Meeting of the Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
Student and Academic Affairs Committee Meeting
September 10, 2026
Tennessee State University

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Trustees Jeffery Norfleet, Marquita Qualls, Venkataswarup Tiriveedhi, Terica Smith, Oliva Blauser. Other Board members present: Charles Traughber, Leticia Towns, Terica Smith

University Staff Present: President Dwayne Tucker; Ginette Brown, Interim General Counsel and Board Secretary; April Robinson, Chief Finance Officer; Sterlin Sanders, Interim Chief Information Officer; Eric Stokes, Vice President of Enrollment Management; Erik Schmeller, Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs; Will Radford, Assistant Vice President for Campus Planning, Design, and Construction; Jerod Holloway, Internal Audit

I. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Norfleet called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Committee Chair Norfleet requested that Secretary Brown conduct the call. The following committee members were present: Trustee Jeffery Norfleet, Trustee Marquita Qualls, Trustee Tiriveedhi, Trustee Terica Smith, and Trustee Blauser. Following the roll call, Secretary Brown determined that a quorum was present.

III. OPENING REMARKS BY THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Committee Chair Norfleet welcomed all the new trustees to the meeting, including the new student trustee, Oliva Blauser. He noted that there is a lot to discuss and welcomes a productive meeting.

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Trustee Tiriveedhi moved to adopt the agenda as contained in the September 10, 2026 meeting materials. The motion was seconded by Trustee Smith. A voice vote was taken, with all present Committee members voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

Trustee Tiriveedhi moved to recommend that the full Board approve May 7, May 13, and June 30, 2026, Student and Academic Affairs Committee meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Smith. A voice vote was taken, with all present Committee members voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. ENROLLMENT REPORT

Committee Chair Norfleet introduced Dr. Eric Stokes, Vice President of Enrollment Management, to provide an update on the University's enrollment report, including recruitment outcomes, enrollment trends, and plans to support future enrollment growth.

Dr. Stokes reported increases in applications, admissions, deposits, and orientation participation compared with the prior year. More than 2,000 students had paid deposits, and nearly 2,000 had registered for orientation. The incoming class's academic profile remained generally consistent with the prior year, with a slightly higher average grade-point average and a slight decrease in average ACT scores. The University hosted more than 4,500 students and family members across 10 summer orientation sessions.

New freshman enrollment increased from 435 in fall 2025 to 1,737 in fall 2026, an increase of nearly 300 percent. New transfer enrollment increased from approximately 213 to 365, while dual-enrollment participation increased from 133 to 410. Total University enrollment exceeded 6,100 students. Dr. Stokes also reviewed the top 25 high schools and states represented in enrollment, as well as the top 20 transfer institutions. The University reduced the number of students dropped for nonpayment to 55 freshmen and 16 transfer students.

Dr. Stokes reported that applications for fall 2027 were 124 percent ahead of the same point in the previous recruitment cycle, with transfer applications also increasing. Planned enhancements included improvements to the Dynamic Portal, targeted email and text campaigns, enhanced communications with admitted students, earlier financial-aid information, welcome videos from college deans, student testimonials, and direct invitations to eligible scholarship applicants. Enrollment Management also planned to integrate scholarship opportunities, including the Presidential and Levi Watkins scholarships, more directly into the admissions process to identify potentially eligible applicants and encourage them to complete the appropriate review. Additional recruitment partnerships were planned with colleges, faculty, alumni, summer programs, and campus visitors across multiple metropolitan areas.

Trustee Qualls asked about plans to retain incoming students, the percentage of admitted students with ACT scores below 18, and the support available to those students. Dr. Stokes explained that Academic Affairs could provide additional details regarding retention, while Enrollment Management prioritized proactive communication about scholarship-renewal requirements and early registration and enrollment deadlines. He noted that ACT scores were distributed across the range of incoming students and that admission decisions also considered high school grade-point averages, dual-enrollment credits, and other indicators of academic preparation. Student support included advising, developmental support, tutoring, course placement, and early intervention. In response to a follow-up question about responsibility for retention, Dr. Stokes explained that Academic Affairs has primary responsibility for academic retention, while Enrollment Management also plays an important role. He identified Enrollment Management's responsibilities as including admissions, the Registrar's Office, orientation, merit scholarships, enrollment data, and communications reporting.

Trustee Traughber requested a chart showing the incoming freshman class's distribution of grade-point averages and test scores. Dr. Stokes agreed that the information could be compiled and shared. Trustee Traughber also asked whether enrollment trends among new freshmen and transfer students could inform academic-program strategy, recruitment priorities, and future operating needs. Dr. Stokes explained that engineering, business, and computer science generally attract strong student interest. Recruitment efforts highlight these high-demand areas while introducing prospective students to related programs, including agribusiness, healthcare administration, and industrial technology. He noted that program-specific recruitment, scholarships, summer programs, campus visits, and grant-funded activities also influence student decisions. Academic Affairs was working with deans to review enrollment patterns and determine how programs and resources could be adjusted to attract and support students. Committee Chair Norfleet recommended that academic-program planning also incorporate state and national workforce data to ensure that new or expanded programs align with emerging occupations, labor-market needs, student interests, and future employment opportunities.

Trustee Traughber requested more detailed enrollment data by student classification, including net tuition revenue, scholarship awards, geographic representation, and other relevant measures. He also asked about the involvement of SIG in the University's enrollment efforts. Dr. Stokes agreed to provide the requested dashboard and confirmed that SIG remained involved in supporting enrollment efforts. He added that Alvarez & Marsal had assisted with scholarship revisions that contributed to recruitment outcomes and developed a dashboard containing enrollment, scholarship, and net tuition revenue data for freshmen and the overall student population.

Trustee Qualls requested additional information about the strategies used to reduce the number of students dropped for nonpayment and whether those efforts presented any retention risks. The discussion highlighted earlier and more frequent communications, orientation participation, and collaboration among Admissions, Financial Aid, the Bursar, the Registrar, Housing, Academic Affairs, and the President's Office. Direct outreach included calls, text messages, and residence-hall visits. Staff regularly identified students with incomplete requirements and assisted them with financial aid, enrollment, and scholarship matters before the purge deadline. These efforts continued through the final purge and census date. The administration was documenting successful strategies, areas for improvement, and potential financial risks to inform future enrollment and retention efforts.

Committee Chair Norfleet asked whether the recruitment budget adequately supported Enrollment Management's responsibilities and requested information regarding the University's Spring 2027 recruitment strategy, including outreach to early high school graduates, adult learners, and transfer students. Dr. Stokes stated that current funding was sufficient, although additional resources could be beneficial. He noted that University leadership remained open to additional investments when the anticipated return could be demonstrated and emphasized the important nonfinancial contributions of faculty and staff to recruitment efforts.

Dr. Stokes explained that spring recruitment would include working with high school counselors to identify December graduates and continuing to offer merit scholarships to eligible students beginning in the spring. Transfer recruitment plans included hosting TSU recruitment events at community colleges, targeting in-state and out-of-state students, and adding a transfer-credit

evaluator. The additional position was expected to reduce evaluation times and help admitted transfer students make enrollment decisions more quickly.

VII. STUDENT AFFAIRS REPORT

Committee Chair Norfleet introduced Dr. Bridgett Golman, Vice President of Student Affairs, to present the Student Affairs report, including updates on housing occupancy, summer camp revenue, student engagement, and student support services.

A. HOUSING UPDATE

Dr. Golman reported that University housing was at 91.3 percent occupancy. The University generated approximately $444,000 in revenue from 14 summer camps, an increase of approximately 65 percent over the prior year. The Urban League National Youth Summit accounted for more than $250,000 in revenue and brought students ages 13 to 18 from across the country to campus.

Dr. Golman highlighted expanded Welcome Week programming, including field-day activities, game nights, talent shows, and other events. The University processed approximately 2,600 immunization records and served 204 military-connected students, including 63 new freshmen. Approximately 1,500 first-time freshmen resided in the University housing, making them the largest residential population. Utilization also increased across the One-Stop Navigation Center, Health Services, Disability Services, Military Services, International Student Services, the Wellness Center, and the Aquatic Center.

Committee Chair Norfleet requested clarification regarding the One-Stop Navigation Center. Dr. Golman explained that the center serves as a liaison to help students navigate University services, including financial aid. A trustee asked whether the reported utilization figures represented unique users. Dr. Golman clarified that the figures reflected individual scans and could include duplicate counts for students who accessed services multiple times.

Trustee Smith asked which facilities were used to accommodate summer camps and whether summer camp activity could become a recurring revenue source. Dr. Golman explained that, because much of the campus was undergoing summer maintenance, the University used three residence halls, along with facilities and services provided by Events Planning, Events Management, and Food Services.

Regarding summer camp recruitment, Dr. Golman explained that the Urban League invited TSU to host its National Youth Summit following the development of a partnership through a state-funded grant. The summit generated the largest share of summer camp revenue. Additional camps may be organized through various University departments, including Athletics, STEM, Engineering, and Aeronautics. She stated that the University planned to generate revenue from facilities and activities during both peak and off-peak periods, with proceeds supporting Student Affairs and the broader University budget.

Trustee Qualls asked whether the University had compared summer camp revenue with potential losses associated with pausing or discontinuing Maymester, including the effects of Maymester participation on student retention. Dr. Golman clarified that summer camps supplemented, rather

than replaced, summer academic operations. Students attending summer sessions continued to reside on campus and received scaled programming and activities from year-round Student Affairs staff. She deferred questions regarding the Maymester assessment to Provost Erik Schmeller.

Trustee Traughber asked whether increased enrollment had created operational cost pressures, whether future growth would require additional planning, and what enrollment growth the University anticipated over the next several years. Dr. Golman reported that, although the University had not experienced significant operational strain, demand for Student Affairs services had increased. Continued enrollment growth could create challenges related to housing, staffing, and Residence Life. She noted that the President and Cabinet had begun discussing strategies to address anticipated needs for the next academic year.

Committee Chair Norfleet asked how Student Affairs would sustain student engagement beyond Welcome Week. Dr. Golman reported that six weeks of intentional programming had been planned for first-year students, along with more than 115 Residence Life programs throughout the semester. Additional activities would be offered through Career Services, Counseling Services, Student Leadership and Engagement, and other University units.

Trustee Qualls asked how the central Student Affairs budget supports student-led organizations. Dr. Golman explained that professionally staffed programs receive support through a central programming budget. The Student Programming Board proposes activities through the Office of Student Engagement and Leadership, which administers the associated budget. Independent student organizations and Greek organizations generally rely on their own resources.

Trustee Tiriveedhi asked whether housing was reserved for graduate students. Dr. Golman explained that freshmen and other undergraduate students receive priority because of current demand. Limited graduate housing may be available in special circumstances, including accommodations associated with certain graduate assistant positions in Residence Life and other campus units.

Committee Chair Norfleet emphasized the importance of reviewing student conduct and safety procedures. Dr. Golman reported that the student conduct manual had been reviewed and updated and was being coordinated with the Office of General Counsel for presentation to the Board.

VIII. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

Committee Chair Norfleet introduced Dr. Erik Schmeller, Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, to present the Academic Affairs report. Dr. Schmeller thanked the deans, department chairs, faculty, advisers, Graduate School, and staff who worked extended hours to register new and returning students.

Dr. Schmeller reported that Academic Affairs had experienced numerous personnel transitions resulting from the Voluntary Separation Program (VSP), retirements, and departures to other institutions. Following the departure of Dr. Nolan McMurray, Dean of the College of Life and Physical Sciences, Dr. Samantha Morgan-Curtis, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, was appointed interim dean of both colleges, with support from interim Associate Dean Dr. John Robinson. Academic Affairs explained that the arrangement reflected the historical relationship between the colleges and their shared responsibility for much of the general education curriculum.

Following Dr. Cheryl Seay's departure through the VSP, the Office of Academic Affairs was restructured from a provost and four assistant vice presidents to an interim provost and one assistant vice president, Dr. Johnnie Smith, with experienced staff assuming additional responsibilities. A proposal was also under consideration to add an instructional designer position to support online learning, faculty development, digital accessibility, and course quality. The larger freshman class increased demand for general education and introductory courses, while smaller upper-division cohorts required some low-enrollment advanced courses to remain available for degree completion.

Academic Affairs reported implementing stronger faculty workload and personnel controls in response to changing enrollment while maintaining fiscal responsibility. Measures included increased oversight of research and administrative release time, requiring full-time faculty to carry full teaching loads before temporary instructors or adjuncts were hired, and centralizing approval of adjunct and temporary instructional appointments. Vacant faculty positions were being evaluated to determine whether replacements were necessary, with permanent faculty hires preferred when possible.

Academic Affairs was also pursuing initiatives to improve student success and retention. These included proposed policy revisions requiring greater use of the learning management system gradebook to support early intervention, compliance with federal digital accessibility requirements, and improvements to advising for health sciences students.

Under the leadership of Dr. De'Etra Young and Dr. Johnnie Smith, the Retention Council began a data-informed review of retention trends and student success strategies. The work included developing measurable recommendations, identifying barriers, and benchmarking peer institutions. The University retained 69 percent of the previous freshman class.

Dr. Schmeller stated that the remainder of the Academic Affairs report would address SACSCOC accreditation, student and faculty accomplishments, and the tenure policy revision. Additional tenure policy updates and four proposed academic program modifications were expected to be presented at the November meeting.

A. ACCREDITATION UPDATE

Dr. Schmeller reported that the University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), CADENCE, had been recognized as a project of excellence, and the University had been invited to present at the annual SACSCOC convention. CADENCE supported student retention through wraparound services. Other improvements included faculty advising resources, an advising manual, and the PAW Plan, which freshmen complete through UNIV 1000 to connect academic programs, career interests, wellness, and degree planning.

Dr. Schmeller stated that the fifth-year referral report was positive but identified areas requiring follow-up, including cost-of-attendance information, inconsistent program listings, and a discontinued specialist degree. He noted that SACSCOC was undergoing significant revisions, including changes to accreditation standards and the possibility of reducing the accreditation cycle from 10 years to seven years. The revised standards were expected to be announced in December,

and the University's next self-study was anticipated in 2030. He also noted that the QEP might be discontinued because of financial and workload constraints. The position previously held by Dr. Charlise Anderson was expected to be posted in December.

Committee Chair Norfleet asked whether an interim had been appointed following Dr. Anderson's departure. Dr. Schmeller confirmed that no interim had been appointed and that her responsibilities had been distributed among existing staff. Committee Chair Norfleet urged the administration to appoint an interim or secure consulting support immediately rather than wait until December to post the position. President Tucker agreed and stated that he would work to identify a viable solution.

Trustee Qualls requested clarification regarding the timeline for filling the position. President Tucker stated that he would discuss the matter with Dr. Schmeller following the meeting. Dr. Schmeller noted that he was currently serving as the accreditation liaison and communicating directly with SACSCOC. Trustee Qualls also asked about the potential impact of reducing the accreditation cycle from 10 years to seven years. Dr. Schmeller stated that he expected to provide greater clarity in December.

Trustee Towns asked whether Academic Affairs had sufficient personnel to manage its responsibilities and whether positions lost through attrition would be refilled. She also requested clarification regarding the number of interim deans and whether the University was considering consolidating the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Life and Physical Sciences. Dr. Schmeller stated that current staffing was adequate, although some positions would need to be backfilled. Academic Affairs had limited senior-level hiring to maintain the staffing reductions experienced across the colleges.

Dr. Schmeller clarified that the deans were permanently appointed, except that Dr. Morgan-Curtis was serving as interim dean of the College of Life and Physical Sciences while continuing as dean of the College of Liberal Arts. The possibility of consolidating the colleges was being considered as part of strategic planning and would require further program analysis, due diligence, and consultation with faculty. Committee Chair Norfleet noted that merging academic units could create additional accreditation concerns and emphasized that accreditation should remain a priority.

Trustee Qualls expressed concern about whether Academic Affairs had sufficient staffing to support a freshman class nearly four times larger than the previous year's cohort while maintaining the 69 percent retention rate. Dr. Schmeller acknowledged that the office relied on additional staff assistance and that Academic Affairs' capacity would need to increase if enrollment continued to grow. Trustee Qualls reiterated her concern about Academic Affairs operating with a limited staff.

Trustee Qualls requested the ratio of online to in-person courses and the percentage of residential freshmen enrolled in online courses because of capacity limitations. Dr. Schmeller agreed to provide the information by the end of the day on September 11. He explained that advisers attempted to place freshmen in in-person courses whenever possible, but student preferences, classroom availability, and instructor capacity resulted in some freshmen taking online courses.

Trustee Qualls asked what support was available to students taking online courses. Dr. Schmeller stated that online and in-person students received the same support services, including tutoring, regular check-ins, third-week faculty progress reports, and coordinated tracking through the EAB system. Trustee Qualls followed up by asking whether existing advisers could provide the same level of support to the larger freshman class. Dr. Schmeller reported that staffing had remained relatively stable and consisted primarily of experienced personnel. Student progress would continue to be monitored, with midterm examinations serving as an important measure of academic performance.

Dr. Schmeller continued the report by noting that several academic programs were approaching accreditation reviews and that Academic Affairs was working to ensure reports were submitted on time, including those for the teacher education program and CAPE. The University had also secured Quality Assurance funding through THEC and implemented *the Gracie Lab*, which was in the process of being institutionalized.

B. FACULTY AND STUDENT UPDATES

Dr. Schmeller reported that first-generation freshman retention increased from approximately 50 percent for fall 2024 to 65 percent for fall 2025. The University also received a $2,500 Celebrate FirstGen grant to support recognition, advising, coaching, and community-building initiatives for first-generation students. Several faculty members had also received Fulbright awards.

C. TENURE POLICY UPDATE

Dr. Schmeller reported that the tenure policy working group included experienced faculty representatives from each college and from the Library and Media Centers, along with a representative from Academic Affairs. The group was charged with revising the University's tenure and promotion policy and considering related issues identified during its review. He noted that individual colleges maintained their own tenure and promotion guidelines, which also required revision. The revised University policy would undergo Faculty Senate review before being presented to the Board, with consideration anticipated at the June meeting.

Committee Chair Norfleet asked whether the tenure process remained paused while the policy was being revised. President Tucker stated that the University intended to resume the tenure and promotion process and bring recommendations to the Board in June 2027. Faculty whose reviews had been paused during the previous cycle, along with the next eligible cohort, would be included. Until a new policy was adopted, candidates would proceed under the current policy.

Trustee Tiriveedhi raised concerns about faculty compensation, noting that faculty had not received a State-appropriated 1.5 percent compensation adjustment and had gone nearly three years without a base-pay increase, while student tuition had increased by approximately 10 percent. He stated that faculty compensation was approximately 30 to 40 percent below market levels, while some administrators and decision-makers were 10 to 15 percent above market. He also expressed concern about low faculty morale and delays in tenure and promotion for faculty who had met the expectations in place when they were hired. He urged the administration to restore the tenure and promotion process promptly and address market inequities in faculty compensation.

President Tucker stated that the University had not provided base-pay increases to the President or staff because of the need to maintain financial stability. The approved budget did not include salary increases; however, if financial performance exceeded projections, the University would consider a one-time 1.5 percent payment. He added that the University's goal was to resume regular base-pay increases effective July 1 of the following year, subject to financial results.

Trustee Qualls asked whether the tenure process would begin during the current academic year for decisions expected in June of the following year. President Tucker responded that the University was close to reopening the application portals but first needed to establish a process.

Committee Chair Norfleet expressed concern about reopening the portal without an updated policy. Dr. Schmeller explained that candidates would proceed under the current policy until the revised policy was implemented. Committee Chair Norfleet noted the risk of evaluating faculty under a policy already identified as needing improvement while a replacement was being developed. Dr. Schmeller explained that approximately 30 faculty members whose reviews had been paused had already begun preparing their materials under the current policy. Because the core documentation requirements for teaching, research, and service were not expected to change significantly, those faculty members would be grandfathered under the existing policy. Faculty entering future review cycles would follow the revised policy once it was implemented.

In response to Committee Chair Norfleet, Dr. Schmeller agreed to provide a list of faculty members whose reviews had been paused by the end of the day. Trustee Qualls also requested a copy of the list and an estimate of the number of faculty members eligible for review during the current year. Dr. Schmeller agreed to work with his department to provide an accurate estimate. Trustee Towns emphasized the need to coordinate with the administration and Finance Committee to prepare for the increased volume of reviews and provide greater insight into the associated decisions.

Trustee Smith asked whether faculty whose reviews had been paused and newly eligible faculty would both be evaluated under the current tenure and promotion policy or whether the new cohort would transition to the revised policy during the process. Dr. Schmeller confirmed that both groups would proceed under the current policy. He explained that the tenure and promotion review process spans the full academic year and that the revised policy was expected to be finalized by June.

Trustee Smith followed up by asking whether reviewing approximately twice the usual number of candidates would create a corresponding increase in financial obligations. Dr. Schmeller clarified that tenure itself does not create a direct financial cost, but promotion does. The promotion costs associated with the combined group could therefore exceed the University's usual average. Committee Chair Norfleet noted that the University would be reviewing both tenure and promotion for the previous and current cohorts.

Trustee Tiriveedhi requested clarification regarding the expected timeline for the tenure and promotion process for the 2025–2026 and 2026–2027 cohorts. Dr. Schmeller stated that the calendar would need to be adjusted to ensure newly eligible faculty received a full and fair opportunity to participate. He expected the Academic Affairs review to be finalized in April.

Committee Chair Norfleet emphasized the need for additional coordination among committees, timely and transparent communication, and sufficient preparation time for faculty as the tenure

and promotion timeline approached. Secretary Brown agreed to work with the chairs of the Student and Academic Affairs and Finance Committees to schedule additional meetings before the next Board meetings.

Trustee Qualls asked how the University would fund the process, given that tenure and promotion expenses had not been included in the FY 2026–2027 budget. President Tucker stated that the University would identify funds within the existing budget to cover the expenses. Trustee Qualls noted that the Board and the Student and Academic Affairs Committee should have been involved when the process was initially paused. She emphasized that the issue involved more than finances and underscored the importance of involving the appropriate Board committees in future governance decisions.

In the interest of time, Trustee Towns recommended including the retention and other remaining reports in the Committee Chair's report to the full Board.

D. GLOBAL EDUCATION INITIATIVES UPDATE

Committee Chair Norfleet called on Dr. Jewell Winn to provide an update on Global Education Initiatives. Dr. Winn stated that the office's vision was to expand global opportunities, strengthen academic excellence, and prepare students for a global workforce. TSU benchmarked its internationalization strategy against peer historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and integrated international programming with global risk-management practices, including its passport acceptance facility, crisis protocols, and faculty-led travel safety systems.

Dr. Winn reported that the University partnered with program providers and identified national funding sources to reduce students' out-of-pocket travel costs. During the previous three fiscal years, TSU sent 174 students to 14 countries through 19 programs. Participation declined from 95 students in FY 2023-2024 to 51 in FY 2024-2025 and 28 in FY 2025-2026 as federal funding decreased. Since 2023, TSU had produced eight Fulbright awardees spanning 10 countries and five academic colleges and disciplines. The University maintained 23 active memoranda of understanding across 13 countries and five global regions. Through the Title III Global Faculty Fellows program, TSU had trained and supported 15 fellows from seven academic colleges who led projects across more than 20 countries. The office was also working with deans and department chairs to incorporate global competencies into degree maps so that international experiences would not delay graduation.

Trustees discussed the potential impact of the proposed international student study-period policy on doctoral and graduate programs, how TSU was leveraging Fulbright participants' experiences to strengthen curricula and attract students and faculty, and whether the University had identified priority countries or programs aligned with its academic strengths or international investments within Tennessee. Dr. Winn explained that current TSU students would be grandfathered under the proposed rule, while new students beginning in January would be subject to it. Students exceeding the applicable period would have to leave the country, reapply, and return. She noted that litigation was pending and the University was monitoring potential changes because the rule could adversely affect universities that rely on international student revenue.

Dr. Winn added that returning Fulbright participants worked with their deans and departments and delivered presentations or workshops to share their experiences and knowledge. Fulbright participation increased TSU's visibility as a leading HBCU in the program and strengthened its research and scholarship. Faculty generally selected countries based on their courses, while her office monitored safety conditions. International plans could also change in response to geopolitical developments.

IX. RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS UPDATE

Due to schedule constraints, Committee Chair Norfleet postponed this update to the following Board meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Tiriveedhi moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Smith. Secretary Brown conducted a voice vote, with all members present voting in favor. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

COMMITTEE FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

- **Student Data Dashboard** – A&M has developed a dashboard that provides student-level data, including scholarships and awards. The University will provide the Board with access to or information from the dashboard as appropriate. *Assigned to: April Robinson and Beau Briggs*

- **Student Code of Conduct –** Trustee Norfleet emphasized the importance of prioritizing the Student Code of Conduct. Assigned to: *Dr. Bridgett Golman*

- **Dr. Anderson's Replacement –** Trustee Norfleet emphasized the importance of filling Dr. Anderson's position prior to December 2026 and requested consideration of an interim appointment or consultant to ensure the position is covered and would like an update on the applications and process. Assigned to: *Dr. Erik Schmeller*

- **Online and In-Person Courses –** Trustees requested the ratio of online courses to in-person courses, as well as the number of first-year students taking online courses who reside on campus. Assigned to: *Dr. Eric Stokes and/or Dr. Erik Schmeller*

- **Faculty on Pause –** Trustee Norfleet requested a list of faculty currently on pause, including names. Assigned to: *Dr. Erik Schmeller*

- **Tenure Communication –** Trustee Norfleet requested that the Provost and President develop a communication regarding upcoming tenure decisions and related matters and provide it to the Board for review before it is shared with faculty. Assigned to: *Dr. Erik Schmeller and President Tucker*

- **ACT Scores and GPA Trends –** Trustees requested a chart showing ACT score ranges above and below 18, corresponding GPAs, and comparisons to prior years. Assigned to: *Dr. Eric Stokes*

- **Academic Programs and First-Time Students –** Trustees requested information regarding which academic programs are most attractive to first-time TSU students. Assigned to: *Dr. Eric Stokes and/or Dr. Erik Schmeller*

- **Enrollment Detail and Net Revenue –** Trustees requested additional enrollment detail by student classification, including net revenue, scholarships, and other relevant financial information. Assigned to: *Dr. Eric Stokes*

- **Maymester and Camps Revenue –** Trustees requested information comparing the revenue generated from Maymester programs and camps, including whether the University has monetized these activities. Assigned to: *Dr. Eric Stokes and/or Dr. Erik Schmeller*

- **Interim Deans –** Trustee Norfleet requested the number of interim deans currently serving at the University. Assigned to: *Dr. Erik Schmeller*