

**MINUTES**  
**TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**  
**Special Called Meeting**  
**September 7, 2005, 11:00 a.m. CDT**

Commission Members physically present:

General Wendell Gilbert	Mr. Dale Sims
Mr. Ransom Jones	Dr. Brad Windley
Mr. Jack Murrah	

Commission Members participating electronically:

Ms. Dawn Blackwell	Mr. Jim Powell
Ms. Debbie Koch	Ms. Katie Winchester

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Brad Windley, who welcomed all to the meeting and asked Ms. Lovella Carter to call the roll. After the calling of the roll Dr. Windley announced that there was a quorum of the Commission members, but there was not a physical quorum at the Commission board room. Given the importance of the action items on the agenda, however, he announced the necessity for the Commission to proceed with its business at this time.

Specifically, Dr. Windley stated that Public Chapter 882, Acts of 2003 required the Commission to make its FY 2006-2007 funding recommendation utilizing a new funding formula that is linked to the objectives of the higher education master plan. The General Assembly passed legislation that became Public Chapter 419, Acts of 2005, during the most recent legislative session to create a formula review committee that must review any changes to the master plan and funding formula prior to those items being approved by the Commission. A meeting of that committee was held on August 23, 2005.

Dr. Windley continued by stating that in order to produce a funding recommendation in time for the Commission's November meeting, there is a need to proceed as expeditiously as possible, thus the necessity of proceeding at this time.

Dr. Windley recognized Dr. Richard Rhoda, Executive Director, to make initial comments. Dr. Rhoda recognized Representative John Hood and Mr. Leonard Bradley and welcomed them to the meeting. He also announced that as a result of an initiative by Dr. Shirley Raines, President of the University of Memphis, college students displaced as a result of Hurricane Katrina are eligible to attend a Tennessee state

college or university at in-state rates, or attend without charge if they previously paid fees at their home institution. He indicated that to date 152 students have availed themselves of that opportunity and are spread over 11 of our institutions, in addition to those accepted by Tennessee independent institutions.

**2005-2010 Master Plan and New Funding Formula**

Dr. Rhoda next called on Dr. Brian Noland, Associate Executive Director for Policy, Planning, and Research, to begin the presentation of the 2005-2010 Master Plan by noting that the Commission that it had approved both the Master Plan and new funding formula in principal at its April meeting. A copy of the document was made Attachment B to the minutes of the Commission’s April 14, 2005, meeting.

Dr. Noland proceeded to address the key thematic provisions of the master plan. Dr. Noland next introduced Mr. Russ Deaton, Director of Fiscal Analysis, who provided an overview of the funding formula and its relation to the master plan. Mr. Deaton also reviewed the timeline related to the development of the formula.

Dr. Rhoda stated that the staff recommends that the Commission adopt the 2005-2010 Master Plan and Funding Formula as presented. He noted that both the plan and the formula are consistent with the drafts that were endorsed in concept at the April 14, 2005, meeting of the Commission. He further noted that the plan and formula, as presented, were reviewed on August 23, 2005, by the legislative committee created by Chapter 419, Acts of 2005. Dr. Rhoda stated that adoption of the plan and formula at this time ensures compliance with the statutory requirement that the FY 2006-2007 funding request for higher education be based upon a revised formula that is linked to the master plan.

The motion to adopt the staff recommendation and rationale as outlined by Dr. Rhoda was made by Mr. Ransom Jones and it was seconded by General Wendell Gilbert. The motion was duly adopted by the following roll call vote:

	Aye	No
Ms. Dawn Blackwell	X	_____
General Wendell Gilbert	X	_____
Mr. Ransom Jones	X	_____
Ms. Debby Koch	X	_____
Mr. Jack Murrah	X	_____
Mr. Jim Powell	X	_____
Ms. Katie Winchester	X	_____
Dr. Brad Windley	X	_____

\*Mr. Dale Sims was not present when this vote was taken.

### **Overview of GEAR UP Grant**

Dr. Rhoda announced that the Commission was awarded a GEAR UP grant from the U. S. Department of Education in the amount of \$3.5 million a year for six years. He recognized Dr. Noland to provide additional detail.

Dr. Noland stated that the development of the grant application was a joint effort with the University of Tennessee and the Tennessee Board of Regents. He stated that the Tennessee's 2005-2010 GEAR UP project is designed to promote student achievement and enhance awareness of the need to expand access to post-secondary education statewide, especially in those areas of the state that are traditionally underserved. This will be achieved through the creation of early intervention programs, enhanced academic assessments, and a broad-based outreach campaign articulating the importance of post-secondary access. The state seeks to significantly improve transition rates across all facets of the P-16 educational pipeline.

Further, Dr. Noland stated that the statewide GEAR UP project will incorporate best practices from ongoing site-specific GEAR UP activities in the state in order to maximize programmatic impacts. Through the implementation of the initiatives articulated above, the state will aim to: (1) increase the academic performance and preparation of students in order to prepare them for post-secondary education; (2) increase high school graduation rates and transition rates to post-secondary education; and (3) increase education expectations and aspirations for students and their families.

### **Overview of Legislative Tuition Study**

Dr. Rhoda recognized Mr. Jim Vaden, Chief Financial Officer, to review the status of the fee study mandated by the appropriations bill at section 49, item 7. Mr. Vaden indicated that staff had prepared a project overview and submitted it to the UT and TBR for review and comment. He indicated that THEC staff will work closely with the two systems to make a thorough study of the issue.

### **Announcements**

Ms. Katie Winchester commended Dr. Noland and other staff for the work that has resulted in positive outcomes.

Dr. Rhoda thanked the Commission for its support and participation in the meeting.

There being no further business, Dr. Windley declared the meeting adjourned.