

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

The Finance and Personnel Committee met on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, in the Miller Education Center Meeting Room at Middle Tennessee State University.

Call to Order

Committee Chair Pete DeLay called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. and welcomed trustees, MTSU staff, and guests.

Roll Call

University Counsel James Floyd called the roll. The following Committee members were in attendance: J.B. Baker, John Floyd, Jimmy Granbery, Bill Jones, Kari Neely, Vice Chair Chris Karbowski Vanek, Michael Wade, Chad White, and Michai Mosby. Committee Chair Pete DeLay participated electronically and, in accordance with T.C.A. §8-44-108(c)(3), confirmed that he could hear those present and that no one else was in the room with him. A quorum was declared.

Also present were Joe Bales, Vice President for University Advancement; Mark Byrnes, University Provost; Andrew Oppmann, Vice President for Marketing and Communications; Drew Harpool, Interim Vice President for Business and Finance; Yvette Clark, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer; Danny Kelley, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students; Leah Ladley, Chief Audit Executive; James Floyd, University Counsel and Board Secretary; President Sidney A. McPhee, and Kim Edgar, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff.

Approval of Minutes – Action

The first agenda item was the approval of the minutes from the May 20, 2025, Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. Trustee Jones moved to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2025, meeting, and Trustee Wade seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2025, Finance and Personnel Committee meeting passed unanimously.

Naming of an Academic Unit – Action

The next item on the agenda, presented by Dr. McPhee, was the recommendation to approve naming the College of Media and Entertainment in recognition of a significant donor gift. Vice Chair Vanek moved to approve the naming, and Trustee Jones seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Capital Projects Status Update – Information

Bill Waits, Assistant Vice President for Campus Planning, provided an update on selected capital projects:

- **Smith Student-Athlete Performance Center** – Substantially complete; dedication ceremony held July 30, 2025.
- **Applied Engineering Building** – Substantially complete; ribbon cutting held August 6, 2025.
- **Renovations to Rutledge Hall and Kirksey Old Main** – Comprehensive renovation projects; estimated completion summer 2026.
- **Aerospace Campus in Shelbyville** – Phase I will support the Professional Pilot concentration; construction delayed due to wetlands permitting.
- **Murphy Center Renovation/Addition** – Major project estimated at \$190 million; designer selected.
- **Hotel Development (P3)** – Lease negotiations with developer's lender ongoing; complex approval process anticipated.

- **P3 Residence Hall (approx. 550 beds)** – State Building Commission approved the Predevelopment Agreement; Land Lease Agreement expected in November. Site demolition of Womack Lane housing is scheduled to begin in September 2025.
- **Parking Garage (550 spaces)** – Design underway; estimated cost approximately \$35,000–40,000 per space.

Discussion followed regarding costs, rezoning, and state approval processes.

Capital Disclosures – Action

The next item on the agenda, also presented by Bill Waits, was a recommendation for the approval of the disclosure of renovations to Beasley Hall student housing, estimated at \$7.7 million. Work will occur in two phases (summer 2026 and summer 2027) and include restroom renovations, window replacements, and plumbing upgrades. Trustee Baker moved to approve the disclosure of renovations to Beasley Hall, and Trustee Wade seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the disclosure of renovations to Beasley Hall passed unanimously.

Classified Employee Grievance Report – Information

Laura Jent, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, presented the Classified Employee Grievance Annual Report as the next agenda item. She informed the Committee that TCA §49-8-117 requires each State University Board to provide an annual report to the education committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives summarizing the number of grievances filed by classified individuals who have been demoted, suspended, or terminated. She reported that one classified employee grievance was filed in 2025; the case remains pending an appeal.

P3 Resolution – Action

Drew Harpool, Interim Vice President for Business and Finance, presented the next agenda item, which was a request to approve a resolution and memorandum of understanding for tax-exempt financing for the P3 residence hall project. Trustee Baker moved to approve the resolution and

memorandum of understanding, and Trustee White seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the resolution and memorandum of understanding passed unanimously.

Foundation Update – Information

The final item on the agenda was an update on philanthropic giving, presented by Vice President for University Advancement Joe Bales. Highlights included:

- FY25 total gifts, pledges, and commitments, approximately \$21–22 million, consistent with recent years.
- Increase in nondeductible gifts, particularly in engineering/mechatronics.
- True Blue Give campaign exceeded \$1 million, with 1,600 donors.
- Alumni donor participation remains below 8% nationally.
- MTSU Foundation investments continue to yield ~7.4% long-term returns.
- Staffing challenges and implementation of a new CRM were noted.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Committee Chair DeLay adjourned the meeting at 12:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Finance and Personnel Committee