

**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, November 12, 2024, in the Miller Education Center Meeting Room at Middle Tennessee State University.

Call to Order

Acting Committee Chair Michael Wade called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Secretary James Floyd called the roll. The following Committee members were in attendance: J.B. Baker, Tom Boyd, Pete DeLay, Bill Jones, Mary Martin, Steve Smith, Christine Vanek, Michael Wade, Shaylaine Roker, Keith Huber, and Chris Massaro. Pam Wright was 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; Khalilah Doss, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students; Andrew Oppmann, Vice President for Marketing and Communications; Leah Ladley, Chief Audit Executive; and James Floyd, University Counsel and Board Secretary, were also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes - Action

The first agenda item was approval of the minutes from the August 20, 2024, Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee meeting. Trustee Smith moved to approve the August 20, 2024 meeting minutes, and Trustee Boyd seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.

Approval of Tenure - Action

Provost Byrnes presented Mary Ann Jones, Chair of the Department of Collection Development and Management, for tenure and Lu Xiong, Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences, for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor.

Trustee DeLay moved to approve tenure for Mary Ann Jones and tenure and promotion to Associate Professor for Lu Xiong, and Trustee Jones seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of New Academic Programs - Action

Provost Byrnes presented three new master of science degree programs:

The M.S. in Biomedical Sciences will meet regional workforce needs in healthcare and help students going to dental or medical school.

The M.S. in Digital Media will be fully online and appeal to working media and public relations professionals who want to update their skill sets or facilitate career advancement.

The M.S. in Biomedical Sciences and M.S. in Digital Media are low-cost programs that utilize faculty and resources already in place.

The M.S. in Legal Studies will be offered in conjunction with the Nashville School of Law (NSL). Eight hours will be taught by NSL and transferred to MTSU. The degree will be marketed to working professionals who want to sharpen their understanding of the law but do not need to pursue a juris doctorate (JD) to achieve their career goals. This degree requires a few new courses and two new faculty who will teach courses outside of the master's program as well.

Trustee Smith moved to approve the new degrees, and Trustee Boyd seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Approval of New Policy - Action

Vice Provost for Planning and Effectiveness Mary Hoffschwelle presented Policy 51 Institutional Accreditation prepared in response to Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-7-185. The policy identifies the institutional accrediting bodies recognized by the United States Department of Education that can serve as MTSU's accreditor and the process for the University to change its institutional accreditor.

Trustee Boyd moved to approve the new policy, and Trustee Delay seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion to approve the new policy carried.

Performance Metrics - Information

Provost Byrnes presented the annual report on metrics, noting there are many sources of data available on the MTSU website in addition to the metrics presented here annually.

Athletics Report - Information

Athletics Director Chris Massaro presented Academic Progress Rates (APR) by team. The APR helps predict graduation success rates, and MTSU has been very successful. Adopted twenty years ago, teams earn points for eligibility and retention each semester.

He also gave an update on capital projects. Murphy Center sound system improvements are being implemented to improve the fan experience. The ribbon cutting for the Student-Athlete Performance Center will be in July. Chase Miller, a former walk-on basketball player, has pledged a large gift towards Build Blue and will be honored at a future game.

Adjournment

Acting Committee Chair Wade adjourned the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee