

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

3:00 PM EST
Tuesday
May 14, 2024

Mapp Building
Room 102

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Scott LeRoy called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm. The roll was called, and a quorum confirmed. The following Board members were present: Garnett Decosimo, Mario Duarte, Tammie Garland, Scott LeRoy, Elaine Swafford, and Todd Womack.

David Watson, a Board of Trustees member, was also in attendance.

II. OPENING REMARKS

Chair LeRoy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2, 2023

Chair Leroy noted the first item of business was the approval of the minutes from the meeting held on October 2, 2023. Dr. Garland moved for approval, and Mr. Decosimo seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously by roll call vote. Mr. LeRoy noted a summary of the January 30, 2024, meeting was also included in the Board packet; these are not considered official minutes as a quorum was not present, but they do provide highlights of that day's meeting.

IV. CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Chair LeRoy then introduced Chancellor Angle for his report. Dr. Angle shared that the University held its spring commencement on May 3-4, and 1,628 degrees were awarded. That was the first commencement held in McKenzie Arena at full capacity since Covid. He reported that for the coming fall, UTC is up about 10% on applications to date, with over 15,000 total applications. First-time, full-time freshman applicants have a 3.72 median GPA, which is a little bit above what UTC normally has. First-time freshman applications are at 13,200 applications. Housing is going to be more than full. He noted that thanks to the support of the Tennessee governor and the Hamilton County delegation, state funding support for Fletcher Hall came through, which enabled UTC to accept a gift from Gary Rollins. UTC is also working on the design of a new 800-bed residence hall on the site of Frist. President Boyd will be on campus on May 23 and is available to have lunch with the Advisory Board members; an invitation will be sent out shortly.

V. ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

Chair LeRoy called on Kim White for her report from Advancement. Advancement had a stretch goal this year of \$20 million; UTC received the \$30 million Rollins gift, so UTC has \$55,950,000. She also noted that she is leaving this meeting early to close on a \$430,000 condo that was left to the University from an estate. Advancement's audacious goal was \$58 million; there are 45 days left to meet that goal. Ms. White noted that the strategic planning that is going on will be tremendous for the future; Advancement is already working on plans for a comprehensive campaign for next year. She also shared that the number of donors for UTC has increased. The Nursing building was a \$21 million campaign; with campus participation, UTC is right at \$6 million away. They hope to bring it in without the campus having to contribute but that is \$11 million away. This has been an important project to take out to the community and see the support around it – it is an important building and will be a brand new gateway to the community. The Advisory Board members will be invited to the groundbreaking. The Rollins College of Business will be expanding Fletcher Hall; the Advancement team is putting together a fund-raising plan to go with the \$30 million gift from Gary Rollins and the \$66 million from the State.

VI. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

Chair LeRoy next called on Provost Jerry Hale for an update from Academic Affairs. Provost Hale shared an update on the University High initiative. As a part of the ongoing support for dual enrollment collaborations, two new lecturers will be hired (one in English and one in Mathematics) and will be embedded in local high schools to teach dual enrollment classes there, including two of Chattanooga's charter schools, CGLA and Chatt Prep. Talks are continuing with Hamilton County Schools to include instructors in their schools as well.

Dr. Hale shared information about a new academic program still in the development stage – a Medical Laboratory Science (BS) program. It has been approved by UTC's Curriculum Committee. There are actually two programs, one which requires a two-year degree and is currently offered at Chattanooga State, and one which requires a four-year degree. This program is being devised so students can matriculate directly to this program from Chattanooga State and just complete the last two years, or they can come to UTC initially and complete all four years of the degree program.

Tim Gritten has been named the new Dean of the Library effective July 1, 2024. Dr. Hale thanked Theresa Liedtka for her 20 years of service to the campus as Dean of the Library. Dr. Erin Ryan has been named the new head of the Communications Department following a national search. Dr. Ahad Nasab, who has been serving as the interim dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science, will continue to serve in the position for another year. A decision will be made over the summer whether to appoint Dr. Nasab to the position or to start another search.

Mr. LeRoy asked if there was a timeline for the new medical laboratory degree. Dr. Hale responded that it could be as short as 9 months or as long as 3 years. The THEC approval process has been abbreviated some, but is still not as quick as it needs to be; best guess is hoping for a January 2025 or fall 2025 launch.

Mr. Duarte asked what year the University High program starts classes. Dr. Hale responded that the students complete their last two years with UTC; they start as juniors and take 1-2 classes a semester and finish with somewhere between 12-15 credit hours earned by the time they graduate. They could end up with an entire semester's worth of college work by the time they matriculate to UTC or another university. That reduces the cost of attendance for those students because all of those classes are being paid for ideally by the State's dual enrollment grant, so that semester is essentially free for them and then it abbreviates the time that they will be spending earning their degree and will reduce the cost for their families or themselves during that time as well. Mr. Duarte then asked what the target for the second cohort is. Dr. Hale responded the target is 50, which was the same for the first cohort. It was not a problem to meet and exceed that number; the program can accommodate up to 60 students. Mr. Decosimo asked about the status of attempts to work with the Hamilton County Schools. Dr. Hale responded the work is moving slowly but that UTC is continuing to try to work with them and be good partners.

VII. ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT AND STUDENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Chair LeRoy welcomed Dr. Artanya Wesley, new Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, to the meeting to provide an update. Dr. Wesley shared her presentation, noting that the spring semester wrapped up with a total headcount (graduate and undergraduate) of 10,487 students, which was a 3% increase over last year's total of 10,178 students. Undergraduate headcount grew from 8,831 to 9,073, a 2.7% increase. Graduate headcount grew from 1,345 to 1,414, a 5% increase. Housing wrapped up at 95% occupancy, with 3,379 students; last year Housing had 3,265 (93%).

Dr. Wesley also shared some highlights from the spring recruitment efforts. UTC also hosted the Chattanooga Connection School Counselor Initiative April 11-12, with 40 counselors from Nashville and Chattanooga meeting on campus and learning about UTC and its programs.

Early indicators for the fall show that freshmen applications are up by 10%, with 13,230 applications received. UTC has accepted 8,554 freshmen applications, a 27% increase over last year. For transfer students, UTC has received 1,634 applications, which is a 1% decline, and have accepted 670, a 1% increase. UTC has received 2,259 freshmen applications for housing, a 14% increase; 1,743 have received a room assignment and there 78 freshmen on a waiting list. There are 145 transfer applications, which is an 11% decline; 38 of those students have been assigned a room, and currently there are 84 on a wait list. Current student applications are at 2,650, which is a 14% increase. UTC has assigned 1,406 of those students in UTC residence halls; there are 736 on a wait list.

Mr. Womack asked how many total beds are available. Dr. Wesley responded that there are 3,500, not including overflow. UTC also has a lease in place with Palmetto Place to add an additional 137 beds.

Dr. Wesley also shared some key changes in deadlines and timelines for the fall semester. Dr. Wesley also spoke about the issues the FAFSA delays are causing for this year. The UTC scholarship offer deadline has been extended to June 1 to help students have time to complete their offers. Currently UTC has 265 students who have expressed interest in the UT Access

Collaborative program; they have all been admitted and 88 of those students have signed up for orientation sessions.

Dr. Wesley noted, as we work toward UTC's goal of 14,800 students by 2030, that UTC is trying to really pay attention to that 3% increase every year: what will that take and what does that look like. The goal for 2024 is to reach 10,286 undergraduate students. She shared goals and progress as a part of her presentation.

Mr. Womack asked if housing was the biggest limiting factor or challenge to growth. Dr. Wesley responded it definitely was; the new residence hall the Chancellor mentioned previously will be coming on board in fall 2027 with 784 beds. He has charged EMSA to do a housing assessment of the current inventory – what it looks like, deferred maintenance status, etc. Dr. Wesley will be working with the housing staff and Vice Chancellor Goldberg to come up with a plan and present it to the Chancellor by December 31. She also plans to take a look at the master plan for housing, assessing how many beds UTC will need in order to grow and reach the goal by 2030. Off-campus housing is very expensive and out-ricing students, so UTC is looking for opportunities for students off-campus. Dr. Angle noted that UTC is looking for places like Douglas Heights and Palmetto Place where UTC can lease the whole facility; UTC needs around 3,000 more beds.

Mr. Decosimo asked how UTC is tracking on out-bound transfers. Dr. Wesley did not have information on those but will follow up with Mr. Decosimo.

VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT and IX. FY25 BUDGET

Chair LeRoy next called on Vice Chancellor Brent Goldberg for a financial report and to talk about the FY25 budget. Mr. Goldberg talked about the campus goals and priorities and shared the timeline that is used for the budget process. He also touched on the continuing campus initiatives, including the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), A Mocs First Year, and some of the capital projects. He noted this is a very conservative budget and hopefully UTC will have more revenue than budgeted. THEC started the year recommending 0-4% tuition increases; they have recently recommended 0-5.5% increases, which has not yet been voted on.

Budget input sessions were held this year on campus to allow people to come and provide input into the budget process. There were seven themes captured from those sessions: academic programming, compensation and benefits; departmental general operating expenses; parking improvements; student recruitment; student programming and university infrastructure and maintenance. A survey was also done this year to ask employees and students what they thought the priorities were from a budgetary standpoint; 63% of the faculty and staff respondents indicated compensation and benefits should be a priority. Of the student responses, 33% said parking improvements should be a priority, while 33% said academic programming should be a priority, followed by campus safety.

Mr. Goldberg then moved on to talk about proposed FY2025 tuition and fees. Currently, UTC is the most affordable campus in the UT system. With this budget, UTC is proposing a 3% overall increase in tuition and fees, which would be a \$304 increase per year for undergraduate students and a \$322 increase per year for graduate students. UTC had \$16.5 million of budget requests this year; UTC had to cut about \$5 million of those to get to a balanced budget. UTC has a proposal

of \$9.3 million, with reallocations totaling \$2.5 million. Overall, UTC has a proposed budget of \$252 million in proposed revenue; 54% of that comes from tuition and fees. The majority of new revenue this year is coming from the state. Mr. Goldberg also reviewed financial health indicators for the university, touching on revenue trends, reserve funds, and debt (notes and bonds). He also mentioned how fortunate the university is to have the support of the UC Foundation and touched on the residence halls mentioned previously. He closed his presentation by noting UTC is a very affordable institution to get an education, even with very modest tuition increases, and then asked for questions.

Mr. Womack asked if a 3% increase is adequate to do what needs to be done. Mr. Goldberg responded that UTC is sensitive to being affordable and 3% is reasonable. Mr. Womack then asked Mr. Goldberg if he thought if UTC should be in a pattern of recommending modest increases yearly to keep up with inflation rather than having a big increase every few years. Mr. Goldberg responded it is beneficial to do small amounts every year to keep up; it also depends on state appropriations, as long as state appropriations continue to at least remain flat or even increase. If they start to decline, that puts a lot of pressure on tuition. UTC is fortunate to have the investments it has from the state, and 3% is a reasonable place.

There being no further questions, Chair LeRoy called for a motion to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Decosimo so moved, and Mr. Womack seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

X. STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Chair LeRoy introduced Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Strategy Officer Dr. Bryan Johnson to talk about the strategic plan. He shared a preliminary draft of the strategic plan. The goal is to have a draft plan done by August and share that plan with the campus, with a final draft to the Board of Trustees in February. Another meeting of this Board will take place later this summer and more information will be shared then.

XI. APPOINTMENT OF STUDENT MEMBER

Chair LeRoy moved on to the next order of business – the appointment of a student member to the Board. Ms. Isabella Craig has been recommended for the position by the Student Government Association. Dr. Swafford made a motion to approve Ms. Craig's appointment, which was seconded by Mr. Decosimo. Following a roll call vote, the motion was passed unanimously.

XII. REVIEW OF PROPOSED 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

The final item of business was the approval of proposed meeting dates for the coming year. Chair LeRoy called for a motion to approve the dates. Mr. Womack made a motion to approve, with Mr. Decosimo seconding. Following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

Chancellor Angle mentioned that there would be a lunch before the meetings just as a chance to talk informally as a group. Mr. Womack suggested moving the meetings to various locations around campus. Chair LeRoy noted that the next meeting of the Board is scheduled for September 23, 2024, from 1:00-3:00pm in this same location.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

XIV. CLOSING REMARKS

Chancellor Angle thanked Dr. Garland for her service the past two years as the faculty representative to the Board. Dr. Don Reising will be the incoming faculty representative.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Decosimo and seconded by Mr. Womack.

The roll call vote was unanimous, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:40pm.