



RUSS DEATON
Interim Executive Director

STATE OF TENNESSEE
HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
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BILL HASLAM
Governor

August 18, 2015

Dr. Joe DiPietro
President
University of Tennessee
831 Andy Holt Tower
Knoxville, TN 37996

Dear Dr. DiPietro,

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) has been asked to confirm that the University of Tennessee campuses at Knoxville, Memphis, Chattanooga and Martin are exempt from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's authorization requirements. This letter serves to provide the requested confirmation.

The relevant authorization requirements are set forth in the Postsecondary Education Authorization Act of 1974 ("the Act") at Tennessee Code Annotated title 49, chapter 7, part 20. Section 49-7-2004(a)(5) explicitly exempts from the Act education and educational institutions "established, operated and governed by this state or its political subdivisions." The Tennessee General Assembly established the University of Tennessee through 1807 Public Acts Chapter 64 to perform the governmental function of education in the State of Tennessee. At the time of its creation, the University consisted of a single campus located in Knoxville, Tennessee, now known as The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Subsequently, the University expanded to include The University of Tennessee Health Science Center, The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and The University of Tennessee at Martin. Based on the foregoing, THEC confirms that University of Tennessee campuses at Knoxville, Memphis, Chattanooga and Martin are exempt from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's authorization requirements

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Deaton".

Russ Deaton
Interim Executive Director

cc: Dr. Stephanie Bellard Chase, Associate Executive Director for DPSA
Julie M. Woodruff, Assistant Executive Director and Lead Attorney for DPSA