

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE SOUTHERN  
ADVISORY BOARD

The meeting of The University of Tennessee Southern Advisory Board was held at 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 in the Gault Fine Arts Center Art Gallery on the campus of The University of Tennessee Southern.

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Jimmy Granbery called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. and requested a roll call. Kim Harrison, Secretary of the Board, called the roll. The following Board members were present:

Jimmy W. Granbery, Chair  
Dr. Doug Haney  
Dr. Brant Harwell, Faculty Representative  
Beverly W. Johnson (zoom)  
D. Doran Johnson  
Caroline Ezell McAnally

All Advisory Board members were present and a quorum was announced.  
Other campus leadership was present.

**Opening Remarks of the Chair**

Chair Granbery welcomed everyone and reported he is happy to be back involved in the role as a board member having previously served as a Martin Methodist College trustee. He and the rest of the board are looking forward to pushing the university ahead.

**Chancellor's Remarks**

Chancellor Linda C. Martin gave an overview of UT Southern and the 2023 goals. The goals include establishing UT Southern as a destination campus, increasing student enrollment, increasing student retention and graduation rates, strengthening student success, and raising \$5 million in gifts and endowments.

**Budget Presentation**

Robby Shelton, Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration and Chief of Staff, provided information regarding UT Southern's budget. The Advisory Board will be asked to vote, at a future meeting, on a recommendation regarding the proposed operating budget including tuition and fees.

**Academic Update**

Vice Chancellor and Provost Dr. Judy Cheatham highlighted several areas related to academic program's growth in the MBA; the introduction of two new, high need licensure areas in Teacher Education, Special Education kindergarten-8th grade and Special Education 6th grade-12th grade; and the success of Public Health Education, Cybersecurity, and Computer Information Systems, three new majors funded through a Title III grant. Dr. Cheatham discussed the Grown Your Own initiative, created in response to the teacher shortage in Tennessee. She also spoke of expansion in dual-enrollment for high school students who are eligible to take college classes.

Finally, she noted the anticipation surrounding the review of the new strategic visioning semester long initiative, the results of which will direct the academic program into new areas.

### **Athletics Overview**

Vice Chancellor and Athletic Director, Brandie Paul, gave an overview of UT Southern Athletics. Currently, there are 19 intercollegiate sports teams; women's and men's bowling will end at the conclusion of the academic year but outdoor track and field will be added in the fall of 2023.

Successes include the overall GPA of the teams at 3.04, five teams making it to their respective national tournaments, three conference coaches of the year, and one national coach of the year.

She indicated that UT Southern would stay in the NAIA and would make the move from the Mid-South Conference to the Southern States Conference next year due to extensive team travel.

### **Advancement Update**

Vice Chancellor for Advancement, Evan Beech, provided an advancement update. For FY23, \$2.746 million has been raised to date; this is down from last year's total of \$4.76 million due to one-time gifts relating to the challenge match. Taking this into consideration, we are tracking above where we were last year on dollars raised.

The number of donors this year has increased due to mailers and annual giving day (donor giving vs dollar giving) during I Heart UT Southern week. A total of \$86,000 was raised on giving day.

Some of the major gifts received since becoming UT Southern include \$3,000,000 Boyd Founder's Circle, 11 new scholarship endowments, unrestricted endowment for nursing, 4 Chancellor's unrestricted endowments, MBA Support Fund, 2 scholars programs, faculty development endowment, education symposium fund, student emergency endowment and athletic director's endowment.

### **Life and Safety and ADA Accessibility Upgrades**

Robby Shelton reported that in the Governor's 2022-23 budget the state approved \$1,000,000 for Life Safety Upgrades. The scope of work is near completion and upgrades will be made to Martin Hall, Andrew's Science Building, Johnston Center, and Curry Athletic Complex.

In the Governor's 2023-24 budget the Governor has proposed \$2,000,000 in an envelope package for UT Southern. This package allows for masonry repair, windows, exterior doors, and roof system replacement. This funding is pending approval of the Governor's budget.

### **Other Business**

Chair Jimmy Granbery called for approval of the minutes from the December 2, 2022, Advisory Board meeting. Dr. Doug Haney moved for approval with Doran Johnson seconding. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Advisory Board stood adjourned at 11:58 am.