

**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, June 2, 2020, by way of electronic teleconference.

**Call to Order**

Trustee Wright called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

**Opening Remarks**

Trustee Wright thanked President McPhee for his recent comments regarding protesters in Murfreesboro and on campus.

**Roll Call and Statement of Necessity**

Trustee Wright requested that Board Secretary Heidi Zimmerman call the roll. Ms. Zimmerman stated that because members of the Committee were participating in the meeting electronically, in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated Section 8-44-108(c)(3), there were two questions that needed to be answered by the Committee members for the record. First, could the trustee clearly hear Ms. Zimmerman and others participating on the call? Second, if other individuals were present in the room, they would need to be identified.

The following Committee members were in attendance by way of teleconference: J.B. Baker, Tom Boyd, Pete DeLay, Joey Jacobs, Mary Martin, Steve Smith, Pam Wright, Samantha Eisenberg, Keith Huber, and Chris Massaro. Each indicated they were able to clearly hear all others on the call, and there was no one else present in the room at their location.

Also present on the conference call were Trustees Darrell Freeman and Chris Karbowskiak. President Sidney A. McPhee; Joe Bales, Vice President for University Advancement; Mark

Byrnes, University Provost; 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 Services; Alan Thomas, Vice President for Business and Finance; 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 on the call.

Ms. Zimmerman stated that a quorum was not physically present, but that one would exist with inclusion of the Committee members participating electronically. In accordance with T.C.A. § 8-44-108(b)(2), in order to proceed without a physical quorum, the Committee was required to make a determination that necessity for the meeting existed. Ms. Zimmerman provided the following circumstances for the Committee's consideration to establish the necessity for holding the meeting:

1. The agenda items included matters the Committee must consider and vote on in order to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees. These matters include candidates for tenure and promotion, policy revisions, and a new academic degree program.
2. The Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday, June 16.
3. It was necessary for the Committee to meet in order to consider these matters prior to the Board's next meeting.
4. Due to concerns related to exposure to the coronavirus, it was determined that the Committee meeting should be held electronically and, thus, there was not a physical quorum without electronic participation of Committee members.

Trustee Wright requested a motion and second be made concerning the necessity for the meeting. Trustee DeLay made the motion, which was seconded by Trustee Martin. A roll call

vote was taken. The vote was 7 Ayes and no Nays; the motion carried that necessity to hold the meeting existed.

### **Approval of Minutes - Action**

The first agenda item was approval of the minutes from the March 17, 2020 Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee meeting. Trustee DeLay moved to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2020 meeting and Trustee Martin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2020 meeting of the Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee passed unanimously.

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

Provost Byrnes presented the list of twenty-four (24) tenure candidates and forty-nine (49) promotion candidates and reminded Trustees that tenure and promotion review is a lengthy process that begins in September when candidates turn in their documentation and includes a six-year probationary period.

Trustee Martin moved to approve tenure for twenty-four (24) candidates and promotion for forty-nine (49) candidates and Trustee Delay seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve tenure for twenty-four (24) candidates and promotion for forty-nine (49) candidates passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Policy Revisions – Action**

#### **204 Tenure**

#### **205 Promotion of Tenured and Tenurable Faculty**

The next action item was approval of revisions to Policies 204 Tenure and 205 Promotion of Tenured and Tenurable Faculty. After revising these policies for tenure and promotion as part of establishing the Board of Trustees in 2017, an annual policy review has focused on streamlining processes and clarifying language and procedures. Highlights include the addition of provisions for electronic submission and review of materials and the opportunity for faculty to write a rebuttal to address factual errors in letters of recommendation. The opportunity for

candidates to meet in person to discuss review processes and the data upon which decisions were made was deleted. The procedures for expedited tenure review and abandonment of tenure were revised.

A motion was made by Trustee Martin to approve the revisions to Policies 204 Tenure and 205 Promotion of Tenured and Tenurable Faculty. Trustee DeLay seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve the revisions to Policies 204 Tenure and 205 Promotion of Tenured and Tenurable Faculty carried unanimously.

### **Approval of New Academic Program - Action**

#### **Master of Science in Athletic Training**

The accrediting agency and board of certification for athletic trainers recently established the master's level as the professional degree for athletic training. Current faculty will revise the bachelor's level courses to be offered at the graduate level. The B.S. in Athletic Training will be terminated in 2027.

A motion was made by Trustee Baker to approve the Master of Science in Athletic Training. Trustee Smith seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve the Master of Science in Athletic Training carried unanimously.

### **Other Business**

Trustee Martin commended President McPhee and the COVID-19 Task Force for their tremendous work and detailed reports to ensure the safety of the campus.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee