MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

EXECUTIVE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES

The Executive and Governance Committee met on Tuesday, November 11, 2025.

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chairman Steve Smith called the meeting to order at 10:43 a.m.

Roll Call

Chairman Smith asked Board Secretary James Floyd to call the roll. Trustee Tom Boyd participated in the meeting electronically. Consistent with Tennessee Code Annotated § 8-44-108(c)(3), he was asked and responded in the affirmative that he could hear clearly and confirmed that no one else was in his location. Chair Steve Smith was present while Vice Chair Christine Vanek was absent. A quorum was declared.

Also present were Dr. Sidney A. McPhee, President; Joe Bales, Vice President for University Advancement; Dr. Mark Byrnes, Provost; Andrew Oppmann, Vice President for Marketing and Communications; Yvette Clark, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer; Drew Harpool, Interim Vice President for Business and Finance; Danny Kelley, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students; Leah Ladley, Chief Audit Executive; Keith Huber, Lt. Gen. (Ret.); and James Floyd, University Counsel and Board Secretary.

Approval of Minutes

The first agenda item was approval of the minutes of the August 19, 2025, meeting of the Executive and Governance Committee. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Trustee Boyd and seconded by Chairman Smith. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2025, meeting of the Executive and Governance Committee passed unanimously.

Discussion of 2025 Self-Evaluation Results and Action for Improvement – Information

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. Board Secretary Floyd noted that there were ten (10) participants in the survey.

Chairman Smith advised that the survey results were shared with all members in advance of this meeting. He observed that the majority of responses to each question were either "strongly agree" or "agree," noting that surely there are areas the Board can improve. In addition, the comments indicated that members generally have a positive assessment of the Board's functions.

Chairman Smith solicited comments from the Trustees present. Trustee Granbery suggested flipping the color codes in the legend and designating green for "strongly agree" rather than red, as red has a negative connotation. Trustee Neely suggested including a submit page at the end of the survey so that each Trustee would affirmatively know that they are submitting their response. Regarding comments on specific objectives for the Board to pursue in the future, Trustee Boyd noted the Board should again rank objectives so it can prioritize its goals and strategies. Board Secretary Floyd responded that he would prepare an objectives survey and report back at the next Executive and Governance Committee meeting.

President Sidney A. McPhee seconded Trustee Boyd's recommendation on identifying the top four (4) objectives, recalling that one of the top objectives from the previous self-evaluation was increasing the number of national rankings. Trustee DeLay added that the Murphy Center was another priority that had been discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Executive and Governance Committee