

---

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
THOMAS EDISON STATE UNIVERSITY  
September 9, 2022**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kemi Alli, Chair; Gualberto (Gil) Medina, Vice Chair; Merodie A. Hancock; J. Stanley Justice; Eric R. Lear; Brian Maloney; Lydia Stockman; Michael Toscani; Jerome Ingram, Jr. (student trustee) and Sharonda Graves (non-voting student trustee)

**ABSENT:** Johnnie Whittington

**ALSO PRESENT:** Cynthia Baum, Provost and Senior Vice President; Dennis Devery, Vice President for Enrollment Management; Mary Heagley, Vice President for Public Affairs; Jennifer Hoff, General Counsel; Michael Mancini, Chief of Staff/COO and Secretary to the Board; Marcela Maziarz, Vice President for Community and Government Affairs; Jennifer Nelson, State Librarian; Dr. Ann Marie Senior, Christopher Stringer, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; and Jamie Adams, Executive Assistant to the President

Dr. Alli officially called the public meeting to order at 9:04 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.

**N.C. WYETH PAINTING, RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Karl Flesch – Trenton Historical Society

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDED RESOLUTION - WYETH PAINTING**

Dr. Alli presented the following resolution to consider the amended resolution for the Wyeth painting:

**WHEREAS:** Wells Fargo Bank donated the artwork entitled “Reception of Washington on April 21, 1789, at Trenton on His Way to New York to Assume the Duties of the Presidency of the United States” by the artist N.C. Wyeth to Thomas Edison State University; and

**WHEREAS:** The Board of Trustees approved the Deed of Gift on the N.C. Wyeth artwork on November 5, 2019; and

**WHEREAS:** N.J.S.A. 18A:64-78 governs the sale of personal property, such as the N.C. Wyeth artwork, by a State College in New Jersey, including Thomas Edison State University; and

**WHEREAS:** The Thomas Edison State University Purchasing and Contracting Policy, approved by the Board of Trustees on December 17, 2021, is in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:64-78.

- 
- WHEREAS:** The University may sell personal property above the bid threshold to the State of New Jersey, the United States Government, another college or to any body politic by private sale without advertising for bids (See N.J.S.A. 18A:64-78(c)); and
- WHEREAS:** The sale of personal property above the bid threshold to an entity or person that is not the State of New Jersey, the United States Government, another college or any body politic must be done by public sale to the highest bidder; and
- WHEREAS:** In further accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:64-78, if personal property is auctioned at public sale, but no bids on such property are received, the property may then be sold at private sale but in no event at less than the estimated fair value; and
- WHEREAS:** The appraised value of the N.C. Wyeth artwork was \$4 million on September 11, 2019; and
- WHEREAS:** The Administration, Audit and Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees recommended the approval of the sale of the N.C. Wyeth artwork in accordance with the Thomas Edison State University Purchasing and Contract policy and N.J.S.A. 18A:64-78; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED:** That the Thomas Edison State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the sale of artwork entitled “Reception of Washington on April 21, 1789, at Trenton on His Way to New York to Assume the Duties of the Presidency of the United States” by the artist N.C. Wyeth.

Mr. Medina made, and Rev. Justice seconded, a motion to approve the amended resolution for the Wyeth painting. The motion carried unanimously.

### **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 9, 2022, for the purpose of discussing the annual 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. Lear made, and Mr. Medina seconded, a motion to adjourn to executive session at 10:14 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.

### **RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC SESSION**

Dr. Alli called for a motion for the resumption of the public meeting, which Mr. Maloney made, and Rev. Justice seconded to reconvene. The motion carried unanimously.

The public meeting reconvened at 10:47 a.m.

---

### **ELECTION OF STUDENT TRUSTEE**

Dr. Hancock provided a brief overview of Sharonda Graves, and her accomplishments.

After Ms. Graves recited the oath, Dr. Alli read 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 Sharonda Graves meets the criteria; and

**WHEREAS:** The President of the University does hereby nominate Sharonda Graves 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 Sharonda Graves as student trustee alternate effective September 9, 2022, 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 2024.

Mr. Medina made, and Dr. Toscani seconded, a motion to adopt the resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

### **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

Dr. Alli presented the minutes of the June 10, and August 23, 2022, board meetings for approval and adoption. Rev. Justice made, and Mr. Lear seconded, a motion to adopt the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Hancock introduced Chris Stringer who reviewed the FY22 Financial Results of the President's Annual Report and the accounting and auditing process with the board of trustees. After Mr. Stringer's report, Dr. Hancock introduced Dr. Ann Marie Senior who presented the 2022 Key Numbers. Board discussion followed the presentation.

Dr. Hancock presented the resolution for the approval of the TESU 2022-2025 Strategic Plan.

**WHEREAS:** The Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State University has the authority and responsibility for developing the institutional plan; and

**WHEREAS:** A comprehensive Strategic Plan has been submitted for Board consideration; and

**WHEREAS:** Adoption of the Plan is pursuant to a recommendation by the President of the University; and

---

**WHEREAS:** The Plan has been introduced to and reviewed by the Board; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State University hereby approves and adopts the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan spanning the period of October 1, 2022, and June 30, 2025, as provided and incorporated herein by reference.

Ms. Stockman made, and Mr. Lear seconded, the motion to adopt the resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

### **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 9, 2022 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.**

Rev. Justice made, and Mr. Lear seconded, the motion to adopt the resolution. Motion carried with one abstention from Jerome Ingram.

### **RECOMMENDATION OF SENATOR SHIRLEY K. TURNER FOR AN HONORARY DEGREE**

Dr. Hancock presented a resolution recommending Senator Shirley K. Turner to receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

**WHEREAS:** Senator Shirley Turner has distinguished herself in her outstanding service to the citizens of New Jersey over the course of eight terms as a member of the New Jersey State Senate; and

**WHEREAS:** Senator Turner is a loyal advocate for Thomas Edison State University; and

**WHEREAS:** Senator Turner's achievements as an outstanding leader, her commitment to education, and her continued contributions to public service and the State of New Jersey, are worthy of the highest recognition Thomas Edison State University can bestow; now, therefore, be it and

**RESOLVED:** RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State University, upon the recommendation of the President, does hereby award Senator Shirley Turner the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*; and be it further

---

**RESOLVED:** That said degree be conferred upon her at the University's 50th Commencement Ceremony, to be held on October 1, 2022.

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

#### **REPORT OF THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE**

Dr. Alli reported that the Compensation Committee met on August 23 and supported the three resolutions for compensation adjustments and revised salary ranges.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF MANAGERIAL COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENT**

**WHEREAS:** The Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State University is authorized to determine the compensation of University managerial employees, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A: 64-6(h), as well as of State Library employees, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A: 73-34(a); and

**WHEREAS:** The Compensation Committee of the Board, in accord with its charge, has reviewed the President's recommendation that University and State Library managers be eligible for a one percent compensation adjustment; and

**WHEREAS:** The Compensation Committee recommended to the full Board that University and State Library managers be eligible for a one percent compensation adjustment; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State University does hereby authorize the President to confer a one percent compensation adjustment for eligible University and State Library managers, and that the adjustment shall be effective October 1, 2022.

Rev. Justice made, and Mr. Lear seconded, a motion to adopt the resolution authorizing the managers' compensation adjustment. Motion carried with one abstention from Jerome Ingram.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF PRESIDENTIAL SALARY ADJUSTMENT**

**WHEREAS:** The Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State University is authorized to determine the compensation of the University President, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A: 64-6(g); and

**WHEREAS:** The President enjoys the full confidence and support of the Board of Trustees; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State University does hereby approve a one (1) percent compensation adjustment for the President, effective October 1, 2022.

---

Mr. Lear made, and Dr. Toscani seconded, a motion to adopt the resolution authorizing the president's compensation adjustment. Motion carried with one abstention from Jerome Ingram.

**CONSIDERATION OF MANAGERIAL SALARY REVISED MINIMUM AND  
MAXIMUM SALARY RANGES**

- WHEREAS:** N.J.S.A. 18A:64-6 sets forth the powers and duties of the State College Boards of Trustees; and
- WHEREAS:** N.J.S.A. 18A:64-6(h) provides that, excluding staff covered by the provision of Title 11 of revised Statutes (Civil Service), the State College Boards of Trustees shall, "upon nomination by the president appoint a treasurer and such deans and other professional members of the academic, administrative, and teaching staffs as defined in section 13 of P.L. 1986, c. 42 (C. 18A:64-21.2) as shall be required and fix their compensation and terms of employment in accordance with salary ranges and policies which shall prescribe qualifications for various classifications and shall limit the percentages of the education staff that may be in any given classification"; and
- WHEREAS:** The Board of Trustees adopted a compensation plan on June 14, 1996, for the University, providing salary ranges for managerial staff; and
- WHEREAS:** The University has proposed adjustments to the Thomas Edison State University Managerial Compensation Plan, by setting new minimums and maximums for salary ranges; and
- WHEREAS:** The Compensation Committee has reviewed the Thomas Edison State University Managerial Compensation Plan and supports the President's recommendation for Board approval; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED:** That the Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State University does hereby approve the revised Thomas Edison State University Managerial Compensation Plan, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

Rev. Justice made, and Mr. Lear seconded, a motion to adopt the resolution authorizing the revised salary ranges. Motion carried with one abstention from Jerome Ingram.

**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. Maloney made, and Mr. Lear seconded, a motion to adopt the resolution authorizing the personnel actions. Motion carried with one abstention from Jerome Ingram.

### **CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT RENEWALS**

Dr. Alli presented the following resolution to approve the contract renewals:

**WHEREAS:** The Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State University is authorized to approve and act on contract renewal 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 contract recommendations as indicated on the lists provided and incorporated herein by reference; and

**WHEREAS:** The action taken herein is pursuant to an evaluation of each employee's work performance; now, therefore, be it

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

Mr. Maloney made, and Dr. Toscani seconded, a motion to adopt the resolution authorizing the contract renewals. Motion carried with one abstention from Jerome Ingram.

### **REPORT OF THE NOMINATION AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Dr. Toscani provided an overview of the Nominations and Governance Committee report, which is attached.

### **CONSIDERATION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Mr. Maloney made, and Mr. Lear seconded, a motion to appoint Mr. Gualberto (Gil) Medina as Chair and Dr. Michael Toscani as Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees. Motion carried unanimously.

---

### **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 on September 9, 2022, for the purpose of receiving legal advice.

**It is expected that the discussion undertaken in closed session will not be made public due to the confidentiality of this matter. Further, we do not expect to have any action after resuming public session.**

Mr. Maloney made, and Mr. Lear seconded, a motion to adjourn to executive session at 11:52 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.

### **RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC SESSION**

The Board of Trustees resumed the public session at 12:50pm.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kemi Alli, Chair; Gualberto (Gil) Medina, Vice Chair; J. Stanley Justice; Eric R. Lear; Brian Maloney; and Michael Toscani

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jennifer Hoff, General Counsel; Michael Mancini, Chief of Staff/COO and Secretary to the Board; and Jamie Adams, Executive Assistant to the President

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

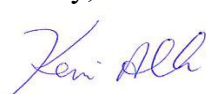
Submitted by,



---

Merodie A. Hancock, PhD  
Secretary of the Board

Approved by,



---

Kemi Alli  
Chair