

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**EXECUTIVE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

The Executive and Governance Committee met on Tuesday, November 14, 2023.

**Call to Order and Opening Remarks**

Committee Chair Steve Smith welcomed those participating and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Roll Call**

Chairman Smith asked Board Secretary James Floyd to call the roll. The following Committee members were in attendance: Tom Boyd, Chris Karbowski Vanek, and Steve Smith. A quorum was declared.

**Approval of Minutes**

The first agenda item was approval of the minutes of the August 14, 2023, meeting of the Executive and Governance Committee. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Trustee Boyd and seconded by Trustee Vanek. A voice vote was taken and the motion to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2023, meeting of the Executive and Governance Committee passed unanimously.

**Introduction of Trustee Michael Wade**

Chairman Smith opened the meeting. He introduced new Trustee, Mr. Michael Wade, who is an MTSU graduate. Mr. Wade is an executive with State Farm and is married and lives in Saint Louis, Missouri. Mr. Wade thanked the Board and stated he was looking forward to working with everyone.

## **Discussion of 2023 Self-Evaluation Results, Action for Improvement**

Chairman Smith opened a discussion on the Board's self-evaluation survey results for the Committee's assessment. The MTSU accreditation body, SACSCOC, requires a governing board to define and regularly evaluate its responsibilities and expectations. In addition, the Board of Trustees' Policy on Committees requires the Executive and Governance Committee to review and discuss the results of the self-evaluations, including Board comments or questions. In compliance, members of the Board of Trustees received access to an online, anonymous evaluation survey in October. Chairman Smith advised that the survey results were shared with all members in advance of this meeting.

Chairman Smith shared his opinion that the survey responses were overall good to excellent noting that there are areas for improvement and opportunities for growth. Trustee Vanek indicated that while the comments speak for themselves, she underscored the need for continued Board training. In particular, she expressed a desire for the President to advise the Board on what he is seeing in the broader educational community as challenges and opportunities. She also highlighted the camaraderie amongst the Board members. Trustee Boyd noted that there were a number of good annual objectives for the Board to consider but they should be pared down to allow for appropriate Board focus and engagement. He suggested the development of a survey to rank the proposed objectives presented in the survey so the Board can focus on three (3) or four (4) of them. President McPhee agreed that the survey would be a great idea.

As the discussion progressed, Chairman Smith suggested that the University identify three (3) or four (4) media/publication lists that it currently is not on and identify ways to pursue inclusion on those lists in the future. Chairman Smith and President McPhee also shared that the University made a presentation to the Murfreesboro City Council that lasted for almost two (2) hours due to follow up questions/conversations on the University's impact on the city and broader Middle Tennessee community. A number of new council members shared their

appreciation for this information. Chairman Smith suggested that the University pursue four (4) to five (5) road shows per year to share its accomplishments.

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Executive and Governance Committee