



# THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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## MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE July 1, 2025

The Audit and Compliance Committee of The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees met at 10:45 a.m. (EDT) on Tuesday, July 1, 2025. The meeting was held in the Wolford Family Athletics Facility at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Committee Members Present: Decosta E. Jenkins, Committee Chair; John C. Compton, Board Chair; Bradford D. Box; and T. Lang Wiseman.

Others in Attendance:

Trustees: Shanea A. McKinney; Lisa N. Patel (Student Trustee); Christopher L. Patterson; William (Bill) C. Rhodes III; David N. Watson; and Jamie R. Woodson.

University Administration: President Randy Boyd; Brian Daniels, Chief Audit and Compliance Officer; David Miller, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; Cynthia Moore, Board Secretary and Special Counsel; C. Ryan Stinnett, General Counsel; Chancellor Melinda Arnold (UT Southern); Chancellor Lori Bruce (UT Chattanooga); Chancellor Peter Buckley (UT Health Science Center); Chancellor Yancy Freeman (UT Martin); and Chancellor Donde Plowman (UT Knoxville). In addition, other members of the University staff were present.

Ms. Moore announced the presence of a quorum. The meeting was webcast for the convenience of the University community, the general public, and the media.

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### Opening Remarks of the Chairperson

Committee Chair Jenkins welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that the agenda was brief, and presenters were asked not to read their materials but to highlight key points to allow time for meaningful Board discussion.

### Approval of the Minutes

Committee Chair Jenkins noted that the minutes of prior meeting were included in the meeting materials (Tab 1). He asked for any corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as presented.

## **Public Safety Update**

The Chief Audit and Compliance Officer, Mr. Brian Daniels, introduced the first agenda item: a review of public safety. He recalled the 2019 performance audit that emphasized campus safety. Each year, the Board receives a report detailing campus crime statistics and safety updates. Kelly Mihalik, Special Projects Investigator and Public Safety Manager, presented findings from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's (TBI) "Crimes on Campus" report required under the College & University Security Information Act.

Ms. Mihalik explained that crime data is calculated per 1,000 campus population based on the 2024 fall term, including students, faculty, and staff. She emphasized that these statistics do not account for population fluctuations due to events like sports games. Statewide, the TBI noted a decrease in overall reported offenses, particularly in assault and stalking, with drug and narcotics violations also showing a downward trend.

Across the UT System, 2022 was noted as a high-water mark for incidents. In 2023, the numbers declined slightly, and 2024 reflected a minor increase. Ms. Mihalik provided a campus-by-campus breakdown. UT Knoxville showed increases in drug/narcotic and weapon law violations, with high clearance rates (95% and 40 of 41, respectively). UT Chattanooga saw declines in vandalism and theft, with a slight uptick in drug/narcotic violations. UT Southern, which does not have its own police force and relies on the Pulaski Police Department, showed minimal change but a small rise in drug-related offenses. UT Martin experienced increases in vandalism and drug violations, with 92% of drug incidents cleared. UT Health Science Center showed declines in theft, vandalism, and drug violations.

Ms. Mihalik compared UT System statistics to the locally governed institutions (except for Middle Tennessee State University), noting similarities across the board, though drug/narcotic violations varied—potentially due to proactive campus policing and increased law enforcement staffing. Board Chair Compton and other board members asked for aggregate comparisons by year and discussed specific anomalies, such as the spike in fraud/counterfeiting at UT Knoxville. Ms. Mihalik explained these are categorized by FBI definitions, not criminal charges, and offered to investigate further. Board members also raised concerns over the increase in weapon law violations at UT Knoxville. Ms. Mihalik attributed this change to proactive policing in adjacent areas and emphasized that many cases involved non-students. President Randy Boyd affirmed that student safety remains a top priority, supported by audits and physical campus inspections.

## **Campus Safety - UT Chattanooga**

Sean O'Brien, recently appointed Associate Vice Chancellor for Public Safety and Chief of Police at UT Chattanooga, gave an overview of the department's goals and strategic

direction. He described a comprehensive, integrated public safety organization encompassing police, dispatch, emergency management, threat assessment, and environmental health and safety. Chief O'Brien emphasized relationship building, professional development, and preparedness for violent incidents as key pillars. He detailed initiatives such as active shooter drills, professional development programs, and partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies for intelligence sharing.

A notable innovation is the implementation of AI-powered surveillance systems through a partnership with Volt. He explained that the system enhances real-time threat detection using the network of UT Chattanooga campus cameras. Chief O'Brien highlighted successful drills and system tests, and he shared his long-term vision to develop future leadership within the department. He reported that UT Chattanooga's police force is nearing full staffing with minimal turnover, attributing this success to a focus on staff development and a positive work culture.

Trustees expressed appreciation for his leadership and technological innovations. Chief O'Brien reported that recent recruitment had yielded 25 applicants for two open positions, a testament to the department's momentum and reputation.

### **NCAA Compliance Update**

Mr. Daniels then introduced the next agenda item: the annual report on National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) compliance. Mr. Ryan Stinnett, General Counsel, summarized the findings. Under the Board's Policy on Oversight of Intercollegiate Athletics, each NCAA Division I campus (UT Chattanooga, UT Knoxville, and UT Martin) is required to make a compliance report annually. Each report was reviewed and submitted through the Office of General Counsel. The reporting structures at all three institutions were deemed appropriate and consistent with NCAA best practices. Each compliance officer reports outside the athletics department to ensure accountability.

Mr. Stinnett confirmed that the processes for reporting and investigating NCAA rule violations were effective. Each campus self-reported multiple Level III violations—technical, limited-impact breaches that signify a functioning compliance program. The compliance teams collaborate closely with the Office of General Counsel. Mr. Stinnett noted that evolving NCAA rules, especially regarding student-athlete compensation and the *House v. NCAA* litigation settlement, may necessitate future changes in compliance practices.

The report also included staffing comparisons. UT Chattanooga (2 full-time staff) and UT Knoxville (7 full-time staff) are at or above their peer averages. UT Martin had only one compliance staff member, but Chancellor Freeman reported that a graduate assistant was recently added, and the campus is actively hiring a full-time compliance officer.

Regarding violations, UT Chattanooga had five Level III violations, UT Knoxville four, and UT Martin three. UT Martin also had multiple Level II violations related to prior NCAA investigations relating to the women's softball and soccer programs. These violations were resolved through a negotiated settlement with the NCAA. Definitions of Level II and III violations were shared to contextualize the report.

### **Consent Agenda**

Committee Chair Jenkins called the attention of the Committee members to the information items included in the Consent Agenda (Tabs 4.1 through 4.6).

No items were removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion. A complete list of the informational items included on the Consent Agenda appears at the end of these minutes.

### **Other Business and Closing Remarks**

With no further business to come before the Committee, the Committee Chair adjourned the public portion of the meeting and announced that the Committee would next meet in a non-public, executive session in accordance with Tennessee law to discuss confidential and/or privileged matters.

Respectfully Submitted,

*/s/ Cynthia C. Moore*  
Cynthia C. Moore  
Secretary and Special Counsel

### Consent Agenda - Information Items

- Research Security – Implementation Report
- 2025 Audit Plan Update
- 2025 System Title IX Report
- Outstanding Audit Issues
- Institutional Compliance Update
- Travel Exception Report