

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES

The Middle Tennessee State University Board of Trustees met on June 16, 2026, in the Miller Education Center Meeting Room at Middle Tennessee State University.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chair Steve Smith called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Keith Huber led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of Student Veteran

Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Keith Huber introduced Ms. Kearra Mullinax, a United States Army combat medic, Tennessee National Guard member, single mother, and MTSU student pursuing a degree in Healthcare Administration with an anticipated Spring 2027 graduation. He noted that her military specialty, known as "68 Whiskey," reflects a commitment to treating and caring for others, and highlighted her service as a combat medic and traveling nurse during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Mullinax thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and shared her experiences balancing military service, family responsibilities, and higher education. Currently serving at the Nashville Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS), she remarked that many veterans feel they live two lives: one as a soldier and one as a student. To illustrate that experience, she quoted author Paulo Coelho, who wrote that a warrior may feel as though he is living two lives at once until, through courage and perseverance, those two lives ultimately become one.

Speaking on behalf of veteran and military-affiliated students, Ms. Mullinax highlighted the impact of the Charlie and Hazel Daniels Veterans and Military Family Center. She credited the Center, along with Dr. Hillary Miller and Jessica Pearson, for providing guidance, support, and a sense of belonging throughout her educational journey as a full-time service member, student, and single parent. She emphasized that the Center helps veterans navigate the transition from military service to campus life while fostering connection and community. She recalled a quote by Nelson Mandela: "Education is

the most powerful weapon which you can [use to] change the world,” and emphasized how the Daniel’s Center does exactly that. By supporting the Daniel’s Center, you are supporting the next generation with exactly that weapon.

Ms. Mullinax also reflected on attending a ceremony honoring a fallen service member and later learning that the Daniels Center had supported the event. She stated that this demonstrated the Center's impact beyond campus and its commitment to preserving the legacy and sacrifices of veterans.

In closing, Ms. Mullinax expressed pride in being both a soldier and an MTSU student. She thanked the Board for its continued support of the Daniels Center and ended with a quote from Booker T. Washington: “Success is not measured by the position one has reached in life, but as by the obstacles which he has overcome.” She emphasized that each veteran who earns a degree represents perseverance, sacrifice, and a commitment to building a better future for their families and communities.

Roll Call

Board Secretary James Floyd called the roll. The following trustees were in attendance: J.B. Baker, Tom Boyd, John Floyd, Bill Jones, Steve Smith, Christine K. Vanek, Chad White, and Michai Mosby. Trustees Jimmy Granbery and Michael Wade participated in the meeting electronically. Consistent with Tennessee Code Annotated § 8-44-108(c)(3), these trustees were asked and responded in the affirmative that they could hear clearly and confirmed that no one else was in their location. Trustee Pete DeLay was absent. A quorum was declared.

President Sidney A. McPhee; Joe Bales, Vice President for University Advancement; Mark Byrnes, University Provost; Andrew Oppmann, Vice President for Marketing and Communications; Yvette Clark, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer; Danny Kelley, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students; Drew Harpool, Vice President for Business and Finance; Brenda Burkhart, Interim Chief Audit Executive; Chris Massaro, Director of Athletics; Lt. Gen. Keith Huber, Senior Advisor for Veterans

and Leadership Initiatives; Kim Edgar, Executive Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff; and James Floyd, Vice President for Legal Affairs and Board Secretary were also in attendance.

Approval of March 17, 2026, Meeting Minutes – Action

The first agenda item was the approval of the meeting minutes from March 17, 2026. Trustee Boyd motioned to approve the June 16, 2026, meeting minutes, and Trustee Baker seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Permanent Appointment of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students – Action

Policy 808 Compensation Reporting and Approvals requires the Board of Trustees to approve the appointment and salary recommendation for Vice Presidents or other executives who report directly to the President. During the May 19, 2026, Finance and Personnel Committee meeting, President McPhee recommended the appointment of Dr. James Bridgeforth as Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, and the approval of the requested salary. The Committee unanimously approved his recommendation.

Motion

Vice Chair Vanek made the motion to approve the action item recommended by President McPhee, and Trustee Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the action item carried unanimously.

Statement from Dr. Bridgeforth

Chairman Smith allowed Dr. Bridgeforth to make comments. Dr. Bridgeforth expressed his gratitude to President McPhee, Dr. Grandjean, the search committee, and the Board for the opportunity to serve as Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students. He stated that he was honored and excited to join MTSU and looked forward to working with students, faculty, staff, and university leadership to enhance the student experience.

Dr. Bridgeforth emphasized that student success is the central focus of modern student affairs and shared his commitment to supporting student success in the classroom, on campus, and in the community through an exceptional student experience and expanded opportunities for engagement and growth.

Dr. Bridgeforth concluded by expressing his appreciation for the opportunity to serve MTSU and his enthusiasm for the future, ending his remarks with, “Go Blue!”

Approval of Permanent Appointment of the Chief Audit Executive – Action

Policy 808 Compensation Reporting and Approvals requires the Board of Trustees to approve the appointment and salary recommendation for Vice Presidents or other executives who report directly to the President. During the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting on May 19, 2026, President McPhee recommended the appointment of Ms. Cynthia Ray as Chief Audit Executive. The Committee unanimously approved his recommendation.

Motion

Trustee Jones motioned to approve the action item recommended by President McPhee, and Vice Chair Vanek seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the action item carried unanimously.

Statement from Ms. Ray

Chairman Smith invited Ms. Ray to make comments. Ms. Ray expressed her appreciation to President McPhee for his recommendation and confidence in her, and thanked the Board for its support. She stated that she was honored and excited to return to MTSU as Chief Audit Executive, noting that she previously served the University for seventeen years and that MTSU holds a special place in her heart.

Ms. Ray remarked that the experiences and relationships she developed during her prior service at MTSU helped shape her both professionally and personally. She added that returning to the

University felt like coming home and expressed enthusiasm about working with the Board, university leadership, faculty, and staff to support MTSU's mission and continued success.

Committee Report: ACADEMIC Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee

Committee Chair Wade reported that the Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee met on May 19, 2026. The Committee approved the minutes from its February 24, 2026, meeting. The committee report contained three (3) action items, unanimously approved by the Committee, for the Board's consideration. Two (2) information items before the committee included a report on the University's Reaffirmation of Accreditation with SACSCOC and an Athletics update. Materials outlining these actions were made available for review prior to the Board meeting and were contained in the Board notebooks.

Tenure and Promotion – Action

The Committee was informed that faculty members applied for tenure and/or promotion in September 2025. They were reviewed by their department chair/school director, department/school committee, college committee, college dean, provost, and president as stipulated by MTSU Policies 204 Tenure and 205 Promotion of Tenured and Tenurable Faculty, along with their respective college and department policies. The president and provost recommended that the specified candidates be granted tenure and/or promotion effective August 1, 2026. The Committee unanimously approved twenty (20) candidates recommended for tenure and forty-three (43) candidates for promotion.

Policy Revision - 204 Tenure – Action

Recent legislation required the University to distinguish between faculty tenure decisions and disciplinary actions. The proposed revisions to MTSU Policy 204 explain the procedures for disciplining faculty for adequate cause related to misconduct and/or unsatisfactory performance. The Committee unanimously approved the policy revision. After the Committee approved this policy update, the University received comments that led to additional edits to Policy 204.

Board Secretary Floyd explained that the latest edits include an introductory paragraph within the Termination for Adequate Cause section that makes clear that the University has the authority to discipline or remove faculty for cause. Also, the word “willful” was inserted in front of both “failure” and “conduct” with regard to misconduct proceedings. Furthermore, there is now a provision making clear that faculty can bring an advisor to their meeting. This is consistent with other University policies; for example, under personnel policies, staff can bring an advisor to a disciplinary meeting.

In addition, there are changes regarding the unsatisfactory performance provisions. The majority of those changes concern the timing of notice and the period during which the faculty must act. Those provisions are now in line with the misconduct provisions. Lastly, Section H.I.7(a)(iii) was revised to change the deadline of five (5) business days from receipt of written notice to ten (10) business days.

Policy Revision - 541 Residential Life and Housing – Action

References to family housing were removed because of the demolition of the Womack Lane apartments. The Committee unanimously approved the policy revision.

Motion

Trustee Wade made the motion to approve the action items recommended by the Committee, and Trustee Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the action items carried unanimously.

Committee Report: Audit and Compliance Committee

Committee Chair Boyd reported that the Audit and Compliance Committee met on May 19, 2026. The Committee approved the minutes from its February 24, 2026, meeting. The Committee report contained no action items and presented three (3) information items: the Annual Internal Audit Assurances were confirmed; one (1) external review was completed with

no findings or recommendations identified; and the quarterly internal audit report, which consisted of three (3) draft investigation reports.

Committee Report: Executive and Governance Committee

Vice Chair Vanek reported that the Executive and Governance Committee met on May 19, 2026, and approved the minutes from its November 11, 2025, meeting. The committee report contained three (3) action items, unanimously approved by the Committee, for the Board's consideration. Two (2) information items before the committee included a legislative update and an update on the presidential search. Materials outlining these actions were made available for review prior to the Board meeting and were contained in the Board notebooks.

Policy Revision – 103 Free Speech on Campus – Action

Board Secretary Floyd presented proposed revisions required by state law that reaffirm the University's commitment to free and open expression. The revisions clarify that speech may not be restricted based on disagreement, offense, or unpopularity, while recognizing limited lawful restrictions and emphasizing the responsibility of all members of the University community to support open dialogue. Following discussion, the Committee unanimously approved the revisions to Policy 103.

Approval of Mission Profile – Action

Dr. Mary Hoffschwelle, Vice Provost for Planning and Effectiveness, explained to the committee that Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-8-101(d) requires annual submission of the institution's mission profile to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) for review and approval. She reported that the University Planning Committee approved the proposed revisions on April 17, 2026. She noted that the changes were intended to improve accuracy and reflect the University's academic programs, student population, research activities, learning outcomes, and public service mission. The Committee unanimously approved the mission profile for submission to THEC.

Approval of Independent Investigation – Action

The Committee, acting for the Board as authorized under the Policy on Board Committees, reviewed an independent investigation into allegations of discrimination, retaliation, and a hostile work environment. The Committee unanimously accepted the Investigation's findings that none of the allegations were supported.

Motion

Vice Chair Vanek motioned to approve the action items recommended by the Committee, and Trustee White seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the action items carried unanimously.

Committee Report: Finance and Personnel Committee

Trustee Jones reported that the Finance and Personnel Committee met on May 19, 2026. The Committee approved the minutes from its February 24, 2026, meeting. The committee report contained seven (7) action items for the Board's consideration. The committee received one (1) information item regarding an update on the True Blue Fusion Project, MTSU's initiative to modernize core systems and business processes using Oracle Cloud. Materials outlining these actions were made available for review prior to the Board meeting and were contained in the Board notebooks.

The first two (2) action items considered by the committee were the permanent appointments of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, and Chief Audit Executive, Audit Services. Both items were presented and approved earlier in this Board meeting.

Approval of 2027-28 Capital Outlay Project Submittal – Action

The Committee reviewed the proposed MTSU capital outlay request for FY 2027-2028, which included the Aerospace Campus Phase II development in Shelbyville. The Committee unanimously approved the proposed Capital Outlay request for 2027-28.

Approval of 2027-28 Capital Disclosures – Action

The Committee considered projects requiring disclosure approval consisting of eight (8) capital projects as part of the 2027–2028 capital budget. Three (3) projects will be submitted through THEC and remain on the state disclosure list for two (2) years. The remaining five (5) projects meet state thresholds for local disclosure and, with Board approval, will be posted on the MTSU website but not included in the state budget. Disclosure indicates that the University is considering a project, but does not obligate us to proceed. The Committee unanimously approved the recommended capital disclosures.

Approval of 2027-28 Capital Maintenance Project Submittal – Action

The Committee considered capital maintenance project requests for THEC submission, which included the University’s five-year capital maintenance plan and thirteen (13) capital maintenance projects for fiscal year 2027-28, totaling \$24.3 million. The Committee unanimously approved the capital maintenance projects submittal.

Approval of Proposed 2027-28 Tuition, Fees, and Housing Rates – Action

Trustee Jones advised that THEC had adopted binding ranges for tuition and tuition plus mandatory fees, ranging from 0 to 4.5%. The materials outline a 4.29% tuition increase and a 4.49% combined increase scenario to support the University’s remaining financial needs, mainly scholarships, faculty support, new programs, and rising costs. They also cover proposed changes to fees and housing for the Board’s consideration. The Committee unanimously approved the 2026-27 Tuition, Fees, and Housing Rates.

Operating Budget – Action

The 2025-26 Estimated Budget represents the final budget for the current fiscal year. The 2026-27 Proposed July Budget serves as the base budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The Committee unanimously approved the 2025-26 Estimated Budget and the 2026-27 July budget.

Motion

Trustee Jones commented that, since the Committee meeting, he had followed public discussion and media coverage regarding tuition and fee increases at public institutions. He emphasized that affordability remains a key priority for MTSU. He noted that, even with the proposed tuition increase, the University continues to provide strong value and access for students and families. He further observed that MTSU remains competitively priced among Tennessee's public institutions and highlighted the University's significant role in workforce development and economic growth throughout the Greater Nashville region, as reflected in its graduates. Trustee Jones then moved to approve the action items recommended by the Committee, and Trustee Boyd seconded the motion.

Discussion on the motion ensued. Trustee Mosby raised concerns about the proposed increase in the athletics fee, focusing on transparency, process, and adherence to prior commitments. He noted that the athletics fee increase was not clearly reflected in the Board materials and recalled previous concerns expressed by the Student Government Association (SGA) about the lack of student consultation regarding such increases. While acknowledging the need for tuition increases, he emphasized the importance of following established procedures and maintaining accountability.

Trustee Neely echoed these concerns, stressing the value of shared governance and the importance of student and faculty input. She noted that the Board materials did not clearly identify the increase in the athletics fee or provide sufficient information on athletics funding and its relationship to University policy.

Chairman Smith acknowledged the concerns raised and explained that the Board collectively, as every member serves on the finance and personnel committee, had the opportunity to address the athletics fee increase at the committee meeting before voting to include it in the overall funding increase. In observing the short notice of the approved increase range, he asked Vice President Harpool to consider a special meeting before next year's June Board meeting to allow

for a more thorough discussion of the issue, and he encouraged Trustees to participate in committee discussions.

Vice President Harpool advised that the materials are the same ones presented to the committee. Vice Chair Vanek then noted that the Board materials should be updated to accurately reflect the approved \$19 athletics fee increase. Trustee Granbery then asked whether the change should be reflected in the board documents as an amendment. Board Secretary Floyd clarified that the athletics fee increase will be reflected in the committee minutes and is included in the committee recommendations presented to the Board for approval, and that documenting this discussion and forthcoming action in the Board meeting minutes would provide an adequate record. Chairman Smith concluded by reiterating the Board's responsibility to review tuition and fees and emphasizing the need for improved communication and transparency in future budget and fee discussions.

Following the discussion, a roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the action items carried unanimously.

Policy 618 Use of Out-of-State Undergraduate Tuition and Fee Revenues – Action

Vice President Harpool provided a summary of the proposed policy presented to comply with 2026 Public Acts, Chapter 799. This policy outlines how the University will use out-of-state undergraduate tuition fee revenue to support our overall budgeting process while mitigating costs for in-state undergraduate students.

Motion

Trustee White motioned to approve this action item, and Trustee Baker seconded the motion.

As part of the discussion, President McPhee and Vice President Harpool explained that the requirement is expected to have minimal impact on MTSU because the vast majority (approximately 91%) of our students are Tennessee residents. Trustee Neely sought clarification regarding the scope of the law and confirmed that it applies only to revenues derived from out-

of-state undergraduate tuition. Board members also discussed the limited legislative guidance accompanying the new requirement.

Chairman Smith recalled prior Board discussions about reducing out-of-state tuition rates to attract additional students. He noted that analyses conducted by the University concluded that the enrollment increases necessary to offset the resulting revenue reductions would not be economically feasible. President McPhee further observed that peer institutions pursuing similar strategies had experienced significant financial challenges. The Board also discussed existing tuition incentives available to certain out-of-state students from neighboring states and agreed that a broader review of out-of-state tuition policies and recruitment strategies may be appropriate before future tuition discussions.

Following the discussion, a roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the action item carried unanimously.

Introduction of Student Trustee – Action

Chairman Smith expressed his appreciation for Student Trustee Michai Mosby, calling him a good role model for students over the past year. Trustee Mosby expressed his appreciation to the Chairman, President McPhee, and the Board for the opportunity to serve, noting that his experience on the Board provided valuable lessons in leadership and advocacy. He reflected on the importance of expressing differing viewpoints respectfully and encouraged the Board to remain attentive to the evolving landscape of higher education and the changing needs of students. Trustee Mosby concluded by sharing that he would continue his connection to MTSU through a full-time position on campus and expressed his pride in remaining part of the True Blue family.

Article 4.5 of the Board Bylaws states that the student representative's term will be one (1) year. President McPhee summarized the Student Trustee selection process, noting that it was managed by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Student Government Association (SGA). Applications were submitted to the SGA Office. The SGA Executive Board

reviewed the applications and selected applicants for interviews. After the interviews were conducted, the applications of the three (3) finalists were sent to the Office of the President. President McPhee personally interviewed the top applicants. Dr. McPhee personally interviewed the top candidates.

President McPhee recommended RJ Ware as the next Student Trustee. During Mr. Ware's time as an undergraduate at MTSU, he has been an exceptional leader amongst his peers, including serving as SGA President. Aside from being academically accomplished, he participated in numerous activities across campus. Mr. Ware graduated this past May with an undergraduate degree and is now pursuing his graduate studies.

Motion

Vice Chair Vanek motioned to approve the action item recommended by the President, and Trustee White seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the action item carried unanimously.

Student Trustee Ware expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve the University as a student trustee. He thanked President McPhee for his confidence in him, the Student Government Association Executive Board and its advisor, Dr. Danny Kelley, for their nomination, and outgoing Student Trustee Michai Mosby for his assistance during the transition. Trustee Ware stated that he was honored to assume the role and looked forward to representing the student perspective in the Board's work and decision-making.

Presidential Search Update - Action

Chairman Smith reported that, at its previous meeting, the Board authorized the Executive and Governance Committee to identify and select an executive search firm to assist with the presidential search process. He noted that eighty-two (82) firms were initially reviewed. Applying the Committee's criteria, including recent experience in placing a university president, reduced the pool to fifteen (15) firms, from which six (6) were selected for interviews.

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Vanek, and Trustee Boyd conducted in-person interviews with the six (6) finalist firms and subsequently narrowed the field to two (2) finalists for additional interviews. Vice Chair Vanek reported that the evaluation process also included comprehensive reference checks, with Committee members speaking directly with institutions that had recently utilized the firms for executive-level searches.

Chairman Smith further reported that, pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-7-154, the Board must establish the search process, a timeline, and a statement of qualifications for the position before initiating a presidential search. Accordingly, the Committee presented a proposed search process, timeline, and statement of qualifications for the Board's consideration. He noted that these materials remain subject to revision but are intended to enable the Board to proceed with selecting a search firm and commencing the search process.

Chairman Smith emphasized the Committee's commitment to conducting the search in accordance with all applicable legal requirements, established procedures, and Board protocols.

Motion

Chairman Smith motioned to approve the search process, timeline, and statement of qualifications, and Vice Chair Vanek seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the action item carried unanimously.

The President's Report

President McPhee thanked the Board for the opportunity to provide updates on key University activities and initiatives since the Board's previous meeting.

Recruitment, Enrollment, and Admissions

President McPhee reported that the University had admitted more than ten thousand two hundred (10,200) first-time freshmen and over two thousand one hundred (2,100) transfer students for the upcoming academic year. He noted that recruitment and yield efforts would continue throughout the summer and that seventeen (17) first-year orientation sessions were

scheduled to assist students with registration and transition to campus. University convocation for these students will be held on August 22, 2026, in the Murphy Center, followed by Fan Day at Floyd Stadium.

President McPhee also highlighted the dedication of faculty and staff involved in recruitment, admissions, and registration efforts, recognizing Dr. Laurie Witherow and her team for their leadership and service to prospective students and families.

Cyber Range

President McPhee announced that the University secured five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00) in state appropriations to support cyber range operations during its first five (5) years, along with an additional eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000.00) for initial infrastructure development. He reported that space within the Miller Education Center had been identified for the project and explained that the cyber range is intended to enhance student learning, recruitment, workforce development, and industry partnerships throughout Middle Tennessee.

National Recognition

President McPhee highlighted several recent national recognitions the University has received in support of the Board's strategic goal of enhancing MTSU's national profile. Since the previous Board meeting, MTSU was ranked No. 1 among Tennessee MBA programs by Research.com; No. 1 in Tennessee for animation for the third consecutive year by Animation Career Review; and No. 1 nationally for bachelor's degree programs in cybersecurity management by Programs.com. In addition, MTSU was ranked No. 6 nationally for online master's degree programs in library science and No. 9 nationally for online master's degree programs in training and development by OnlineMasters.com. The University's film and video program was also ranked No. 10 nationally by the Festival of Media Arts. President McPhee stated that these rankings reflect the quality of MTSU's academic programs and are a source of pride for the University community.

State Building Commission Requests

President McPhee and Vice President Drew Harpool presented to the State Building Commission a request for approval of the hotel and the Reeves Smith Jr. field turf installation. Both projects were unanimously approved to move forward. These approvals represent an important milestone in advancing our campus infrastructure and enhancing student and community engagement opportunities.

Quantum Initiative

President McPhee introduced Dr. Hanna Terletska, Associate Professor and Director of the QRISE Center, who delivered a presentation entitled “Quantum at MTSU: Building Tennessee’s Quantum Workforce and Innovation Ecosystem.”

Dr. Terletska explained that quantum technology represents the next major technological revolution, comparable to the transformative impact of the steam engine, electricity, and the internet. While quantum technologies remain in the early stages of development, she noted that they have the potential to fundamentally change computing, communications, cybersecurity, advanced manufacturing, and scientific discovery. She emphasized that today’s laboratory-based technologies could become foundational infrastructure in the future, creating significant economic and workforce opportunities.

Dr. Terletska described the international race to lead quantum innovation, noting that governments and private industry worldwide are investing billions of dollars in quantum research and development. She stated that quantum technologies could generate trillions of dollars in global economic value over the coming decade and that leadership in the field will have important implications for economic competitiveness, national security, and technological advancement.

Dr. Terletska reported that Tennessee has positioned itself as a national leader through the Tennessee Quantum Initiative (TQI), a collaborative effort involving higher education institutions, government agencies, national laboratories, and private industry. She noted that

MTSU has a unique opportunity to serve as the Middle Tennessee anchor for workforce development, research, innovation, and commercialization efforts associated with the initiative.

Dr. Terletska highlighted MTSU's recently executed memorandum of understanding with Middle Tennessee Electric (MTE), describing the partnership as a significant step toward expanding the University's quantum infrastructure and research capabilities. Through the partnership, MTSU will gain access to resources and infrastructure necessary to advance quantum research, enhance educational opportunities, and strengthen connections with industry partners. She explained that the long-term goal is to move quantum technologies from research laboratories into commercial applications while creating opportunities for students, faculty, and industry stakeholders.

She further stated that MTSU is working to establish a regional quantum innovation ecosystem that will support workforce development, attract investment, and expand research activity throughout Middle Tennessee. As part of that vision, the University aims to develop a Quantum Innovation Park in Middle Tennessee, bringing together researchers, students, entrepreneurs, industry partners, and emerging technology companies in a collaborative environment focused on quantum research, commercialization, and workforce training. Dr. Terletska noted that the initiative is designed to position the region as a hub for quantum innovation while producing the highly skilled workforce needed to support the industry's continued growth.

Government Relations Liaison Bill Ketron addressed the Board and emphasized the significance of quantum research and development to Tennessee's future economic competitiveness. He discussed the substantial investments being made by the State of Tennessee and private industry and remarked that quantum technology has the potential to be one of the most transformative developments of the coming decades. Mr. Ketron also highlighted Tennessee's growing leadership in the field and encouraged continued support for the University's efforts to expand its role in quantum education, research, workforce development, and innovation.

Board of Trustees Sunset Hearing

President McPhee advised that the Comptroller's office has confirmed MTSU's Board of Trustees sunset hearing before the Education, Health and General Welfare Joint Evaluation Committee of the Government Operations Committee for Wednesday, June 17, 2026. In advance of this Board meeting, President McPhee, Board Secretary Floyd, and Vice President Bales met with Chairman Jackson and legislative staff in preparation for the review and expressed optimism regarding the Board's continued authorization for another four (4) years.

Tennessee State University (TSU) Campus Visit

President McPhee concluded by reporting that President Tucker and approximately 100 Tennessee State University employees visited the MTSU campus on June 15, 2026, to learn about University operations and best practices. He described the visit as productive and noted both institutions' interest in continuing their collaborative relationship.

Executive Session

Chairman Smith transitioned the meeting to a non-public executive session to discuss confidential matters. At the conclusion of the non-public executive session, he reconvened the public meeting.

Amendment to the Agenda – Action

Board Secretary Floyd proposed amending the agenda to include the recommendation on seating at the Murphy Center under New Business.

Motion

Trustee White motioned to approve the action item, and Trustee Jones seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the action item carried unanimously. Trustee Wade was absent.

Recommendation on Murphy Center Seating – Action

Chairman Smith advised that the Lightning Zone Committee, which has no authority and no funding, has made a recommendation to the University regarding seating at Murphy Center. Trustee Boyd explained that the Committee reviewed three (3) scenarios and recommends moving forward with the option that provides for seven thousand (7,000) seats, including six (6) sky or box suites and bleachers behind six (6) sections. The total number of seating would be seven thousand (7,000), excluding the floor seating, which is probably an additional thousand (1,000) seats.

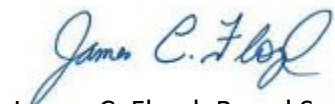
Motion

Trustee Boyd motioned to approve the action item, and Trustee Baker seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the action item carried unanimously. Trustee Wade was absent.

Adjournment

Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 4:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "James C. Floyd". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "J" and "F".

James C. Floyd, Board Secretary