

TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
Access, Academics, and Student Success Committee

Minutes of the Access, Academics, and Student Success Committee

Conference Room O, Tennessee Tower Office Building

312 Rosa L. Parks Ave.

Nashville, TN

May 15, 2024

Chairwoman Winton called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Member	PRESENT	ABSENT
Commissioner Tara Scarlett	X	
Secretary Tre Hargett	X	
Commissioner Sara Morrison	X	
Commissioner A.C. Wharton	X	

At the start of the meeting, two (2) voting members were physically present and one (1) voting member was participating electronically, constituting a quorum.

Adoption of Agenda

Secretary Hargett made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Scarlett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes: January 24, 2024, Committee Meeting

Secretary Hargett made a motion to approve the January 24, 2024, Committee Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Scarlett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Postsecondary Education Authorization (*Action Item*)

Commissioner Scarlett stated that if there were no objections, she would like the Committee to vote on these items as a slate. Dr. Stephanie Bellard-Chase, Senior Director of Postsecondary State Authorization, provided an overview of the authorization of new institutions and the optional expedited authorization of institutions.

Secretary Hargett made a motion to approve the Postsecondary Education Authorization. Commissioner Scarlett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

II. Off-Campus Centers (Action Item)

Dr. Julie Roberts, Chief Academic Officer, provided an overview of the five (5) off-campus centers.

Committee members asked questions and a discussion was held. Commissioner Scarlett made a motion to approve the Off-Campus Centers. Secretary Hargett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

III. New Academic Programs (Action Item)

Dr. Roberts, Chief Academic Officer, provided an update on the Academic Program Approval process and the current timeline for academic program approvals. Dr. Roberts introduced Dr. Katherine Brackett, Director of Academic Affairs, who provided an overview of the eight (8) programs for approval, which included five (5) Baccalaureate degree programs, two (2) master's degree programs, and one (1) doctoral degree program.

A. East Tennessee State University – Music, Master of Music

Dr. Kimberly McCorkle, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, gave an overview of the Master of Music program, which consists of 32 to 36 credit hours to prepare students for professional careers as musical performers, conductors, or composers. This program will be accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music ("NASM") and will provide opportunities for public school educators to grow their careers.

Committee members asked questions and a discussion was held.

Commissioner Wharton made a motion to approve the Master of Music program at East Tennessee State University. Secretary Hargett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Tennessee State University – Business Data Analytics, Master of Science

Dr. Stephen Shanklin, Interim Dean of the College of Business, provided an overview of the Master of Science in Business Data Analytics program, which consists of 30 credit hours that can be completed in 12 months. This program is designed to develop a professional workforce prepared to

address expanding data analytics to inform professionals to make better business decisions.

Committee members asked questions, and a discussion was held.

Commissioner Scarlett made a motion to approve the Master of Science in Business Data Analytics program. Commissioner Wharton seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Tennessee State University – Public Health, Doctor of Philosophy

Dr. Ronaldo Barredo, Dean of the College of Health Sciences, provided an overview of the Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health program, which is designed to train culturally competent public health researchers to address factors contributing to health disparities. This program provides a multidisciplinary collaboration, identifying areas of shortages that have been recognized nationally.

Secretary Hargett made a motion to approve the Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health program. Commissioner Scarlett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

D. Tennessee Technical University – Nuclear Engineering, Bachelor of Science

Dr. Lori Bruce, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, provided an overview of the Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering program, which is 128 credit hour program that compliments the strengths of existing engineering programs. In addition, this program will establish partnerships with industry professionals and research labs.

Committee members asked questions, and a discussion was held.

Commissioner Wharton made a motion to approve the Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering program. Secretary Hargett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

E. University of Tennessee, Knoxville – Data Science, Bachelor of Science

Dr. John Zomchick, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor, provided an overview

of the Bachelor of Science in Data Science program, which gives students an interdisciplinary perspective in data application of various fields. This program will allow students to apply data science concepts and methods to real-world problems.

Committee members asked questions, and a discussion was held.

Secretary Hargett made a motion to approve the Data Science, Bachelor of Science program. Commissioner Wharton seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

F. University of Tennessee, Knoxville – Applied Artificial Intelligence, Bachelor of Science

Dr. Zomchick provided an overview of the Bachelor of Science in Applied Artificial Intelligence program, which provides students with an understanding of core Artificial Intelligence principles, algorithms, and models. This program will teach students how to evaluate and provide solutions for Artificial Intelligence tools.

Committee members asked questions, and a discussion was held.

Commissioner Scarlett made a motion to approve the Bachelor of Science in Applied Artificial Intelligence program. Commissioner Wharton seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

G. University of Tennessee, Knoxville – Innovative Transdisciplinary Studies, Bachelor of Science

Dr. Zomchick provided an overview of the Bachelor of Science in Innovative Transdisciplinary Studies program, which allows students to master concepts, theories, and methods across multiple disciplines in different fields of interest.

Secretary Hargett made a motion to approve the Bachelor of Science in Innovative Transdisciplinary Studies program. Commissioner Wharton seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

H. University of Tennessee, Knoxville – Environmental Engineering, Bachelor of Science

Dr. Zomchick provided an overview of the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering program, which consists of 128 credit hours and prepares students for careers in environmental engineering. This program equips students to solve new environmental problems.

Commissioner Wharton made a motion to approve the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering program. Commissioner Scarlett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Other Business

Dr. Steven Gentile, Executive Director, thanked the Academic Affairs staff on compiling these programs for the Committee to consider.

Commissioner Scarlett adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Next Meeting

August 2024

Commissioner Tara Scarlett