



# **Middle Tennessee State University Board of Trustees**

## **Executive and Governance Committee**

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February 27, 2024

Miller Education Center  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Room  
503 E. Bell Street  
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37130





**Middle Tennessee State University  
Board of Trustees**

**Executive and Governance Committee**

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February 27, 2024

**AGENDA**

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes (Action) .....Tab 1

Institutional Mission and Mission Profile (Action) .....Tab 2

Strategic Planning (Information) .....Tab 3

Closing Remarks

Adjournment





**Middle Tennessee State University  
Board of Trustees**

**Executive and Governance Committee**

**Action Item**

DATE: February 27, 2024

SUBJECT: **Approval of Minutes**

PRESENTER: Stephen B. Smith  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Executive and Governance Committee met on November 14, 2023. Minutes from that meeting are provided for review and approval.



**MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**EXECUTIVE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

The Executive and Governance Committee met on Tuesday, November 14, 2023.

**Call to Order and Opening Remarks**

Committee Chair Steve Smith welcomed those participating and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Roll Call**

Chairman Smith asked Board Secretary James Floyd to call the roll. The following Committee members were in attendance: Tom Boyd, Chris Karbowski Vanek, and Steve Smith. A quorum was declared.

**Approval of Minutes**

The first agenda item was approval of the minutes of the August 14, 2023, meeting of the Executive and Governance Committee. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Trustee Boyd and seconded by Trustee Vanek. A voice vote was taken and the motion to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2023, meeting of the Executive and Governance Committee passed unanimously.

**Introduction of Trustee Michael Wade**

Chairman Smith opened the meeting. He introduced new Trustee, Mr. Michael Wade, who is an MTSU graduate. Mr. Wade is an executive with State Farm and is married and lives in Saint Louis, Missouri. Mr. Wade thanked the Board and stated he was looking forward to working with everyone.

## **Discussion of 2023 Self-Evaluation Results, Action for Improvement**

Chairman Smith opened a discussion on the Board's self-evaluation survey results for the Committee's assessment. The MTSU accreditation body, SACSCOC, requires a governing board to define and regularly evaluate its responsibilities and expectations. In addition, the Board of Trustees' Policy on Committees requires the Executive and Governance Committee to review and discuss the results of the self-evaluations, including Board comments or questions. In compliance, members of the Board of Trustees received access to an online, anonymous evaluation survey in October. Chairman Smith advised that the survey results were shared with all members in advance of this meeting.

Chairman Smith shared his opinion that the survey responses were overall good to excellent noting that there are areas for improvement and opportunities for growth. Trustee Vanek indicated that while the comments speak for themselves, she underscored the need for continued Board training. In particular, she expressed a desire for the President to advise the Board on what he is seeing in the broader educational community as challenges and opportunities. She also highlighted the camaraderie amongst the Board members. Trustee Boyd noted that there were a number of good annual objectives for the Board to consider but they should be pared down to allow for appropriate Board focus and engagement. He suggested the development of a survey to rank the proposed objectives presented in the survey so the Board can focus on three (3) or four (4) of them. President McPhee agreed that the survey would be a great idea.

As the discussion progressed, Chairman Smith suggested that the University identify three (3) or four (4) media/publication lists that it currently is not on and identify ways to pursue inclusion on those lists in the future. Chairman Smith and President McPhee also shared that the University made a presentation to the Murfreesboro City Council that lasted for almost two (2) hours due to follow up questions/conversations on the University's impact on the city and broader Middle Tennessee community. A number of new council members shared their



appreciation for this information. Chairman Smith suggested that the University pursue four (4) to five (5) road shows per year to share its accomplishments.

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Executive and Governance Committee

DRAFT





**Middle Tennessee State University  
Board of Trustees**

**Executive and Governance Committee**

**Action Item**

DATE: February 27, 2024

SUBJECT: **Institutional Mission Statement and  
Mission Profile**

PRESENTER: Mary Hoffschwelle  
Associate Provost

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

T.C.A. §49-8-101(d) requires the institution to annually submit its institutional mission profile to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission for review. On February 16, 2024, the University Planning Committee considered revisions to the University's mission profile.

Once approved by the Board at its March meeting, the University will report on changes to the mission profile to THEC in fulfillment of this statutory requirement.



## REDLINE

### Statement of Mission

Middle Tennessee State University offers exceptional academic programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels and prioritizes student success. takes pride in its role as a comprehensive, diverse, and innovative institution whose distinctive bachelor's, master's, specialist, and doctoral programs prepare graduates to thrive in their chosen professions and a changing global society. Students, faculty, and staff generate, preserve, and disseminate knowledge and collaboratively promote excellence through As one of Tennessee's largest comprehensive universities, MTSU places high value on outstanding teaching and learning, research, creative activity, and public engagement service that support the emerging needs and challenges of our state, nation, and world.

*Approved April 4, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ by the MTSU Board of Trustees*

### Purpose

To fulfill its mission as a comprehensive, public institution of higher education, Middle Tennessee State University the University's diverse community of students, faculty, and staff

- educates and challenges students through a broad array of high-quality, affordable bachelor's, master's, specialist, and doctoral programs grounded in a common core of arts and sciences;
- collaboratively promotes excellence through innovative teaching and learning, research, creative activity, service, and engagement;
- fosters a student-centered environment conducive to lifelong learning, personal development, and success for all students, including first-generation, Pell-eligible, transfer, veteran, non-traditional, and international students;
- enhances access through unique programs, distance learning, and advising to meet the needs of a diverse student population;
- supports student learning through effective teaching and advising, experiential and integrative learning, emerging technologies, research, and co-curricular and extra-curricular activities;
- attracts and retains exceptional faculty and staff and develops resources to support excellence in instruction, research, creative activity, and public and professional service;
- develops and sustains academic partnerships, entrepreneurial activities, and public service to support instruction, research, and communities throughout the region;
- promotes ongoing engagement with its alumni, partners, and friends; and
- serves as an emerging center for international study, understanding, and exchange.

Middle Tennessee State University educates students to

- think logically, critically, and creatively;
- make sound judgments informed by ethical, moral, and aesthetic values;
- acquire ~~a-working~~ knowledge of a discipline or a group of related disciplines;
- examine, analyze, and shape the rapidly changing world through scientific knowledge, creative undertakings, and an understanding of culture and history;
- communicate clearly and precisely and understand the proper role of free expression and civic engagement in our society; and
- demonstrate the effective and adaptive use of current and evolving technologies.

## Vision

~~Faculty, staff, and students of Middle Tennessee State University will work together as a community of scholars to create and share knowledge. Our efforts will result in the highest quality education and student experience in the state, preparing citizens who thrive as professionals and engage with and contribute to their communities. To provide the highest quality education and student experience, enabling members of our community to excel in professional, scholarly, and public life.~~

## Community Standards and Values

MTSU is committed to developing and nurturing a community devoted to learning, growth, and service. Each person who joins or affiliates with the community does so freely and accepts and practices the following core values and expectations:

**Honesty and Integrity.** The notions of personal and academic honesty and integrity are central to the existence of the MTSU community. All members of the community will strive to achieve and maintain the highest standards of academic achievement in the classroom and personal and social responsibility on and off campus.

**Respect for Diversity.** The MTSU community is composed of individuals of different races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, religions, cultures, and ways of thinking. We respect individual differences and unique perspectives as we acknowledge our commonalities.

**Engagement in the Community.** All members of the community are encouraged to participate in educationally purposeful activities that support and enhance the MTSU experience. Active involvement and personal investment in academic and student life are hallmarks of an engaged citizen.

Commitment to **Nonviolence.** MTSU is committed to the principles of non-violence and peaceful conflict resolution. Community members will freely express their ideas and resolve differences using reason and persuasion.

\*Values in **bold** appear in the True Blue Pledge.

**Middle Tennessee State University**  
*Institutional Mission Profile*

Middle Tennessee State University is a selective, comprehensive institution located in the geographic center of the State. The University embraces its role as a destination of choice for Tennessee undergraduates and the top choice for Tennessee transfer students. Its distinctive undergraduate and graduate programs draw students from across the nation and around the world. Innovative degree programs and research and public service centers attract, welcome, and support a diverse, largely full-time student population with significant numbers of Pell-eligible, first-generation, non-traditional, and historically underrepresented students. The University uses advanced research-based practices to help students recognize their academic promise and achieve success, conferring approximately 5,000 degrees annually. Dedicated faculty and staff prepare students for lifelong learning with global perspectives through an understanding of culture and history, scholarship, and creative undertakings to adapt to and shape a rapidly changing world. MTSU's signature experiential and integrative learning, international, cross-disciplinary, cocurricular programs, and Tennessee's first public Honors College deliver a value-added education rich in research, service learning, and civic engagement. Academic offerings foster the pursuit of scholarly research, creative endeavors, and professional advancement through programs spanning the arts and humanities, education, business, STEM, the social, behavioral, and health sciences, and media and entertainment. MTSU houses centers of excellence in historic preservation and popular music and notable chairs of excellence. MTSU has earned the Carnegie Doctoral University: High Research Activity and elective Community Engagement classifications.

*Approved \_\_\_\_\_ by MTSU Board of Trustees*

CLEAN

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*Approved \_\_\_\_\_ by MTSU Board of Trustees*

**Middle Tennessee State University  
Board of Trustees**

**Executive and Governance Committee**

**Information Item**

DATE: February 27, 2024

SUBJECT: **Strategic Plan Constituent Working Session**

PRESENTER: Jeff Gibson, Associate Dean,  
College of Liberal Arts  
Strategic Planning Committee Chair

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

As part of the process to develop the University's strategic plan for 2025-2035, the Strategic Planning Committee is engaged in a variety of listening sessions this spring with two primary goals:

- To gain a clear understanding of the current environment in which the University operates, and
- To develop a plan that is well informed by input and perceptions of key stakeholders.

This interactive discussion will provide important perspective to the Strategic Planning Committee as the Trustees address the following questions:

- What do you see as the key strengths of the University?
- What do you see as the University's weaknesses or areas of needed improvement?
- What are the critical issues that the University needs to face over the next five – ten years?
- What do you see as the key priorities the University should establish in its strategic plan?