

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, STUDENT LIFE, AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

The Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee met on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, in the Miller Education Center Meeting Room at Middle Tennessee State University.

Call to Order

Committee Chair Pam Wright called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Secretary James Floyd called the roll. The following Committee members were in attendance: J.B. Baker, Tom Boyd, Pete DeLay, Bill Jones, Steve Smith, Christine Karbowiak, Pam Wright, Drew Carpenter, and Keith Huber. Trustee Rick Cottle participated in the meeting electronically. Per T.C.A. 8-44-108(c)(3), Trustee Cottle was asked and responded in the affirmative that he could hear clearly and confirmed there was no one else in the room with him. A quorum was declared.

President Sidney A. McPhee participated in the meeting electronically. Joe Bales, Vice President for University Advancement; Mark Byrnes, Provost; Yvette Clark, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer; Alan Thomas, Vice President for Business and Finance; Diane Snodgrass, Interim Chief Audit Executive; James Floyd, University Counsel and Board Secretary; and Kim Edgar, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff, were also in attendance.

New Trustee Welcome

Chairman Smith welcomed newly appointed Trustee Bill Jones and invited him to be a member of every Board committee.

Approval of Minutes - Action

The first agenda item was approval of the minutes from the March 14, 2023, Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee meeting. Trustee DeLay moved to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2023, meeting, and Trustee Karbowiak seconded the motion.

In discussion, Chairman Smith referenced the minutes and asked which meetings the Committee should expect twice annually reporting on the progress of each new program. Provost Byrnes responded that he would distribute a chart showing the status of proposed programs later in the meeting, and reports required by THEC on new programs will be presented at the August meeting.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.

Approval of Tenure and Promotion - Action

Provost Byrnes presented 35 candidates for tenure and 67 candidates for promotion. The candidates presented their applications last September and had been thoroughly vetted in multiple steps throughout the academic year.

Chairman Smith asked how many professors were tenured and how many should be. Provost Byrnes said 55% of MTSU's full-time faculty are tenured. Chairman Smith asked for information on the percentage of tenured faculty for all Locally Governed Institutions.

Trustee DeLay moved to approve the candidates for tenure and promotion, and Trustee Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve 35 candidates for tenure and 67 candidates for promotion passed unanimously. Trustee Baker was absent from this vote.

Approval of New Degree Program – Action

Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity Management

Provost Byrnes said the degree would be housed in the Department of Information Systems and Analytics. It will be the only degree in cybersecurity in Tennessee with a business management

angle. Also, we have a concentration in cybersecurity in our Department of Computer Science which is theoretical as opposed to business application.

Trustee Karbowski asked if a master's degree or concentration within the MBA is being considered. Provost Byrnes responded that the intention is to first create the bachelor's degree.

Trustee Delay asked Vice President Yvette Clark to describe her experience with security breaches and the demand for this program. She agreed that there is industry demand for cybersecurity management.

Trustee Boyd moved to approve the new degree program, and Trustee Karbowski seconded the motion.

In discussion, Trustee Boyd asked about Department of Defense certification related to cybersecurity. Dr. Tim Greer, professor and chair of the Department of Information Systems and Analytics, stated that once the degree and courses are approved, he will ask for the degree to be added to the certification list.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity Management passed unanimously. Trustee Baker was absent from this vote.

Provost Byrnes distributed a chart showing the status of new degree programs in development as requested by Trustee Boyd, noting that program development takes about a year.

Athletics Report - Information

Deputy Athletic Director Lee De Leon reported that women's softball won three NCAA championship games for the first time in the program's history.

Athletics Annual Giving led by Hans Malebranche is at 92% of the \$3,871,800 cash goal and has received a \$16 million documented planned gift. The Build Blue Campaign is also at 92% of the \$20 million goal. Also exceeded the goal for Sapphire Circle members.

The new tennis complex should be open in November 2023 and the new Student-Athlete Performance Center should be open in March 2025 and on budget.

Chairman Smith added that no taxpayer funds are used in the Athletics facilities upgrades. Trustee Boyd added his congratulations to the Athletic Department and student-athletes for a great year.

Faculty Senate Presentation - Information

Faculty Senate President Stephen Salter noted that without students, there is no MTSU, and without faculty, there are no students.

The Faculty Senate analyzed 145 videos made by students describing why they came to MTSU and why they stay. Students come for our programs, location, affordability, and welcoming campus. The reasons students stay include supportive faculty, a welcoming campus, and student organizations.

Dr. Patrick Richey, professor and director of MTSU Debate, described skills students learn through MTSU Debate that they can carry to their first jobs. Dr. April Weissmiller, assistant professor of biology and cancer researcher, gave an overview of her work highlighting the impact of training and mentoring students in her lab.

Student Trustee Presentation - Information Item

Student Trustee Andrew Carpenter discussed his time as an undergraduate and graduate student at MTSU.

Application and Admission Report – Information Item

Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment Services Laurie Witherow shared increases in applications and admissions for freshman and transfer students as compared to the same date last year.

President's Remarks

President McPhee welcomed new Trustee Bill Jones and thanked the Faculty Senate for their presentation.

Adjournment

Committee Chair Wright adjourned the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee