

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

The Finance and Personnel Committee met on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 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 10:00 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, Tom Boyd, Committee Chair Pete DeLay, Bill Jones, Kari Neely, Steve Smith, Christine K. Vanek, Michael Wade, Chad White, and Michai Mosby. A quorum was declared.

Also present were President Sidney A. McPhee, Kim Edgar, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff; Amy Aldridge, Vice Provost for Academic Programs; Andrew Oppmann, Vice President for Marketing and Communications; Yvette Clark, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer; Danny Kelley, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students; Drew Harpool, Interim Vice President for Business and Finance; Brenda Burkhart, Interim Chief Audit Executive; Chris Massaro, Athletic Director; and Keith Huber, Senior Advisor for Veterans and Leadership Initiatives.

Approval of Minutes – Action

The first agenda item was the approval of the minutes from the November 11, 2025, Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. Trustee White moved to approve the minutes from the November 11, 2025, meeting, and Trustee Baker seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken,

and the motion to approve the minutes from the November 11, 2025, Finance and Personnel Committee meeting passed unanimously.

Governor's Budget and Legislative Budget Hearings Update – Information

Drew Harpool, Interim Vice President for Business and Finance, provided the Committee with an update on the Governor's proposed 2026–27 State Budget and its potential impact on the University.

Mr. Harpool noted that Governor Bill Lee presented the proposed budget during his State of the State Address on February 2, 2026. Analysis prepared by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) outlining the budget's impact on higher education institutions was included in the Committee materials for review.

Mr. Harpool explained that the majority of state appropriations are distributed through the outcomes-based funding formula administered by THEC. While THEC recommended additional funding to support the formula, the Governor's proposed budget includes partial funding of that request. As a result, MTSU is projected to receive approximately \$3.4 million in new recurring revenue through a combination of formula funding and salary support. He noted that, consistent with prior years, the State funds approximately 55% of the cost of salary increases for higher education institutions.

Further, Mr. Harpool reported that the University is expected to receive approximately \$1.67 million in additional recurring funding to offset increases in health insurance costs. The proposed budget also includes \$4.0 million in capital maintenance funding for MTSU; however, no capital outlay projects were included for the University.

Mr. Harpool also provided an overview of the legislative budget hearing process, noting that the University appeared before the Senate Education Committee on February 18, 2026, and the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee on February 23, 2026. The University is awaiting

further guidance from the General Assembly regarding additional committee action prior to final approval of the State budget.

Discussion included the tuition-setting process, with THEC initially establishing a 0–2.5% guiding range for tuition increases. Due to limited state funding, there is potential for institutions to consider increases up to 6.5%, with a final determination expected in May. The timing of this decision may present planning challenges for the University and its students.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Committee Chair DeLay adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Finance and Personnel Committee