

## Leadership Council Meeting

March 17, 2026  
2:00pm-3:00pm

### Attendees:

Cindy Russell, Jessica Snowden, Peter Buckley, Mike Hocker, Paul Wesolowski, Wendy Likes, Raaj Kurapati, Ashley Harkrider, Karla Leeper, Ken Tilashalski, Melissa Robinson, Reginald Frye, Charlie Snyder

**Guests:** Melisa Moore, Will Hampton, Caitlin Cook, Valarie Fleming, Vikki Massey

Dr. Buckley called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Central.

### Giving Day (Caitlin Cook)

- Pre-launch giving page goes live April 1; full site launches April 16; campaign day is Tuesday, April 21; campaign window remains open through end of Thursday, April 23.
- Goal of 1,400 donors, central focus: Cancer Discovery Fund.
- Participants will receive a personal advocacy link to share via text/social/LinkedIn; if the advocate and two additional people give, the advocate receives a small giveaway item (portable waterproof magnetic phone speaker).

### Chancellor Updates (Dr. Buckley)

- President Boyd's visit: 3/19/2026
  - Review of Employee Engagement Survey (Raaj)

### AI Readiness (Valarie Fleming and Vikki Massey)

Vikki and Valerie gave an overview of a task force that was convened to provide strategic guidance to UT Health Sciences on AI, with a view to appropriate incorporation of this innovation.

Recommendations cited were:

- Establish a person as focus/liaison for this work, including collaboration across University of Tennessee System.
- Collate and understand all existing activities and talent across UT Health Sciences as well as our vital clinical partnerships.
- Develop an AI steering committee.
- Ensure faculty staff and students are enabled and trained to adapt AI and to encourage participation in a broader UT 'AI Community of Practice'.

Each of the Health Science deans reported on early and variable adoption/use of AI in their colleges, including potential certificate initiatives. Jessica described the broad efforts to incorporate AI into research, citing both opportunities (e.g., Digital Delta collaborations) and challenges (e.g., data use and ownership). It was agreed to return to this topic shortly, as it becomes an ever more "front and center" aspect for higher education.

### Branding and Communications Updates (Karla Leeper)

Leaders were asked to review the system newsletter and provide feedback, and to support expanded visibility efforts by following and sharing Chancellor's new LinkedIn content. Communications also shared progress on the upcoming "Health Sciences" magazine (launching in May) with a targeted mailing list and plans to reuse stories across multiple channels. Additional updates included a shift toward "UT Health Sciences" naming and refreshed marks (guidance forthcoming), plans for standardized branded templates, and upcoming system-wide changes to email signature

requirements. Also, discussed UTHS procedures coming to align with system wide policies- UT System General Policy GE0006: The University's Digital Presence. Please see link <https://policy.tennessee.edu/policy/ge0006-the-universitys-digital-presence/>

Meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m. Central.