

**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 November 12, 2019, in the Miller Education Center Meeting Room at Middle Tennessee State University.

**Call to Order and Opening Remarks**

Committee Chair Pro Tem Pete DeLay called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and gave welcoming remarks.

**Roll Call**

The following Committee members were in attendance: J.B. Baker, Pete DeLay, Mary Martin, Steve Smith, Samantha Eisenberg, and Chris Massaro. A quorum was declared. Trustees Joey Jacobs and Pam Wright, and Committee member Keith Huber were unable to attend.

Also present was Trustee Tom Boyd. Mark Byrnes, University Provost, filled in for Dr. Sidney McPhee, President, who was unable to attend the meeting. Alan Thomas, Vice President for Business and Finance; Joe Bales, Vice President for University Advancement; Andrew Oppmann, Vice President for Marketing and Communications; Deb Sells, Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Enrollment and Academic Services; 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 - Action**

The first agenda item was approval of the minutes from the September 4, 2019 Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee meeting. Trustee Martin moved to approve the minutes from the September 4, 2019 meeting and Trustee Baker seconded the motion. A voice vote was

taken and the motion to approve the minutes from the September 4, 2019 meeting of the Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee carried.

#### **Approval of Tenure and Promotion - Action**

The next action item was approval of a candidate for tenure and promotion. Provost Byrnes told the Committee that although this recommendation was out of cycle, the candidate was reviewed at every level and is being recommended by Dr. McPhee for tenure and promotion.

A motion was made by Trustee Baker to approve the candidate for tenure and promotion. Trustee Martin seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion to approve the candidate for tenure and promotion carried unanimously.

#### **Approval of Policy 90 Athletics Integrity and Conduct of Athletics Staff - Action**

Gené Stephens told the Committee that this new policy was the result of a committee convened by President McPhee over Summer 2019. It addresses coaching integrity and coaching conduct. It provides information and procedures regarding ethical conduct in athletics. It allows the student-athlete to file a complaint or grievance with a compliance and risk manager who reports to the MTSU Office of Compliance and Enterprise Risk Management, thus providing an independent and objective review of the concern. The policy outlines disciplinary action that can be taken against an employee of the Athletics Department. It also addresses the concerns that parents voiced at a previous Board of Trustees meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Smith to approve Policy 90 Athletics Integrity and Conduct of Athletics Staff. Trustee DeLay seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion to approve Policy 90 Athletics Integrity and Conduct of Athletics Staff, carried unanimously.

#### **Approval of Rule and Policy Revisions - Action**

**Rule 0240-07-05 Student Conduct**

**Policy 540 Student Conduct**

Ms. Zimmerman told the Committee that this rule and policy revision have come to the Committee before and been approved, but there is one additional revision for consideration before proceeding with the rule promulgation process: to change “Attempts, Aiding and Abetting” to “Joint Responsibility.” Ms. Zimmerman briefly explained that rather than going through the proposed rulemaking process as had been initially anticipated, the rulemaking hearing process will be used instead. Upon approval by the Committee, a rulemaking hearing is proposed for the spring Board meeting.

A lengthy discussion of the disciplinary process ensued. Trustee Smith expressed several concerns, including the difference in the number of days’ notice of the hearing date. He noted that the student or student organization accused of a disciplinary violation receives notice at least four (4) business days in advance of the hearing, while the victim is advised at least five (5) business days in advance of the hearing. Additional concerns were discussed related to the range of offenses, criminal and civil processes, and institutional processes.

A motion was made by Trustee Smith to approve Rule 0240-07-05 and revisions to Policy 540 Student Conduct. The motion not seconded. Trustee Smith withdrew his motion.

In response to a question from Trustee Eisenberg, Ms. Zimmerman reiterated that the Committee and the Board have previously approved the rule and the policy revisions with the exception of the change to the noted section title. It is that single revision that the Committee is being asked to vote on.

A motion was made by Trustee Martin to approve Rule 0240-07-05 and the revision to Policy 540 Student Conduct. The motion not seconded. Trustee Martin changed her motion to not approve Rule 0240-07-05 and the revision to Policy 540 Student Conduct. Trustee Baker seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion not to approve Rule 0240-07-05 and the revision to Policy 540 Student Conduct carried.

### **Open Educational Resources Presentation - Information**

Vice Provost Cheryl Torsney introduced Ryan Korstange from University College and Suzanne Mangrum from Walker Library, who discussed Open Educational Resources (OER). OER are openly available text, media, and digital resources for teaching, learning, and research. The presentation included data on the need for OER, benefits to students (lower cost/no cost instructional materials, increased credit load/semester, improved retention), and next steps for implementing at MTSU. Korstange and Mangrum have applied for an MTSU Special Projects grant, which, if awarded, could leverage a successful OpenStax OER grant. The Committee enthusiastically urged MTSU to pursue adoption of OER.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee