

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

The Finance and Personnel Committee met on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, in the Miller Education Center Meeting Room at Middle Tennessee State University.

Call to Order

Committee Chair Pete Delay called the meeting to order at 12:27 p.m. He opened the meeting with an acknowledgment of former Committee Chair Joey Jacobs and the exceptional job he did for the Committee, the Board of Trustees, and the University.

Roll Call

Board Secretary James Floyd called the roll. The following Committee members were in attendance: J.B. Baker, Tom Boyd, Rick Cottle, Pete DeLay, Steve Smith, and Drew Carpenter. Committee member Chris Karbowski Vanek participated electronically and, in accordance with T.C.A. 8-44-108(c)(3), confirmed she could hear those present in the meeting, and no one else was present in the room with her. A quorum was declared.

Also present were President Sidney A. McPhee; Alan Thomas, Vice President for Business and Finance; Joe Bales, Vice President for University Advancement; Andrew Oppmann, Vice President for Marketing and Communications; Yvette Clark, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer; Deb Sells, Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Enrollment and Academic Services; Diane Snodgrass, Interim Chief Audit Executive; James Floyd, University Counsel and Board Secretary; and Kim Edgar, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff. Trustee Pam Wright could not attend.

Approval of Minutes – Action

The first agenda item was the approval of the minutes from the November 15, 2022, Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. Trustee Baker moved to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2022, meeting, and Trustee Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2022, Finance and Personnel Committee meeting passed unanimously.

Permanent Appointment of Vice President for Information Technology and CIO – Action

The second agenda item concerned the approval of the recommendation by Dr. McPhee for the permanent appointment of Yvette Clark as Vice President for Information Technology and CIO.

Dr. McPhee informed the Committee that Ms. Clark had done an excellent job over the past year in keeping the technology systems operational and creating strategies for minimizing cybersecurity issues for the University.

Chairman Smith moved to approve the recommendation for the permanent appointment of Yvette Clark as Vice President for Information Technology and CIO, and Trustee Cottle seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the recommendation for the permanent appointment of Yvette Clark as Vice President for Information Technology and CIO passed unanimously.

Ms. Clark addressed the Committee and thanked them for their vote of confidence.

Governor’s Budget and Legislative Budget Hearings Update – Information

The next agenda item was an update on the 2023-24 Governor's Budget. Mr. Thomas directed the Committee to the meeting materials containing an email to the campus and Board members summarizing the impact of the Governor’s Budget on the University and two memos from THEC detailing the impact on higher education as a whole.

Mr. Thomas informed the Committee that he and Dr. McPhee attended budget hearings with the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday, February 15, and the Senate Education Committee on Wednesday, March 8. Other meetings were attended as well, specifically one with the Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee on Tuesday, February 14, to discuss capital funding for higher education.

Next, Mr. Thomas provided a brief overview of the financial implications of the Governor's Budget for MTSU. He reported that salary increases were still being funded at approximately 55%, and the hardship of coming up with the additional 45% out of the remaining budget was a point brought up by every LGI in their hearings this year. There were also several unfunded requests in the budget this year; THEC's operating appropriations request of \$12 million for MTSU was partially funded at \$3 million, and the recommendation of \$15.8 million in capital maintenance was partially funded at \$5 million. He informed the Committee that MTSU has requested full funding for the operating appropriations request when meeting with legislators and other state officials.

Mr. Thomas noted that the budget presentations were very interactive this year, with more commentary from members of the General Assembly than in previous years. Dr. McPhee added that comments and questions received from both committees during the hearings were favorable for MTSU, and he was able to share positive information with the Senate Committee regarding scholarship actions, graduation rates, and the technology implemented to help students during the pandemic using the Cares Act funding. He also informed the Committee that he had the opportunity to speak with key legislators during the 2023 Day on the Hill event about specific needs and concerns for MTSU, particularly the issues of employee salaries and unfunded mandates. Chairman Smith asked Dr. McPhee to expand on the requirement for these types of scholarship programs. Mr. Thomas replied these scholarships are required by statute and are being funded out of annual appropriations or revenue from tuition increases. Discussion then ensued concerning the challenges of covering mandated scholarships, salary adjustments, and increased operating costs with little to no tuition increases.

Dr. McPhee ended the presentation by encouraging the Trustees to continue efforts to let the governor and state legislators know of the serious need to fund public higher education in Tennessee.

Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) Update – Information

Mr. Thomas presented an information update on the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) as the final agenda item. He directed the Committee to the meeting materials containing a detailed summary of how the funds were awarded and disbursed during the program term. He noted that out of the \$103,186,649 allocation received by the University, \$43,021,581 went directly to student emergency financial aid grants. A total of 18,683 students received payments. He noted that all funds had been awarded and disbursed in strict accordance with the requirements issued by the Department of Education, and the program would be closed on June 30, 2023.

Adjournment

Committee Chair DeLay adjourned the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Finance and Personnel Committee