

**TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES OF THE HBCU SUCCESS ADVISORY BOARD**

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1800 Baptist World Center Dr. Nashville, TN 37207

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October 19, 2022

Chairwoman Ashley Northington called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

<b>Member</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Mrs. Laschinski Emerson		<b>X</b>
Dr. Doug Magee	<b>X</b>	
Dr. Andrew Churchwell	<b>X</b>	
Officer Shelley Clemons	<b>X</b>	
Dr. Carol Johnson Dean		<b>X</b>
Ms. Ashley Northington	<b>X</b>	
Ms. Brandi Smith		<b>X</b>
Mrs. Elaine Stallworth-Washington	<b>X</b>	
Mr. Ernest Strickland	<b>X</b>	
<b>Ex-Officio Members</b>		
Dr. Forrest Harris	<b>X</b>	
Mr. Frank Simms		<b>X</b>
Dr. Logan Hampton		<b>X</b>
Mr. Leonard Adams		<b>X</b>
Dr. Vernell Bennett-Fairs	<b>X</b>	
Dr. James Hildreth		<b>X</b>
Dr. Glenda Glover		<b>X</b>

At the start of the meeting there were six (6) voting members physically present, constituting a quorum.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Dr. Churchwell made a motion to adopt the agenda. Dr. Magee seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 29, 2022, MEETING**

Dr. Churchwell made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 29, 2022, meeting. Dr. Magee seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Brittany Mosby, Director of HBCU Success, delivered the report on behalf of Dr. Emily House, Executive Director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Dr. Mosby then introduced Dr. Forrest E. Harris, Sr., President of American Baptist College. Dr. Harris spoke about the American Baptist College campus and how excited the campus was for hosting the meeting.

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **I. Tennessee Higher Education Commission Access and Outreach Bureau Overview (*Information Only*)**

Samantha Gutter, Chief Access and Outreach Officer, spoke regarding the four (4) divisions which encompass the Access and Outreach Bureau. These divisions are Adult Learner Initiatives, College and Access Initiatives, Outreach Initiatives, and HBCU Success. Samantha then introduced Jessica Gibson, Assistant Executive Director for Policy, Planning, and Research for Postsecondary Completion. Ms. Gibson gave an overview of the Adult Learners Initiatives, which includes Tennessee Reconnect, with twelve (12) regional navigators, and the corrections education strategic alignment. In addition, Ms. Gibson's team partners with other state agencies and local organizations to connect students to other state and federal resources and has developed a reconnect ambassador program. Board members asked questions and a discussion was held.

Mr. Troy Grant, Senior Director of College Access, provided an overview of his team, which provides both direct and statewide services. The two (2) direct services programs include GEAR UP, which is a federally funded grant program currently funding fifteen (15) counties, and Advise TN, which is a state-funded program funding twenty-eight (28) high schools that provide college and career advising for high school juniors and seniors. The statewide initiatives include Collegefortn.org, college application month, FAFSA frenzy, college signing day, college and career planning nights, and the electronic transcript exchange. Board members asked questions and a discussion was held.

Mr. Jason Seay, Senior Director of Outreach, spoke about his team, Outreach Initiatives. Mr. Seay described how his team of eight (8) outreach specialists holds FAFSA workshops and financial aid presentations in high schools across the state. Board members asked questions and a discussion was held.

Ms. Gutter then spoke about the Momentum Year 2023 initiative, which is to show the value of education and building momentum to drive enrollment. The focus of

Momentum Year 2023 is on the high school class of 2023 and has a goal of increasing enrollment of these students to postsecondary colleges and universities to sixty percent (60%). In addition, Momentum Year 2023 has goals to increase adult enrollment and improve coordination and alignment education to workforce training for greater economic mobility. Board members asked questions and a discussion was held.

Ms. Gutter added that there are opportunities to share and generate awareness of Momentum Year 2023 by coming to any of the eight (8) scheduled meetings across the state of Tennessee. Ms. Gutter issued a broad invitation to individuals in the workforce development, K-12 education, and higher education fields.

**II. FY24 Budget Request (*Informational Only*)**

Dr. Mosby presented information regarding the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's budget request for the legislature to fund the Summer Bridge Program, which is designed to ease the transition to college and support postsecondary success.

**III. 2023 Day on the Hill Planning (*Discussion*)**

Dr. Mosby stated that the 2023 Day on the Hill would be held on February 15, 2023, at Cordell Hull building in Nashville, TN. The Day on the Hill will allow advocates to interact with the General Assembly members, promote HBCU success, present information on the HBCU Strategic Plan, and spotlight students. Dr. Mosby also mentioned that Governor Lee has declared that November 8 is HBCU Day. Board members asked questions and held a discussion on recommendations for the Day on the Hill including specific legislative asks. Mrs. Stallworth-Washington made a motion to have Ms. Northington be the HBCU Advisory Board's representative for the Day on the Hill. Dr. Churchwell seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Update on Strategic Plan Actions (*Information Only*)**

Chairwoman Northington spoke on the promotion of HBCUs to students and families, along with needing to support and strengthen the administrative capacity of institutions by encouraging partnerships with programs that value what HBCU students bring with them.

**V. Election of 2022-2023 Officers**

Chairwoman Northington stated that pursuant to Article IV of the Advisory Board Bylaws, to the board is to elect officers annually to serve a one (1) year term. The offices consist of a chair, who is responsible for running each meeting, a vice-chair, who serves in the chair's absence, and a secretary, who confirms the accuracy of and signs off on the official meeting minutes. A motion by Ms. Stallworth-

Washington to elect Ms. Northington as chair was made. Chairwoman Northington passed the gavel to Vice-Chair Elaine Stallworth-Washington to carry out the motion for her nomination as chair. Dr. Churchwell seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously. Vice-Chair Stallworth-Washington congratulated Chairwoman Northington and passed the gavel back to her.

Chairwoman Northington asked if there was a motion for the position of Vice Chair. Ms. Stallworth-Washington made a motion to elect Dr. Churchwell to serve as Vice Chair. Chairwoman Northington seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairwoman Northington asked if there was a motion for the position of Secretary. Ms. Stallworth-Washington made a motion to elect Officer Clemons to serve as Secretary. Dr. Churchwell seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairwoman Northington then congratulated the 2022-2023 Vice Chair and Secretary.

Chairwoman Northington announced that the next Tennessee Higher Education Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 3, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in Senate Hearing Room 1 of the Cordell Hull State Office Building in Nashville. Details on the Spring 2023 meeting of the HBCU Success Advisory Board will be announced soon. The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

**NEXT HBCU SUCCESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING:**

To Be Determined

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**Chairwoman Northington**

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**Secretary Emerson**