THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER.

PLANNING & BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 24, 2026
Time: 9:00AM, Mooney 2nd Floor Conference Room

Voting Members	Title	Present?
Raaj Kurapati	Executive Vice Chancellor and COO	Yes
Dr. Ashley Harkrider	Dean - College of Health Professions	Yes
Dr. Cindy Russell	VC for Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs	Yes
Dr. Jessica Snowden	VC for Research	No
Dr. Wendy Likes	Dean - Nursing	No
Dr. Mike Hocker	Executive Dean - Medicine	Yes
Dr. Reginald Frye	Dean - Pharmacy	Yes
Peggy Reisser	Staff Senate President	No
Dr. Karen Derefinko	Faculty Senate President	Yes
Dr. Ken Tilashalski	Dean - Dentistry	Yes
Dr. Charles Snyder	VC for Student Success	Yes
Dr. Karla Leeper	VC for Communications and Marketing	Yes
Non-Voting Members	**Title**	**Present?**
Michael Ebbs	AVC, Financial Strategy	Yes
George Ninan	AVC, Financial Operations	Yes
Melissa Moore	Associate General Counsel	Yes
Benjie Harmon	AVC Financial Planning and Budget	Yes

* Dr. Wesley Byerly attended the meeting to represent the Office of Research in Dr. Jessica Snowden's absence

Approve Agenda & Minutes from Prior Meetings

- **AGENDA:** The agenda was reviewed by Mr. Raaj Kurapati. Mr. Kurapati called for a motion to accept, which was made by Dr. Cindy Russell and seconded by Dr. Reggie Frye.

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- **MINUTES**: Minutes from the April 27, 2026 meeting were reviewed by Mr. Raaj Kurapati, and then he called for a motion to accept. The motion was made by Dr. Karen Derefinka with Dr. Karla Leeper seconding.

General Update - Raaj

- Mr. Kurapati gave a brief discussion about our closing process or the end of fiscal year 2026. He also reminded the committee that he would be at the Board of Trustee meeting the following week, an that the budget for fiscal year 2027, presented at our last Advisory Board meeting will be presented to the UT System Board for approval.

Research Bridge Funding – Information and Approval.

- Raaj discussed the need to provide research bridge funding for grants that had been submitted and received high scoring, but that had not received funding yet, due to the slowdown in award notices. The group discussed the need to provide bridge funding in order to maintain high quality faculty.
- Raaj made a motion for one-time funding from reserves, for $1 million to cover bridge funding for these faculty members waiting for awards to be approved. Additionally, he reiterated that this was out of one time funding, but because some of this would be recurring funding, these items would be on the list for the subsequent year's strategic budget initiatives and investments
- Raaj mentioned that this, as it is funding a new initiative, would require approval to use reserves for one-time support/funding for the FY 27 period. He called for a motion, which was made by Dr. Reggie Frye and seconded by Dr. Karla Leeper. The group unanimously approved the motion.

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College of Medicine - $39 million funding update

- Raaj gave an informational update on the Medical School building funding sources. He shared with the group the plan and requirements to show the $39 million UTHSC share in an account and that we had received approval for bridge funding actually in an account so we can proceed to submit for approval with the SBC. He also reiterated that this to show we have the funding and support necessary to receive approval, and that we will use the state capital appropriated piece of $311 million first. He also noted that it is expected to be transferred to us early in the new fiscal year just after July 1.

Huron Oracle Support information and motion for approval to pay Huron invoice

- Raaj and George shared information about an invoice for consulting work from the Huron Day 2 team, to improve the implementation of the sponsored programs and grants piece of the Oracle Dash system. Raaj also noted that we had received an invoice from Huron for $350,000 and the system office said that would need to be paid out of UTHSC funds.
- Raaj called for a motion to cover this out of the reserves being created from the FY26 operations. Dr. Cindy Russell made the motion, which was seconded by Dr. Karla Leeper. The motion was approved unanimously.

Capital Campaign Support

- Raaj discussed a request from Melissa Robinson for $265,000 one-time funding for UTHSC's $50 million capital campaign. Then he made a motion to allocate $265,000 of our reserves created with FY2026 operations. Since Raaj made the motion, the motion only needed a second, which was made by Dr. Karla Leeper. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Update on LMS, Slate and Navigate

- Dr. Cindy Russell and Dr. Charlie Snyder prepared a word document with an update on each of the three items and it was emailed to the committee members prior to the meeting. We opened the topic for discussion and questions and both Dr. Russell provide a brief update on the LMS, including the current status of the Blackboard contract, and Slate, followed by Dr. Snyder adding a brief update on Navigate and how it is being rolled out and the plans to integrate it with Slate, etc.

- Dr. Karla Leeper asked if Navigate or something similar can be used as a calendar/notification system for faculty and staff as it is for student notifications and sharing information. Dr. Snyder mentioned that would be good to bring up to an upcoming meeting with the EAB/Navigate consultant at their next meeting.

Closing Statements

- There was no additional business. Being none, Raaj Kurapati adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:00AM