Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes

DATE:	AUGUST 7, 2026	Mooney Library
DAY:	FRIDAY	875 Monroe Avenue
TIME:	11:0O AM	Memphis, TN

Board Members:	Staff:	Deans/Interim Deans
Randall Davis (Chairman)	Peter Buckley	Reggie Frye
Jillian McCarthy (*Zoom*)	Raaj Kurapati (Secretary)	Ashley Harkrider (*webcast*)
Gary Passons	Cindy Russell	Michael Hocker (*webcast*)
Rick Spell	Charles Snyder	Wendy Likes
Natalie Tate (*Zoom*)	Vikki Massey	Jessica Snowden (*Interim*)
Samantha Townsend	Karla Leeper	Ken Tilashalski
Michael Ugwueke		

Guests: Members of the Health Sciences community and the public were invited to participate either in person or via webcast.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

   Chairman Randy Davis called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. Secretary Raaj Kurapati conducted roll call of the Board Members in attendance, both in person and virtually, and a quorum was established.

2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

   A motion to approve May 8, 2026, meeting minutes was made by Board Member Gary Passons.

3. **Chancellor's Update**

   Chancellor Peter Buckley provided updates on institutional branding, recent hires, leadership team developments, and leadership recognition. He recognized the board service of Dr. Michael Ugwueke, Dr. Natalie Tate, and student representative Samantha Townsend. He announced that the Governor had selected Mr. David May and Dr. Jeannie Beauchamp as replacement board members and noted that a new student representative would be elected soon.

Mr. Kurapati recognized Mr. David Miller, Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer for the UT System, for his leadership and support of UT Health Science Center. Mr. Miller accepted a plaque of appreciation and offered remarks regarding the UT System's support of the institution, organizational alignment and unity, the state's investment in the new College of Medicine Interdisciplinary Building (COMIB), and the accomplishments of Chancellor Buckley and his leadership team.

Chancellor Buckley returned to the podium to recognize the Memphis Medical Society in celebration of its 150 years of service. Clint Cummins accepted the award and offered remarks. He also recognized fellow Memphis Medical Society leaders Dr. Catherine Womack, Dr. Dale Criner, and Dr. Michelle Allmon.

4. Research Strategy Update

Dr. Jessica Snowden provided an update on the institution's research strategy and future research priorities. She noted that Tennessee experiences disproportionately high rates of disease and mortality in several areas and emphasized the goal of improving health outcomes through targeted research investments. She discussed the development of research clusters and continued investments in resources, facilities, and programs to address critical health challenges and reduce health disparities across the state.

Remarks: Chancellor Buckley asked Dr. Snowden to share news of the institution's first-ever cancer training grant award. Dr. Snowden explained that the NIH K12 training award will support the training of clinician-scientists and help address Tennessee's poor cancer outcomes, noting that the state ranks among the worst in the nation. She also noted the partnership between Dean Wendy Likes and the West Cancer Foundation. Chair Davis commended Dr. Snowden for her accomplishments and contributions to the institution's research mission.

5. Clinical Partnership Update

Chancellor Buckley delivered remarks on behalf of Mr. Paul Wesolowski, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Partnerships, who was unable to attend. He highlighted the vital role of the institution's statewide clinical and community partners, including Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare, Regional One Health, Ascension Saint Thomas, Erlanger, East Tennessee Children's Hospital, Dolly Parton's Children's Hospital, Maury Regional Health, and other partner organizations across Tennessee. He emphasized that these partnerships are essential to the institution's education, research, and clinical missions and noted that the work of developing and strengthening strategic partnerships remains dynamic and critically important.

6. FY2026 Preliminary Financials

Mr. Kurapati provided an update on the close-out of the fiscal year preliminary financial statements. He noted the institution's progress from a deficit position in FY24 to a positive year-end position of approximately $34 million and a projected 102 days of cash reserves. He stated that the institution remains committed to operating with a balanced budget while maintaining reserves to address future financial challenges. Mr. Kurapati also reported that

$25 million in bridge funding was approved, enabling advancement of the COMIB project to the State Building Commission (SBC) for further consideration.

7. Capital Projects

Mr. Kurapati provided an update on the COMIB, noting that approval to proceed is anticipated at an upcoming SBC meeting and that project completion is expected in 2029. He also highlighted related campus fencing, branding, and security initiatives, announced a COMIB groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for October 8, and reported that the Capital Master Plan will be presented for approval at the November Advisory Board meeting before advancing through the UT Board and state approval process in 2027.

Mr. Kurapati also provided updates on renovation, capital improvement, and deferred maintenance projects, including development of an energy services RFP to support improvements to the central boiler and chiller plant through private-sector investment.

As a disclosure item, Mr. Kurapati shared updates on public-private partnership (P3) housing and retail initiatives intended to enhance the campus experience. He noted that planned demolition activities will create opportunities for future housing, dining, and retail development.

Other Business and Discussion

Mr. Miller asked about campus master planning efforts statewide. Mr. Kurapati provided updates on planning and partnership initiatives in Knoxville, Nashville, and Chattanooga, including proposed facility development and expanded healthcare partnerships to support future growth. He noted that substantial planning activities are underway across the institution.

8. Adjournment

Chairman Davis adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.