

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, STUDENT LIFE, AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

The Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee met on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, in the Miller Education Center Meeting Room at Middle Tennessee State University.

Call to Order

Committee Chair Michael Wade called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Secretary James Floyd called the roll. The following Committee members were in attendance: J.B. Baker, Pete DeLay, John Floyd, Jimmy Granbery, Bill Jones, Kari Neely, Steve Smith, Christine Vanek, Michael Wade, Michai Mosby, and Keith Huber. Tom Boyd participated in the meeting electronically. Consistent with Tennessee Code Annotated § 8-44-108(c)(3), Trustee Boyd was asked whether he could hear clearly, and he responded affirmatively, confirming that no one else was present at his location. Chad White and Chris Massaro were absent. A quorum was declared.

Joe Bales, Vice President for University Advancement; Mark Byrnes, Provost; Yvette Clark, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer; Drew Harpool, Vice President for Business and Finance; Danny Kelley, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students; Andrew Oppmann, Vice President for Marketing and Communications; Brenda Burkhardt, Interim Chief Audit Executive; and Kim Edgar, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff, were also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes - Action

The first agenda item was approval of the minutes from the February 24, 2026, Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee meeting. Trustee Vanek moved to approve the minutes

from the February 24, 2026, meeting, and Trustee DeLay seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

Approval of Tenure and Promotion – Action

Provost Mark Byrnes presented 20 candidates for tenure and 43 candidates for promotion. The candidates submitted their applications last September and were thoroughly reviewed in multiple steps throughout the academic year. Compared to other Locally Governed Institutions, MTSU ranks in the middle in the percentage of tenured faculty among all faculty.

Trustee Smith moved to approve the candidates for tenure and promotion, and Trustee DeLay seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve 20 candidates for tenure and 43 candidates for promotion passed unanimously.

Approval of Policy Revision - Action

204 Tenure

Provost Byrnes reported that the General Assembly passed and the Governor recently signed House Bill 2194/Public Chapter Number 761, which requires each institution's governing board to adopt and implement new policies that distinguish between tenure decisions and disciplinary actions, ensure uniform misconduct procedures for all faculty, protect a faculty member's tenure status through due process, and comply with state and federal law. Revisions to Policy 204 state that the President or Provost will decide sanctions for faculty misconduct without any recommendation or vote by another faculty member at the University. The President is also the final arbiter in cases of unsatisfactory performance, with performance assessments provided by the chair, dean, and provost, as in the tenure-granting process.

Trustee Boyd suggested adding language regarding conduct that adversely affects the University's reputation, image, or goodwill. Chairman Smith asked that he put his recommendation in writing for the Board meeting. Provost Byrnes added that since the policy is out for campus comment, there may be additional revisions. In discussion, the Committee agreed to consider additional revisions at the June Board meeting.

Trustee Smith moved to approve revisions to Policy 204 Tenure, and Trustee Granbery seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve revisions to Policy 204 Tenure passed unanimously.

Trustee Boyd asked for an update on the Doctor of Business Administration (DBA). Provost Byrnes responded that he and the dean are discussing the financing of the degree.

Approval of Policy Revision - Action

541 Residential Life and Housing

Interim Vice President Danny Kelley reported that Policy 541 was revised to account for the demolition of Womack Lane housing, which eliminated the option of family housing. An average of 13 families have needed family housing over the past 10 years. This year, guest apartments were used by the nine families in need of housing. The national trend is moving away from family housing.

Trustee Baker moved to approve revisions to Policy 541 Residential Life and Housing, and Trustee DeLay seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve revisions to Policy 541 Residential Life and Housing passed unanimously.

SACSCOC Reaffirmation Update - Information

Vice Provost for Planning and Effectiveness Mary Hoffschwelle reported that the on-site reaffirmation review committee, after its March visit, recommended full approval of MTSU's reaffirmation with no findings or recommendations. The Commission will vote on final approval at its December meeting.

Athletics Report - Information

Deputy Athletic Director Lee De León presented recent accomplishments in the Department of Athletics. Highlights included: Fifty-five student-athletes graduated in May. Each of our 17 teams earned a multi-year Academic Progress Rate over 950. Men's Tennis won its seventh straight CUSA Championship. Two golfers qualified for the NCAA Golf Regionals.

Build Blue Phase II is now underway. The \$119M renovation of the Murphy Center will provide a new entrance with escalators, upgraded locker room and coaches' offices, and premium seating. Naming rights opportunities are still available. The \$16M Floyd Stadium renovation will provide additional chairbacks, field-level suites, and group party decks. Premium amenities are the national trend.

NIL fundraising activity continues. Jersey patches are available for corporate sponsors. Sapphire Circle (\$25,000/year) membership is up to 110 members.

Adjournment

Committee Chair Wade adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee