy Moreland, who began by presenting on dual enrollment.

TCAT dual enrollment has grown rapidly and, from 2015 to 2022, has more than tripled. From fall 2021 to 2022, dual enrollment at TCATs grew 50% and, in West TN, rose 70%. Further, at ten TCATs, dual enrollment doubled or tripled from 2019 to 2022. In-demand fields, like welding technology, health care, and farming operations technology, have driven this growth.

At community colleges, from fall 2021 to 2022, dual enrollment grew 12% and eleven colleges saw increases in dual enrollment. Dual enrollment at community colleges grew while other types of enrollments fell. Notably, this past fall, the TBR system reached a milestone that dual enrollment students outnumbered incoming freshmen by approximately 1,000 students.

Assistant Vice Chancellor Moreland then announced a new data tool that illuminates student performance on access, preparation, retention, and success metrics that can be disaggregated by high school and school district, and that TBR, in partnership with Stanford University, is launching a new effort to understand accelerated courses with funding from Ascendium Education Group.

#### **C. ACTION ITEMS**

##### **1. Review and Consider Resolution of Appreciation for former Regent Yolanda Greene**

Vice Chair Reynolds called on Regent Apple to present the resolution of appreciation for the service of former Regent Yolanda Greene.

Regent Apple moved adoption of the resolution, and Regent Varlan provided a second. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Ms. Greene thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as Regent. A copy of the resolution is attached to the official copy of the Minutes as Appendix H.

**2. Proposed Program Terminations, Modifications, and New Technical Program Implementations at the Colleges of Applied Technology**

Vice Chancellor Jothany Reed and Assistant Vice Chancellor Tachaka Hollins presented twenty-six (26) program proposals and seventeen (17) program modifications for review and approval. A motion to approve was made by Regent Apple with a second provided by Regent Varlan. The motion carried by voice vote. A copy of the proposed new technical program implementations and modifications for the TCATs is attached to the official copy of the Minutes as Appendix I.

**3. Review and Consider Faculty Emeriti Recommendations**

Vice Chancellor Jothany Reed presented a request for the Board to consider and approve five (5) faculty emeritus requests for the following:

<b>Professor</b>	<b>Rank/Discipline</b>	<b>Service Dates</b>	<b>College</b>
Judith Fethe	Assoc. Prof. of Mathematics	1986-2022	Pellissippi State
Donald Coleman	Assoc. Prof. of Beh/Soc Sciences	1985-2022	Northeast State
Stella Gomezdelcampo	Assoc. Prof. of History	1989-2022	Roane State
Lesha Hill	Assoc. Prof. of Respiratory Therapy	1997-2021	Roane State
James Doyle	Professor of Psychology	1978-2023	Roane State

Regent Varlan moved approval and Regent Burdine provided a second. The motion carried by voice vote.

**4. Review and Consider Building Naming Request from Nashville State Community College**

Vice Chair Reynolds then called on Chancellor Tydings for a building naming request from Nashville State (NaSCC). The request was to name the College's current North Davidson Building as "Doug and Robbie Odom Building." NaSCC convened an appropriate committee to consider and make the recommendation.

Doug and Robbie Odom were longtime residents of Madison, Tennessee, where they were married for 74 years and parents of Larry, Teresa, and Debbie. Continuing the family business, Doug took over the operations of Tennessee Pride Sausage Company. They were exemplary role models in their community. While neither had a formal higher education degree, they were passionate about providing pathways for their children, employees, and members of their community to achieve their educational dreams. Their work supported and established multiple scholarships at universities and high schools in the middle Tennessee area. Through the generosity of Doug and Robbie Odom's children, the Nashville State Community College Foundation received its largest individual pledge in its history of \$1.25 million that will be donated to the college over five years, with a significant contribution having already been received. To honor their parents, the children wanted to especially impact the community where it all began - in Madison. The Chancellor then called on President Shanna Jackson who addressed the Board in support of the naming.

Regent Burdine moved approval of the building naming request and Regent Hooper seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote. A copy of the request by NaSCC is attached to the official copy of the Minutes as Appendix J.

#### **5. Review and Consider Building Naming Request from Walters State Community College**

Chancellor Tydings then presented a building naming request from Walters State (WSCC). The request was to name the College's building on the Claiborne County Campus the "Eleanor E. Yoakum Building." WSCC convened an appropriate committee to consider and make the recommendation.

Ms. Yoakum was president of the Walters State Foundation from 2010 to 2011 and she is a donor to the college. She was instrumental in assisting the college in securing the old Claiborne County High School Building and converting it into a Walters State campus. She has served on the Tennessee Arts Commission, and she was appointed by former President Bush to serve on the United States Federal Advisory Board on Tobacco. She was also appointed to the Tennessee Board for Economic Growth by former Governor Don Sundquist and she also served six years as a Tennessee Higher Education Commission Board Member and is currently serving on the Tennessee State Museum Commission. On the county level, she has served on the Claiborne County Election Commission, the Claiborne County Hospital Board, and the Claiborne County Industrial Board. Ms. Yoakum truly believes in serving others. The Chancellor then called on President Tony Miksa who addressed the Board in support of the naming.

Regent Apple moved approval of the building naming request and Regent Varlan seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote. A copy of the request by WSCC is attached to the official copy of the Minutes as Appendix K.

**6. Review and Consider Revisions to TBR Policy 5.01.03.00 Retirement**

General Counsel Brian Lapps presented proposed revisions to TBR Policy 5.01.03.00 Retirement. He reported that the revisions entail removing the requirement that a president be at least sixty (60) years old to receive honorary emeritus status, and the policy retains the requirement that an individual serve at least ten (10) years as president of an institution.

Regent Powers moved approval and Regent Apple provided a second. The motion carried by voice vote. A copy of the revised policy is attached to the official copy of the Minutes as Appendix L.

**7. Review and Consider Resolution of Appreciation for former President Roland Rayner**

Vice Chair Reynolds called on Regent Powers to present the resolution of appreciation for the service of former President Roland Rayner. Regent Powers moved adoption of the resolution, and Regent George provided a second. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Dr. Rayner thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as President; the students, faculty, and staff of TCAT Memphis; mentors, TBR staff, elected officials, institution advisory members, and industry partners. A copy of the resolution is attached to the official copy of the Minutes as Appendix M.

**8. Review and Consider Resolution of Appreciation for former President Paul Stewart Smith**

Vice Chair Reynolds called on Regent Varlan to present the resolution of appreciation for the service of former President Paul Stewart Smith. Regent Varlan moved adoption of the resolution, and Regent White provided a second. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Mr. Smith thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as President of TCAT Athens for thirty years. A copy of the resolution is attached to the official copy of the Minutes as Appendix N.

**9. Review and Consider Resolution of Appreciation for former President Myra West**

Vice Chair Reynolds called on Regent Gill to present the resolution of appreciation for the service of former President Myra West. Regent Gill moved adoption of the resolution, and Regent Apple provided a second. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Dr. West expressed her thanks to the Board for the opportunity to serve as President of TCAT Livingston, as well as the students and supporters during her tenure. A copy of the resolution is attached to the official copy of the Minutes as Appendix O.




**VII. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

In closing, Vice Chair Reynolds called on Chancellor Tydings, who specially recognized new Presidents Susan Hatto and Patrick Wade. Vice Chair Reynolds reminded board members of future steps related to the Chancellor's evaluation, as well as the next quarterly meeting scheduled on Thursday and Friday, June 15 and 16, 2023 at Chattanooga State Community College. She further congratulated Walters State Community College and TCAT Morristown for being named Colleges of the Year.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Mariah H. Perry, Board Secretary

  
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Flora W. Tydings, Chancellor

  
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Emily J. Reynolds, Vice Chair