

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES

The Middle Tennessee State University Board of Trustees met on December 13, 2022, in the Miller Education Center Meeting Room at Middle Tennessee State University.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chair Steve Smith called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Keith Huber led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of Veteran

Gen. Huber introduced student veteran Air Force Staff Sergeant Miranda Vekel who served five years as dental assistant and is also married to an Air Force Special Operations veteran. She is enrolled as a member of the inaugural class in MTSU's Physician Assistant Studies program. Vekel expressed her gratitude to Dr. Miller, General Huber, and all the Daniels Center staff who have moved mountains to help her and other veterans succeed.

Roll Call

Board Secretary James Floyd called the roll. The following trustees were in attendance: J.B. Baker, Tom Boyd, Andrew Carpenter, Rick Cottle, Pete DeLay, Chris Karbowskiak, and Stephen Smith. Trustee Pam Wright participated electronically. Per T.C.A. 8-44-108(c)(3), Trustee Wright was asked and responded in the affirmative that she could hear clearly so she could participate in the meeting and confirmed there was no one else in the room with her. A quorum was declared.

President Sidney A. McPhee; Mark Byrnes, University Provost; Joe Bales, Vice President for University Advancement; Yvette Clark, Interim 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; Andrew Oppmann, Vice President for Marketing and Communications; Diane Snodgrass Interim Chief Audit Executive; James Floyd, University Counsel and Board Secretary; and Kim Edgar, Executive Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff, were also in attendance.

Approval of September 13, 2022, Meeting Minutes – Action

Trustee DeLay made the motion to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2022, meeting, and Trustee Baker seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Committee Report: Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics

Trustee Rick Cottle reported that the Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee met on November 15, 2022. The committee approved the minutes from its August 16, 2022, meeting. The committee report contained one action item, approved by the Committee, and informational items for the Board’s consideration. The information items included a report on MTSU Online, most recent performance metrics, an enrollment report, and an Athletics update. Materials outlining this action were made available for review prior to the Board meeting and were contained in Board notebooks.

New Degrees: Master of Science in Occupational Innovation and Effectiveness and Master of Science in Legal Studies – Action

In accordance with University Policy 251, Approval of Academic Programs, Units, and Modifications, all academic actions that require review and approval by THEC must be approved by the Board of Trustees. Provost Byrnes presented two degrees for consideration: Master of Science in Occupational Innovation and Effectiveness and Master of Science in Legal Studies.

Motion

Trustee Cottle made the motion to approve the action item recommended by the Committee and Trustee Karbowski seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve the action item carried unanimously.

Committee Report: Audit and Compliance Committee

Committee Chair Pete DeLay reported that the Audit and Compliance Committee met on November 15, 2022. The committee approved the minutes from its August 16, 2022, meeting. There were no action items brought before the Committee. An information update advised that there were no internal audit reports or external reviews since the last committee meeting.

Committee Report: Finance and Personnel Committee

Chairman Smith reported that the Finance and Personnel Committee met on November 15, 2022. The Committee approved the minutes from its August 16, 2022, meeting. There was one action item and other informational items presented to the committee. Materials outlining these actions were made available for review prior to the Board meeting and were contained in Board notebooks.

2022-23 October Revised Budget – Action

Vice President Alan Thomas presented to the committee changes since the July (Original) Budget, which included adjustments to tuition and fee Revenue based on fall enrollment numbers; adjusted expenditure budgets to reflect fall enrollment information, re-budgeting of various student fee balances from the prior year, purchases in process at year end but not be completed until the current fiscal year, scholarships,; and marketing and branding commitments; and adjusted auxiliary and restricted budgets based on fall enrollment. The Committee unanimously approved the revised budget.

THEC 2023-24 Operating Recommendations – Information

THEC 2023-24 Capital Outlay/Maintenance Recommendations - Information

Motion

Trustee Cottle made the motion to approve the action item recommended by the Committee and Trustee Delay seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve the action item carried unanimously.

Appointment of Chair of Excellence and Expedited Tenure - Action

On behalf of Provost Byrnes, Mary Hoffschwelle presented a request for approval for appointment and expedited tenure of Dr. Ahad Nasab as Chairholder of the Robert E. and Georgiana West Russell Chair of Manufacturing Excellence as well as his expedited tenure pursuant to Policy 204 Tenure and the respective college and department policies. Dean Greg Van Patten, Provost Byrnes, and Dr. McPhee had recommended approval.

Motion

Trustee Baker made the motion to approve the appointment as Chair of Excellence and expedited tenure for Dr. Ahad Nasab and Trustee Karbowski seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve the action item carried unanimously.

Amendment to MTSU Facilities Master Plan - Action

Assistant Vice President for Campus Planning Bill Waits presented a request to amend the 2016 Campus Master Plan to facilitate future development of a hotel on either of two (2) sites in order to serve the MTSU community.

Motion

Chairman Smith made the motion to approve the amendment to MTSU's 2016 Campus Master Plan and Trustee Karbowski seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve the action item carried unanimously.

Report of Board Secretary

Board Secretary James Floyd advised that Policy 60 Appeals and Appearances before the Board was revised to incorporate the fourteen (14) days' notice required to address the Board set forth in the Board's Policy Requests to Address Board of Trustees.

Report of the President

Dr. McPhee thanked the Board for the opportunity to give updates on University activities since the last meeting.

Enrollment Activity and Projections

Dr. McPhee advised that the December 1 undergraduate application and admit numbers for the Fall 2023 semester reveal increases in applications for both freshmen, up 17.5%, and transfer students, up 17.5%. In addition, admissions have increased for both freshmen, up 6.2%, and transfers, up 30.4%. These numbers are reflective of the strong participation in this Fall's True Blue Tour and on-campus Preview Day events. Dr. McPhee thanked our admission and recruitment staff, faculty, deans, and other administrators who are responsible for our success. Our latest information from the College of Graduate Studies for Fall 2023 shows applications are up 5.9% over last year and admits are down 11.0%.

Legislative Meeting

Dr. McPhee shared that on Monday, December 5, the university hosted a breakfast for our local legislative delegation. Senators Dawn White and Shane Reeves, along with Representatives Charlie Baum, Tim Rudd, Pat Marsh, Mike Sparks, and Robert Stevens were present.

Dr. McPhee expressed appreciation to Chairman Smith and Trustee Baker for attending. At the breakfast, Dr. McPhee thanked the delegation for their past support of the university and shared our priorities for the 2023 legislative session which include: support for THEC's request for Higher Education operating budget (requesting \$150 million in new funding); funding for salary increases and market adjustments; supplemental funding for the Applied Engineering

capital project; full funding of capital maintenance; recurring Meharry funding; and funds to support Carnegie Research/Classification movement toward R1 designation.

MTSU Tennessee Teach Back Initiative

Dr. McPhee provided an update on the Tennessee Teach Back Initiative (TTBI) that we are working on with Mrs. Tracy Frist, educator, writer, and wife of former Majority Leader Bill Frist. TTBI is closely aligned with our College of Education's mission to increase the recruitment and retention of diverse teacher candidates into our teacher preparation programs while providing direct and supportive pathways into the profession. We have established the inaugural nine (9) member TTBI Advisory Council with Mrs. Frist serving as chair. The Council is charged with the following: to develop attainable metrics for the outcomes of the initiative; provide advice and guidance for the TTBI; provide insight and thought partnership based on professional and personal stories; generate ideas and solutions to financially support the TTBI; and serve as TTBI ambassadors. The first meeting of the advisory council is scheduled for January 24, 2023.

Murphy Center 50th Anniversary Celebration

Dr. McPhee reminded everyone that the Charles M. Murphy Center turned fifty (50) years the previous Sunday, December 11. On December 11, 1972, we formally opened the Glass House. Over those five decades, Murphy Center has been the heart of MTSU and hosted a who's who of entertainers — Elton John, the Who, the Temptations, Stevie Wonder, Johnny Cash, Tina Turner, Garth Brooks, and many more. He noted that in recent years, we have made considerable strategic investments to extend its useful life. Also, just this past November, we welcomed Wynonna Judd and many other stars to Murphy Center for a spectacular final concert of The Judd's that will be shown on national television in March of next year. He invited everyone to join us for the 50th anniversary celebration when the Blue Raiders take on in-state foe Chattanooga at 6 p.m. tomorrow evening, December 15.

Commencement

Dr. McPhee shared that two (2) commencement ceremonies were held this past Saturday, December 10. We conferred 353 graduate degrees and 1,345 undergraduate degrees for a total of 1,698 degrees. We had two outstanding speakers: Mr. Doug Kreulen, president and chief executive officer of the Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority and, Mr. Ronald Roberts, Managing Partner of Finn Partners, MTSU alumnus, and current President of the MTSU Foundation Board.

Airport

Dr. McPhee advised the Board that we have a meeting scheduled tomorrow with a group of new officials in the Shelbyville Airport Commission and City Council.

Adjournment

Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James C. Floyd", is written over a printed name.

James C. Floyd
Board Secretary