

Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes

DATE:	AUGUST 15, 2025	Mooney Library
DAY:	FRIDAY	875 Monroe Avenue
TIME:	2:00 PM	Memphis, TN

Present:

Board Members:	Staff:	Deans:
Randall Davis (Chairman)	Peter Buckley	Wendy Likes
Jillian McCarthy	Raaj Kurapati	Jessica Snowden
Samantha Townsend		Ken Tilashalski
Natalie Tate		Ashley Harkrider (<i>Zoom</i>)
Josh Wayman		Michael Hocker
Michael Ugwueke		Reggie Frye

Guests: Members of the Health Science Center community and the public were invited to participate either in person or via webcast. Staff from Greater Memphis Chamber joined in person.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Dr. Randy Davis called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm and roll call was conducted by Secretary Raaj Kurapati.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The motion for approval of May 9, 2025, meeting minutes was made by board member Samantha Townsend and seconded by board member Dr. Jillian McCarthy.

3. Chancellor's Update

Chancellor Peter Buckley opened with remarks about Fred Smith's life and legacy at FedEx and within the city of Memphis. He continued with introductions of the newest members to UT Health Science Center leadership, including Dr. Michael Hocker as executive dean of College of Medicine (COM) and Dr. Karla Leeper as vice chancellor for Strategic Communications and Marketing; each took to the podium to share remarks. Additionally, Chancellor Buckley highlighted the interim dean of College of Graduate Health (COGH), Dr. Ashley Harkrider and dean of College of Nursing (CON) and executive director on rural health, Dr. Wendy Likes.

4. Recognition of Great Memphis Chamber and Ted Townsend

Chancellor Buckley recognized the exceptional leadership of the Greater Memphis Chamber lead by President and CEO Ted Townsend and Sr. VP Nancy Coffee. He expressed gratitude for all the Chamber does for the city. He introduced Mr. Townsend to the podium; Mr. Townsend remarked on leadership, connection, and celebration and gave recognition to his team for the work they put in to winning Chamber of the Year.

5. College of Nursing

Dean Likes presented on CON Nursing Mobile Health, the launch of Nurse Exec DNP, and made note that new student enrollment is up.

6. College of Graduate Health Presentation

Interim Dean Jessica Snowden shared information on fall 2025 enrollment, new research resources and programs, and updating the strategic plan.

7. College of Dentistry

Dean Ken Tilashalski shared updates on accreditation, Healthy Smiles Initiative, statewide partnership updates

8. College of Health Professions

Interim Dean Harkrider joined via Zoom to share updates on grant awards, graduation and new students, and the REACH project.

9. College of Medicine

Executive Dean Hocker covered updates on accreditation, student and resident surveys, incoming class scores, position recruitment, and finished with comments on the work being done to secure a new and competitive College of Medicine Interdisciplinary Building (COMIB).

Remarks: Dr. Michael Ugwueke asked if the number of incoming students is higher or lower than the previous year in which Dean Hocker said, historically the number is around 175.

College of Pharmacy Presentation

Dean Reggie Frye presented updates on new college programs, faculty bylaws, curriculum, graduation and new students, and several newly elected presidents for SGAEC, GSEC, ISA and National SNPhA.

Remarks: Dr. Natalie Tate asked about the breakdown of new students among Nashville, Knoxville, and Memphis, to which Dean Frye responded there are 30 in Knoxville, 22-23 in Nashville and the rest remain in Memphis.

Chair Davis asked about the significance of the Rural Health Certificate to which Dean Frye responded it is not extra credentials but valuable as a practice in how rural healthcare differs from an urban environment.

Dr. Josh Wayman asked what the Graduate Certificate program is, which Dean Frye said is based on pharmaceutical outcomes and a growing area for jobs in a more specialized way.

10. FY26 Financial/Budget Update

EVC and COO Raaj Kurapati presented an update on finances and budget and reminded the board that while the budget was passed at the May 2025 Advisory Board meeting the probability of an adjustment was mentioned due to the current federal landscape. To operate on a balanced budget, he said they are closely monitoring local and federal compliance, executive orders and statutes. While the One Big Beautiful Bill Act will result in changes to higher education which will not be fully realized until regulations are published, he did highlight important changes to loan repayment plans and limits which will impact students at UT Health Science Center. It will be important to monitor as it will likely result in a workforce issue within the state.

The operating budget approved at the May 2025 meeting was \$711M, assuming a decline in Indirect Cost Revenue (IDCR). Another drop is expected, and the budget has been adjusted through a base pullback between academic and administrative units and as a result the budget has been reduced by \$6.1 M. On a positive note, based on growth in enrollment and new rate table, the net tuition revenue is being met, and the year should end on a balanced budget.

11. Capital Update

EVC and COO Kurapati presented a capital update emphasizing the need for better facilities. He noted two new construction projects: Gross Anatomy Lab and NASH building. He then focused on the existing COM accommodations and plans for a new COMIB. Extensive exercises have taken place to determine the needs of the campus in terms of both academic and student facing spaces. EVC and COO Kurapati said the COMIB project cost is estimated at \$350M and will require promotion to raise funds in addition to asking the state to fund the largest capital project in Tennessee history. To date, \$10M for planning and design of the project has been approved by the State Building Commission and a designer should be approved within weeks, followed by an intense planning exercise.

12. Enterprise Risk Management (ERM)

EVC and COO Kurapati presented the objective and process for a comprehensive ERM program which has the attention of the UT Board of Trustees due to recent flooding issues in east Tennessee. Goals, requirements, org structure, phases, stakeholders, and examples were covered during the presentation.

Remarks: Dr. Ugwueke asked about monitoring and tracking cyber risks to which EVC and COO Kurapati said yes this is a part of it to ensure it doesn't result in a bigger issue.

Chancellor Buckley thanked EVC and COO Kurapati for his leadership in order to minimize risk and put the university at the top of its game.

13. Other Business and Feedback

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 14, 2025, and EVC and COO Kurapati reminded everyone to join for today's 4 – 6 pm reception to celebrate new leadership and members of the community.

14. Adjournment

Chair Davis adjourned the meeting at 3:15 pm.