

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
THOMAS EDISON STATE UNIVERSITY  
September 13, 2019**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kemi Alli, Vice Chair; Brian Maloney (via telephone); Merodie A. Hancock; Richard W. Arndt; J. Stanley Justice, Eric R. Lear; Gualberto Medina; Marilyn Pearson (via telephone), Monique Lewis-Hawkins (student trustee) and Sanket Shah (student trustee).

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Frank Clyburn, Chair

**ALSO PRESENT:** Cynthia Baum, Vice President and Provost; John Thurber, Vice President for Public Affairs; Dennis Devery, Vice President for Enrollment Management; Chris Stringer, Vice President and CFO; Robin Walton, Vice President for Community and Government Affairs; Barbara Kleva, General Counsel; Mary Chute, New Jersey State Librarian; Michael Mancini, Chief of Staff/COO and Secretary to the Board, Phyllis Marshall, Dean School of Nursing, and Jamie Adams, Executive Assistant to the President.

Dr. Alli officially called the public meeting to order at 10:14 a.m., followed by a statement of public notice pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 to 10:4-21.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Dr. Alli presented the following resolution to enter into Executive Session:

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-13 and 10:4-12 that the Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State University holds a closed session at 10:00 a.m. on September 13, 2019, for the purpose of discussing the evaluation of the President.**

**It is expected that the discussion undertaken in closed session will not be made public due to the confidentiality of this matter.**

Mr. Arndt made, and Mr. Justice seconded, a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

**RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC SESSION**

Dr. Alli called for a motion for the resumption of the public meeting, which Mr. Justice made, and Mr. Lear seconded.

The public meeting reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

Dr. Alli welcomed everyone and asked that Dr. Hancock introduce the new employees.

Dr. Hancock introduced Dr. Cynthia Baum as the incoming Provost and Ms. Jamie Adams as her Executive Assistant. Dr. Hancock thanked Dr. Phyllis Marshall for her service and time as the Interim Provost. Lastly, Dr. Hancock introduced the new candidate for student trustee, Mr. Sanket Shah.

#### **ELECTION OF STUDENT TRUSTEE**

Dr. Alli presented the following resolution:

**WHEREAS: New Jersey state law and the Bylaws of Thomas Edison State University provide for student representation on the Board of Trustees; and**

**WHEREAS: Said Bylaws specify criteria for the selection of student trustees; and**

**WHEREAS: The President of the University has certified that Sanket S. Shah meets the criteria; and**

**WHEREAS: The President of the University does hereby nominate Sanket S. Shah as a student trustee alternate in accordance with the procedures of the Board; now, therefore, be it**

**RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State University does hereby elect Sanket S. Shah as student trustee alternate effective September 13, 2019, for a term of one year, followed thereby as student trustee for a period of one year, which shall conclude at the annual meeting of the Board to be held in June 2021.**

Ms. Medina made, and Mr. Arndt seconded, a motion to adopt the resolution. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Sanket S. Shah was sworn in and expressed his delight at having been selected for this honor.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

Dr. Alli presented the minutes of the June 7, 2019 board meeting for approval and adoption. Mr. Arndt made, and Mr. Lear seconded, a motion to adopt the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Hancock reported that although the Board of Trustees portal is up and running, this meeting is being used as a test. She added that the agenda was emailed and a hard copy provided until Ms. Adams is fully trained as a point of contact for the portal.

Dr. Hancock noted that while the following reports would provide more detail on the enrollment and fiscal outcomes for the year, she wanted to briefly highlight some of the latest internal and external happenings. She reported that the final budget included approximately 3.3 base plus Reserve Waiver; and funds frozen totaling \$1 million. Dr. Hancock indicated that the Performance Funding was \$845,000 vs. \$1.3 million this year.

Dr. Hancock reported on enrollments by saying that the first part of the quarter continued to be weak; primarily driven by the elimination of navy TA. She continued to state that September was much stronger with Undergraduates and there was an enrollment increase in Graduates. However, Navy TA (approx. 100+ enrollments) diminished these numbers.

Dr. Hancock announced new initiatives and wins for the University. First, the University has expanded its graduation vouchers. The 3+1 Program is an innovative program, where students can remain at their community college for an additional 30 credits beyond the associate's degree and pay for those credits at the community college rate. The additional initiatives included lowering the admittance age to 20; launching new student orientation; secret shopping/feedback loops; and providing Nuclear Regulatory Commission Scholarships totaling \$341,000. On the fiscal side, there was an increased percentage of budget on student facing by 5%. Dr. Hancock mentioned that she is on the NJ Team for Degree Attainment that includes various educational leaders: Secretary of Higher Ed (Zakiya Smith-Ellis); Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development (Robert Asaro Angelo); Commissioner, Department of Education (Lamont Repollet); President of the New Jersey Council for County Colleges (Aaron Fitchner); and NJ Senate researcher (Kate Millsaps Wolfinger). Dr. Hancock added that she is Chair for the NJASCU Presidents. Dr. Hancock provided a handout regarding the Presidential Awards for Distinguished Service.

Lastly, Dr. Hancock stated the Foundation is having its Gala, in which Ralph Izzo is receiving the Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award. Governor and Mrs. Murphy will attend and the Governor will make remarks.

Dr. Hancock introduced Chris Stringer who presented the 2019 Financial Results. Board discussion followed the presentation.

Dr. Hancock introduced Drs. Dennis Devery and Ann Marie Senior who presented the 2019 Key Numbers. Board discussion followed the presentation.

**CONSIDERATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREE**

Dr. Alli presented the following resolution:

**The Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State University does hereby approve the awarding of the appropriate degrees to those September 13, 2019 candidates cited on the lists provided and incorporated herein by reference.**

**The action herein taken is pursuant to a certification by the President that the aforementioned candidates have satisfied all relevant degree requirements as recommended by the Academic Council and as established by the Board of Trustees.**

Mr. Maloney made, and Mr. Justice seconded, a motion to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS**

Dr. Alli presented the following resolution to approve the personnel actions:

**WHEREAS: The Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State University is authorized to approve and act on employee-appointment recommendations for employees of the University, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A: 64-6(h) and (i), as well as for State Library employees, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A: 73-34; and**

**WHEREAS: The President has made the employee-appointment recommendations as indicated on the list provided and incorporated herein by reference; now, therefore, be it**

**RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State University does hereby approve the employee-appointment recommendations as indicated on the list provided and incorporated herein by reference.**

Mr. Arndt made, and Mr. Medina seconded, the motion to adopt the resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Maloney presented the Nomination and Governance Committee report, electing Dr. Kemi Alli as Chair, and Mr. Gualberto Medina as Vice Chair.

Mr. Maloney made, and Ms. Pearson seconded, a motion to elect Dr. Alli as Chair, and Mr. Medina as Vice Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION OF INCREASING BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

Mr. Maloney made, and Mr. Lear seconded, a motion to increase the board of trustees to 11 members, in accordance with the following resolution:

**WHEREAS:** The Bylaws of the Thomas Edison State University Board of Trustees, in compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A:64-3, provide that the composition and size of the Board be determined by the Board; and

**WHEREAS:** The Bylaws and New Jersey law specify that the Board shall have no fewer than seven, nor more than 15 members; and

**WHEREAS:** The Board has determined that the Board size should be increased to 11 members, in the interest of the University; now, therefore, be it

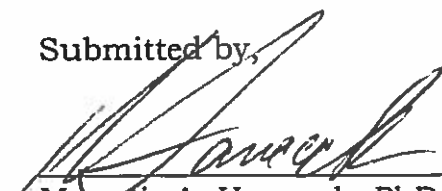
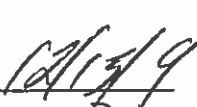
**RESOLVED:** That the Thomas Edison State University Board of Trustees hereby increases its membership to 11, effective immediately.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

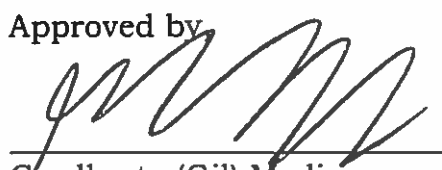
Submitted by,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Meredie A. Hancock, PhD  
Secretary of the Board

Date

Approved by



\_\_\_\_\_  
Gualberto (Gil) Medina  
Vice Chair

Date