

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, STUDENT LIFE, AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE

November 13, 2018

The Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee met on Tuesday, November 13, 2018, at Middle Tennessee State University. Chairwoman Pam Wright called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. A quorum was present with the following Committee members in attendance: J.B. Baker, Pete DeLay, Tony Johnston, Steve Smith, Peyton Tracy, Pam Wright, Keith Huber, and Chris Massaro. Trustee Joey Jacobs was unable to attend. Also present were Sidney McPhee, President; Joe Bales, Vice President for University Advancement; Mark Byrnes, University Provost; Andrew Oppmann, Vice President for Marketing and Communications; Bruce Petryshak, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer; Deb Sells, Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Enrollment and Academic Services; Alan Thomas, Vice President for Business and Finance; Kimberly Edgar, Executive Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff; and Heidi Zimmerman, University Counsel and Board Secretary.

Chairwoman Wright began the meeting with approval of the minutes from the August 28, 2018 and October 10, 2018 Committee Meetings. Trustee Johnston made the motion, which was seconded by Trustee DeLay. A voice vote was taken and the Motion carried to approve the minutes from the August 28, 2018 and October 10, 2018 Committee Meetings.

The next item was approval of a new academic degree program, Bachelor of Science in Tourism and Hospitality Management. Dr. Byrnes referred to the degree proposal and told the committee that about twenty percent of the job demand for this area is going unfilled. He expects the program to break even immediately due to current student interest. With approval by the Board of Trustees and THEC, the degree will begin Fall 2019. Trustee Smith made the motion to approve the new academic degree program, Bachelor of Science in Tourism and Hospitality Management. Trustee DeLay seconded the motion. Trustee Johnston recused himself since he is listed under Faculty Resources in the degree program proposal. A voice vote was taken, and the Motion carried to approve the Bachelor of Science in Tourism and Hospitality Management.

The next item was approval of an academic degree under consideration: a Bachelor of Science in Data Science. Provost Byrnes is confident graduates would fill demand expressed by industry. Pending the approval of the Board of Trustees and results of feasibility studies, the University may submit Letters of Notification to THEC. Trustee DeLay made the motion to approve consideration of a Bachelor of Science in Data Science. Trustee Johnston seconded the motion. The motion carried to approve consideration of a Bachelor of Science in Data Science.

Approval of the appointment of the National Health Care Chair of Excellence in Nursing was the next action item. The National Health Care Chair of Excellence in Nursing will do research and also reach out to corporations for placement of our nursing students. Trustee Smith made the motion to approve the appointment of Deborah A. Lee as the National Health Care Chair of Excellence. Trustee DeLay seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The last item was a petition submitted by Dr. Erin McClelland to appeal a negative recommendation for tenure and promotion. Dr. Byrnes explained the tenure and promotion process at MTSU in accordance with policy, as well as types of faculty appointments and the faculty appeal process. On President McPhee's request, Dr. Byrnes listed the six levels of review and recommendation in the tenure and promotion process: 1) department tenure and promotion committee; 2) department chair; 3) college tenure and promotion committee; 4) dean; 5) provost; and 6) president. Trustee Wright reminded the committee that they must follow the legal requirements and determine if policy was followed and not the merits of the application. Ms. Zimmerman explained that the committee will vote whether to grant the petition for the appeal. If granted, the committee will hear the appeal at their next scheduled meeting. That decision would then be considered by the full Board. If not granted at today's meeting, the appeal would not go any further.

Trustee Johnston asked Ms. Zimmerman to clarify the term "material evidence" in MTSU Policy 60 Appeals and Appearances before the Board (section III, A, 6, b). Ms. Zimmerman said that the committee will look at the appeal and the response. If it appears that there could be material evidence to support the application, then trustees should vote to grant the appeal. Trustee Johnston said that although he would not want to set a precedent in automatically denying or accepting appeals, he found four pieces of documentation in evidence to support allowing the appeal to be heard. Trustee Johnston indicated that one such piece of documentation – notice of receipt of a substantial grant – was received after submission of the OFD. He stated that there was substantial documentation in the appeal that was not previously provided in the OFD that would warrant the committee hearing the appeal.

Dr. Byrnes said that according to MTSU Policy 204 Tenure, there is no opportunity to add materials once the review of the application has begun. Dr. McPhee added that he would be concerned with allowing candidates to turn in materials after the process had begun, and the policy is clear.

Trustee Baker asked if MTSU's process is similar to other universities in the state. Dr. Byrnes told him that ours is very similar because our policy was developed from TBR's policy that all universities shared prior to being independently governed.

Trustee Johnston made a motion to allow the petition for the appeal. There was no second to his motion, and the motion died. Trustee Smith made a motion to deny the petition. Trustee DeLay

seconded the motion. Trustee Wright asked for a roll call vote. The committee voted 4 to 1 to deny the petition to appeal a negative recommendation for tenure and promotion, with Trustee Johnston voting against the motion.

The meeting adjourned 10:02 a.m. (CST).

Respectfully submitted, Academic Affairs, Student Life and Athletics Committee