

**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 20, 2025, in the Miller Education Center Meeting Room at Middle Tennessee State University.

Call to Order

Committee Chair Pam Wright called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

Opening Remarks

President McPhee recognized Kari Neely, incoming Faculty Trustee, and Michael Federici, incoming Faculty Senate President. They will be formally introduced in September.

Roll Call

Associate General Counsel Jeff Farrar 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, Pam Wright, Shaylaine Roker, and Keith Huber. Chris Massaro was absent. A quorum was declared.

President Sidney A. McPhee; 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; Alan Thomas, Vice President for Business and Finance; Leah Ladley, 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 25, 2025, Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee meeting. Trustee DeLay moved to approve the minutes

from the February 25, 2025, meeting, and Trustee Vanek seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.

Approval of Tenure and Promotion – Action

Provost Mark Byrnes presented 28 candidates for tenure and 58 candidates for promotion. The candidates presented their applications last September and had been thoroughly vetted in multiple steps throughout the academic year.

Trustee DeLay moved to approve the candidates for tenure and promotion, and Trustee Smith seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion to approve 28 candidates for tenure and 58 candidates for promotion passed unanimously.

Approval of Modification to an Existing Academic Unit

College of Behavioral and Health Sciences – Action

Provost Mark Byrnes introduced Pete Grandjean, Dean of the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences, to describe the process and rationale for the reorganization. He stated realigning the degree programs will provide more visibility and competitiveness. President McPhee complimented the innovative approach and added he expects to see growth in the programs due to the reorganization.

Trustee DeLay moved to approve the modification to the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences, and Trustee Vanek seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion to approve the modification to the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences passed unanimously.

Approval of New Academic Program

M.S., Project Management – Action

Vice Provost Amy Aldridge introduced Richard Tarpey, assistant professor of Management, who led the development of the proposal. Dr. Aldridge then presented an overview of the degree proposal, including alignment with MTSU's 2035 Strategic Plan and the state master plan and

projected expenditures and revenue. Students who graduate from this interdisciplinary program will be prepared to seek certification as project management professionals, and we will seek recognition from the Project Management Institute.

Trustee Smith moved to approve the Master of Science in Project Management, and Trustee DeLay seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion to approve the Master of Science in Project Management passed unanimously.

Approval of New Policy - Action

323 Instructional and Assignment Use of Artificial Intelligence

Vice Provost Brian Hinote began by thanking Eric Detweiler, associate professor of English, for leading the faculty workgroup that developed the new policy. Each instructor will set and discuss guidelines for the use of artificial intelligence in their course. It is the student's responsibility to adhere to the guidelines. Faculty and staff may use artificial intelligence as long as the use complies with professional standards and existing policies.

Trustee Baker moved to approve Policy 323 Instructional and Assignment Use of Artificial Intelligence, and Trustee DeLay seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion to approve Policy 323 Instructional and Assignment Use of Artificial Intelligence passed unanimously.

Policy 407 Research Security - Information

Vice Provost David Butler reported that Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-7-188 requires institutions to establish a research security policy to comply with all legal requirements and promote a culture of compliance. Additionally, each institution's governing board must report on the institution's compliance. University Policy 407 Research Security was established; a website has been created to consolidate all research security into one place; and President McPhee will send a letter to the education committee chairs notifying them of MTSU's compliance.

Post Approval Monitoring Report – Information

Vice Provost Amy Aldridge reported on three academic programs being monitored by THEC's post approval monitoring. The Tourism and Hospitality Management bachelor's program has exceeded projections, while the Dance and Religious Studies bachelor's programs have fallen short of their enrollment goals. We are supporting recruitment and student success for these programs. We believe that the students in all three of the programs are getting a very good education at MTSU, as demonstrated in the assessment data alignment with strategic plans and measures of student satisfaction.

Athletics Report - Information

Deputy Athletic Director Lee De León presented updates on athletic giving, BRAA membership, unrestricted gifts (Champions Annual Fund), the Build Blue campaign, and major gift activity (Sapphire Circle).

The ribbon cutting for the Student Athlete Performance Center will be July 30 at 9:00 AM. A new sound system has been installed at Murphy Center, and new turf is being installed at Floyd Stadium. The Overall Academic Progress Rate is 984.

Adjournment

Committee Chair Wright adjourned the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee