

True Blue Core Committee Meeting

October 24, 2025

1.00 pm in Faculty Senate Chambers, James Union Building

Voting members in attendance: Virginia Hemby-Grubb, Andrea Hall, Teresa Davis, Jane Seok Jeng Lim, Suzanne Mangrum, Xin Yang, Rebecca Oldham, Stephanie Totty, Ashlee Hover, Brielle Campos, Andrew Fialka, Andrea Hall, Jorge Vargas, Teresa Davis

Voting members absent: Laura Cochran, Kari Neely, Andrea Taylor, Sylvester Lamin, Michael Peasley, Nia Moore, Amber Shelton, John Zemora

Others: Amy Aldridge (Vice Provost for Academic Programs/TBC liaison)

Guest: Mark Byrnes (Provost), Brine Hinote (Vice Provost for Faculty and Strategic Initiatives), Rachel Leander (Provost Fellow), Kahler Stone

Ex officio: Christopher Brewer

True Blue Core Team: Christina Cobb, Molly Walters, Abby Arnold

Approval of minutes

An amendment was made to the name of Election of Officers (p. 2), which should be spelled as Jane Seok Jeng Lim and not Jane Seok Jen Lim. With no other amendments, a motion was called to approve the minutes for September 12, 2025. Motion for approval- Jane Lim and seconded by Xin Yang. The meeting minutes were approved with a Vote (12/12)

Announcement

90-hour credential

Provost Mark Byrnes gave a welcome note and stressed the importance of TBC to the university. He shared a new initiative that MTSU will undertake: 90-hour credentials that have received SACSCOC preliminary endorsement, and THEC is in discussion. He stressed that the purpose of the 90-hour credentials is to catch a new market of people, such as people who might drop out of the 120-hour credentials or others who might not come to college at all. He said taking away 30 hours of credentials from 120 credentials might mean taking away some TBC courses.

Amy Aldridge followed up by thanking the leadership of TBC for all the rigor and new courses. She serves as the Liaison Officer for TBC to the Provost. Amy presented slides providing information on the 90-hour credentials

Notes on the presentation

The 90 credential is a new credential. Started in 2009 by Robert Zemsky. In 2023, seven programs received approval (between 90-94 Credentials)

SACSCOC emailed the new guidelines in June 2025 to MTSU

THEC is putting together a working group to explore this.

Most likely, the UT system and MTSU will lead the 90-100 credentials

Some possible concerns that might arise from this new opportunity:

The purpose is to attract new students and not compete with the current 120 credentials
Same rigor on marketing the 90 credentials – investigate the job market and admission criteria to get into grad school

90 hours of credentials need to be centered on the regional workforce needs

General education can be fewer than 30 credentials, but requires justification

Next step: Sharing information with campus conversation, contacting regional employers

Questions from the presentation

Virginia – can the current 120-credential students change their major to 90 credentials

Amy stressed that the 120 credentials and 90 credentials are different. 90 credentials could be considered a third type of credentials

Andrea - What does it look like for scholarship/ lottery students- financial support?

Hiring perspective for those without a bachelor's degree with the new 90 credentials

Rebecca- Asked about the indicators for the 90 credentials. Amy said to read Robert Zemsky's website for more information

Jane - asked about including the teaching profession as one of the regional workforces. Amy shared that a discussion has been made with Dean Cone, but licensure requirements require the content knowledge

Ashley- Asked whether the master's program would be able to accept the 90 credentials
How will it affect their pay rise?

Jorge: Will this be directed at certain disciplines? Amy said there is a need to make sure the Dean is on board

Kahler- Asked if the new graduates of the 90-hour credentials will be considered as completers.
The earliest to start the 90-hour credentials is May 2027

Discussion of Course Proposal

HLTH 1150: Health Literacy: Kahler Stone presents the course proposal

The course was conducted in Spring 2025, not as a TBC course. The current proposal meets the TBC Information Literacy strand, focusing on health literacy. He is here to answer questions from TBC committee members.

Went through the TBC guidelines for course approval

Rebecca Oldham asked about the major assignment on student presentation and alignment to the TBC rubric. Kahler Stone ensured that it would meet the requirements, as each assignment can be assessed on the rubric. Kahler was advised to combine all students' work and submit it for the TBC assessment.

He was also advised to align it with more general knowledge, and not just the health component

With no other questions, A motion was called to approve HLTH 1150. Motion for approval- Rebecca Oldham, and seconded by Jane Lim. HLTH 1150 was approved with a Vote (12/12)

HUM 2610 was brought up by Kari Neely at the September 12, 2025, meeting. However, as she was not able to be present for today's meeting, she requested that we table the discussion for the next meeting in December

True Blue Core Outstanding Teacher Award

There is no discussion on the TBC Outstanding Teacher Award yet. However, Christina Cobb has put this on the agenda to ensure that the TBC committee will investigate this. She asked the committee members to look into this for any suggestions and ideas, and share them at the next meeting in December, so that we can vote on it.

Andrew Failka reminded the committee to make procedural changes when reviewing the TBC outstanding teachers. As the nominees/candidates were divided into groups for review, he suggested that after each group selects their top 2 nominees/candidates, all TBC committee members will need to review each other's selected nominees/candidates before awarding.

Other matters

Stephanie Totty requested Amy Aldridge's Presentation today. Christina Cobb will follow up.

Christina also shared that there will be two new courses in December to approve and vote on.

With no other matters, the meeting was adjourned, and the committee was invited to celebrate Dr. Susan Myers Shirk's retirement party at the MT Center.

2.00 p.m. – meeting adjourned

Meeting notes submitted by Jane Seok Jeng Lim, Recording Secretary

October 24, 2025

Edits and revisions submitted by Christina Cobb