

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

1:30 PM EST  
Tuesday  
September 23, 2025

MAPP Building  
Room 102

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

Chair Scott LeRoy introduced the new student member, Isaac Durby and called the meeting to order at 1:30pm. The roll was called with the following Board members present: Garnett Decosimo, Mario Duarte, Isaac Durby, Scott LeRoy, Elaine Swafford, and Todd Womack.

**II. OPENING REMARKS**

Chair LeRoy welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the board for this academic year.

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 16, 2025**

The minutes of the May 16, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved (motion by Womack; second by Decosimo).

**IV. CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

Chancellor Bruce reported on her efforts engaging external and internal university stakeholders during her first 90 days as chancellor. Chancellor Bruce identified her top priorities as growing enrollment, enhancing the student experience, elevating research, strengthening UTC's community partnerships, and boldly telling UTC's story. She provided an update on the success of Operation Move In and Welcome Week events. She also provided an update on UTC's record enrollment for the fall 2025 semester, student housing occupancy rate, and new research awards UTC received during the last fiscal year. Chancellor Bruce announced new leadership changes. The Vice Chancellor for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer took a job at another university and that position will not be refilled IT Services is no longer a separate division and has been moved under the Division of Finance and Administration. Additionally, Vice Chancellor for Advancement, Kim White retired, and Andrew Sheehy has been appointed as Interim Vice Chancellor for Advancement.

**V. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

Dr. Frank Butler and Chancellor Bruce presented the completed strategic plan that had been sent to Board members the prior week for review. Dr. Butler explained the planning process and roadshows used to make sure the voice of the campus came through. Chancellor Bruce and Dr. Butler then explained the five strategic pillars of the plan with the strategic action items under them. Several Board

members asked questions and provided feedback regarding the plan, including how to best measure progress toward the stated objectives.

The proposed strategy plan was unanimously approved by the Board via roll call vote (motion by Swafford; second by Womack).

## **VI. ENROLLMENT GROWTH PLAN**

Chancellor Bruce and Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs Artanya Wesley shared the plan formulated to reach enrollment of 15,000 students by 2030. They outlined the strategic priorities and initiatives to reach this goal and presented an illustrative year-over-year pathway of sustainable growth to reach 15,000.

## **VII. ATHLETICS UPDATE**

Vice Chancellor for Athletics Mark Wharton and Yousef Hamadeh. Vice Chancellor Wharton presented recent athletic and academic highlights, including winning the first ever NIT National Championship, an overall student-athlete GPA record of 3.4, and new fundraising initiatives. Vice Chancellor Wharton and Associate General Counsel Yousef Hamadeh reported on UTC's approach to supporting student athletes while ensuring compliance with NIL laws and regulations.

## **VIII. DEI POLICY LANDSCAPE: FEDERAL AND STATE UPDATES**

Chancellor Bruce and AGC Hamadeh provided an overview of the current federal and state laws and other legal authorities related to diversity, equity, and inclusion, including the most recent legislative changes and compliance requirements. Chancellor Bruce outlined UTC's commitment to ensuring all programs and services comply with state and federal laws and that its programs and resources are open and accessible to all students.

## **IX. ACTIVE SHOOTER PREPAREDNESS UPDATE**

UTCPD Chief O'Brien provided an overview of the active shooter training and assessment that the Department of Public Safety has implemented since last year and shared observations from the recent campus lockdown. Chief O'Brien and Associate Vice Chancellor Fuchs then provided a demonstration of new panic buttons being deployed on campus- and discussed with the Board plans for disseminating this information to the campus.

## **X. CLOSING REMARKS**

Chair LeRoy thanked everyone for their time and participation in the meeting.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was approved unanimously via roll call vote (motion by Womack; seconded by Decosimo). The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:10pm.