

March 2025 Governmental Affairs and Public Policy Committee



Schedule

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 8:00 AM — 1:15 PM CST

Organizer

Colton Cockrum

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks Presented by Doug Edwards	1
2. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum For Approval - Presented by Colton Cockrum	2
3. Approval of Governmental Affairs & Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes from December 4, 2024 For Approval - Presented by Doug Edwards	3
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6. Adjournment	10

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Presented by Doug Edwards

2. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

For Approval

Presented by Colton Cockrum

3. Approval of Governmental Affairs & Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes from December 4, 2024

For Approval

Presented by Doug Edwards

**University of Memphis Board of Trustees
Governmental Affairs & Public Policy Committee Meeting
December 4, 2024**

Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Trustee Edwards calls the meeting to order and welcomed those who were present.

Agenda Item 2: Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Trustee Edwards recognized Secretary Cockrum who called the roll. Trustee McKinney, Chairman Johnson, and Trustee Edwards were present. Secretary Cockrum recognized those trustees who attended the meeting but who were not committee members, those trustees included Trustee Marchetta, Trustee Springfield, Trustee Khokar. Trustee North, Trustee Roberts, and Trustee Carter all joined virtually, and they stated that they could hear and that they were alone. Trustee Ellison was absent from the meeting. A quorum was declared.

Agenda Item 3: Approval of Governmental Affairs & Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes from June 5, 2024

Trustee Edwards called for a motion and a second to approve the minutes. Secretary Cockrum called a roll call vote, and the meeting minutes were approved

Agenda Item 4: Legislative Update

Trustee Edwards recognizes Ken Moody, Executive Director, Governmental and Community Affairs. Mr. Moody provided an update on local, state, and federal levels. On the local level, Ken mentioned that he and President Hardgrave had met with city council and county commissioners over the summer. On the state level, he mentioned that he, President Hardgrave, Rene Bustamante, and Allie Jones traveled to Nashville to meet with the governor about the institution's priorities which included research modernization, deferred maintenance, safety and security. On the federal level, he mentioned that they are in the process of gathering information on what the institution's asks are going to be.

Chairman Johnson provided comments regarding how the university makes asks of state government, in comparison to how entities in the city make asks. Trustee Edwards reiterated the importance of reminding political leaders of the roll the University within state higher education.

Agenda Item 5: Board Self-Assessment Results

Trustee Edwards recognized Secretary Colton Cockrum. Secretary Colton Cockrum explained the board self-assessment process, the importance of it, and that it is an annual assessment. Secretary Cockrum summarized the results of the self-assessment survey as positive.

Agenda Items 6: University Schools Consent Agenda Approval

Trustee Edwards reminded the committee of the work that has been done to create the university school system and mentioned that there are several items in the consent agenda to be voted on. These items included policies for adoption, the University Schools Summer Instructional Plan, the University Schools Approval of Accelerated Courses, the University Schools 2025/2026 Academic Calendar, the Tennessee Department of Education TISA Accountability Report, the Tennessee Department of Education Compliance Report, and the FY25 IDEA/ESEA Consolidated Application Approval. Trustee Edwards asked if any of the trustees had any questions regarding specific items within the consent agenda. None of the trustees had questions, but several had comments.

Trustee Marchetta praised the idea of revising Campus Schools academic calendar to match up with the University of Memphis' calendar. Trustee North encouraged the committee to provide the necessary support to the University Schools and superintendent. Trustee Carter congratulated the district for achieving the level 5 classification from the Tennessee Board of Education. Trustee McKinney requested that at the next committee meeting he would like an update the extracurricular activities available to students, especially athletic opportunities.

Once comments were concluded, Trustee Edwards called for a motion and a second, and received both. The motion was made that, "The Governmental Affairs and Public Policy Committee recommends a motion to approve the University Schools consent agenda items that include the district's policies, the district's summer instructional plan, the University Schools accelerated course offerings, the University Schools Academic Calendar, the Tennessee Department of Education TISA Accountability Report, the Tennessee Department of Education Compliance Report, and the FY25 IDEA/ESEA consolidated application approval...as contained in your meeting materials."

Secretary Cockrum called a roll call vote, and the motion carried.

Agenda Item 7: Additional Business

Trustee Edwards asks for additional business. Sally Parish thanked everyone for their help in getting Campus Schools to where they are. Trustee Edwards mentioned that the next meeting would be June 4, 2025.

Agenda Item 8: Adjournment

Trustee Edwards called for a motion and a second for adjournment. A motion and second were made and a voice vote for adjournment was conducted. The meeting was adjourned.

4. Teacher Bonus Resolution

For Approval

Presented by Doug Edwards

The University of Memphis Board of Trustees

Recommendation

Approval of Teacher Bonus Resolution

Date: March 5, 2025

Committee: **Governmental Affairs & Public Policy**

Approval: Teacher Bonus Resolution

Presented by: **Dr. Sally G. Parish, Vice Provost & Director of Schools**

Background:

Pursuant to the Education Freedom Act of 2025 (HB6004), the Department of Education shall award a one-time bonus of no less than \$2,000 to each teacher employed in a K-12 public school in Tennessee during the 2024-2025 school year, subject to appropriation. Per the stipulations of the act, local boards of education and public charter school governing bodies must adopt a resolution to participate in Section 4 of the Education Freedom Act of 2025 in order for teachers to be eligible for the bonus payment. Resolutions must be submitted to the Department of Education by June 1, 2025.

The bonus is fully state-funded and is not part of the TISA funding. It is also not considered salary for TISA purposes. The bonus counts as earnable compensation for retirement but does not affect retirement benefits or encourage early retirement. Teacher is defined as “existing educator” as that is defined in TCA 49-3-104.

Motion to be Made:

The Governmental Affairs & Public Policy committees recommends a motion to adopt the resolution to participate in Section 4 of the Education Freedom Act of 2025 which allows University Schools teachers to be eligible for the one-time bonus payment from the Tennessee Department of Education.

5. Additional Business

For Discussion

Presented by Doug Edwards

6. Adjournment