

**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 March 18, 2019, in Miller Education Center Training Room at Middle Tennessee State University.

**Call to Order and Opening Remarks**

Committee Chair Pam Wright called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. President McPhee gave welcoming remarks.

**Roll Call**

The following Committee members were in attendance: J.B. Baker, Pete DeLay, Joey Jacobs, Tony Johnston, Steve Smith, Pam Wright, Keith Huber, and Chris Massaro. Trustee Peyton Tracy was unable to attend the meeting. A quorum was declared present.

Trustee Darrell Freeman, Sr.; President Sidney A. McPhee; Alan Thomas, Vice President for Business and Finance; Mark Byrnes, University Provost; Joe Bales, Vice President for University Advancement; Andrew Oppmann, Vice President for Marketing and Communications; Bruce Petryshak, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer; Deb Sells, Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Enrollment and Academic Success; Brenda Burkhart, Chief Audit Executive; Heidi Zimmerman, University Counsel and Board Secretary; and, Kim Edgar, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff were also in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes**

The first agenda item was approval of the minutes from the November 13, 2018 Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee meeting. Trustee Smith moved to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2018 meeting and Trustee DeLay seconded the motion. A voice vote was

taken and the motion to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2018 meeting of the Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee carried.

### **Rule Promulgation and Related Policy Revision**

#### **Academic Misconduct**

Ms. Zimmerman stated MTSU is required by statute, T.C.A. § 49-8-203(a)(1)(D), to promulgate a rule regarding academic misconduct. There were also revisions to the accompanying university policy. Dr. Cheryl Torsney, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, introduced Michael Baily, Director of Academic Integrity. She gave the committee data on the number of academic misconduct cases reported at MTSU. The policy and rule detail the process for reporting academic misconduct; the rights of the student and faculty; and sanctions for academic misconduct. Cases of academic misconduct are adjudicated by a committee of faculty and students when the accused student does not accept responsibility. The policy revisions added provisions for graduate students who have been found responsible for academic misconduct.

A motion was made by Trustee Johnston to approve the rule promulgation (Chapter 0240-07-04) and related policy (312) revisions on Academic Misconduct. Trustee DeLay seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve the rule promulgation and related policy on Academic Misconduct carried unanimously.

#### **Residency Classification**

Ms. Zimmerman stated this is another area where MTSU has a policy and is required by statute, T.C.A. § 49-8-104, to promulgate a rule. Policy was updated and the rule came forth from the policy. President McPhee stated the importance of having a clear policy on residency that aligns with the requirements of state law. Trustee Smith asked Gen. Huber if he was satisfied with the changes to the classification of student veterans. Gen. Huber thanked Drs. Sells and Miller for their work on this revision and said he was very satisfied with the policy.

A motion was made by Trustee DeLay to approve the rule promulgation (Chapter 0240-07-02) and related policy (501) revisions on Residency Classification. Trustee Johnston seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve the rule promulgation and related policy on Residency Classification carried unanimously.

### **Academic Program Modifications**

**Elevate the Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Professional Counseling to Specialist in Education (Ed.S.) in Professional Counseling.** Provost Byrnes told the committee that this modification will not result in the program or its curriculum changing. He explained that the accrediting body for the Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Professional Counseling degree requires completion of 60 credit hours, so the degree will be elevated to Specialist in Education (Ed.S.) which is typically 60 hours. This is helpful to students because many school systems pay higher salaries for employees with higher degrees. There are approximately 50-60 students in this program.

**Change the Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Public Health to a Master of Public Health (M.P.H.).** Provost Byrnes told the committee that the curriculum is already in place for the M.P.H., and this degree designation is much more nationally recognized. It is to the benefit of our students. Trustee Johnston added that he holds an M.P.H. degree from Florida.

A motion was made by Trustee DeLay to approve both academic program modifications. Trustee Johnston seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken and the motion to approve both academic program modifications carried unanimously.

### **Academic Degrees Under Consideration**

**Master of Science (M.S.) in Speech-Language Pathology.** MTSU's bachelor's in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology has been one of MTSU's stronger undergraduate programs for years. Its graduates have to go elsewhere for the master's degree, which is required for licensure as a Speech-Language Pathologist. This degree will allow MTSU students to remain here.

**Master of Science (M.S.) in Biomedical Sciences.** This degree fills the need of students entering health professions who might not have the necessary coursework for admission to medical, dental, pharmacy, or other professional schools.

**Master of Public Health (M.P.H.).** If our Academic Program Modification to change the degree designation from M.S. to M.P.H. is not granted, a Letter of Notification and a New Academic Program Proposal will be submitted to THEC.

A motion was made by Trustee Smith to approve academic degrees under consideration. Trustee DeLay seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken and the motion to approve academic degrees under consideration carried.

### **Notification of Academic Actions**

Provost Byrnes explained that the degree programs offered at MTSU are constantly being reviewed to determine whether to continue to offer them. The following information reflects such a review.

**Consolidation of the M.S.T. in Mathematics and the M.S. in Mathematics.** These programs will be combined due to the small number of students enrolled in each program. Consolidating these programs will allow for more efficient delivery of the curriculum.

**Termination of Post-master's Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner.** A master of science in Nursing is currently offered. Nurses don't see a need from the workforce standpoint to have a post-master's certificate. The three remaining students will complete the program but no new students will be accepted.

Provost Byrnes told the committee new specialized certificates are being created to meet the demand from new tech companies coming to the area. Dr. McPhee added that he met with executives from Amazon who expressed interest in partnering with MTSU to develop certificates and educational programs for their 5,000 plus employees.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee