

**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, March 17, 2020, by way of electronic teleconference.

Call to Order

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

Roll Call and Statement of Necessity

President McPhee requested that Board Secretary Heidi Zimmerman call the roll. Ms. Zimmerman stated that because members of the Committee were participating in the meeting electronically, in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated Section 8-44-108(c)(3), there were two questions that needed to be answered by the Committee members for the record. First, could the trustee clearly hear others participating on the call in order to participate in the meeting. Second, were other individuals present in the room; if so, they would need to be identified.

The following Committee members were in attendance by way of teleconference: J.B. Baker, Tom Boyd, Pete DeLay, Joey Jacobs, Mary Martin, Steve Smith, Pam Wright, Samantha Eisenberg, and Chris Massaro. Committee member Keith Huber was unable to attend. Each indicated they were able to clearly hear all others on the call. Trustees Smith, DeLay, Baker and Boyd responded that they were in the same room together. Trustees Jacobs, Martin, Wright, and Eisenberg indicated that there was no one else present in the room at their location.

Also present on the conference call was Trustee Darrell Freeman. President Sidney A. McPhee; Joe Bales, Vice President for University Advancement; Mark Byrnes, University Provost; Alan Thomas, Vice President for Business and Finance; Andrew Oppmann, Vice President for

Marketing and Communications; Bruce Petryshak, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer; Deb Sells, Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Enrollment and Academic Services; Brenda Burkhart, Chief Audit Executive; Heidi Zimmerman, University Counsel and Board Secretary; and, Kim Edgar, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff were also on the call.

Ms. Zimmerman stated that a quorum was not physically present, but that one would exist with inclusion of the Committee members participating electronically. In accordance with T.C.A. § 8-44-108(b)(2), in order to proceed without a physical quorum, the Committee was required to make a determination that necessity for the meeting existed. Ms. Zimmerman provided the following circumstances for the Committee's consideration to establish the necessity for holding the meeting:

1. The agenda items included matters the Committee must consider and vote on in order to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees. These recommendations included matters regarding policy revisions, admissions requirements, undergraduate degree requirements, new academic degree programs, and informational matters that must be shared with Committee members.
2. The Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday, March 31.
3. It was necessary for the Committee to meet in order to consider these matters prior to the Board's next meeting.
4. Due to concerns related to exposure to the coronavirus, it was determined that the Committee meeting should be held electronically and, thus, there was not a physical quorum without electronic participation of Committee members.

Trustee Wright requested a motion and second be made concerning the necessity for the meeting. Trustee Delay made the motion, which was seconded by Trustee Boyd. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 7 Ayes and no Nays; the motion establishing the necessity for the meeting carried.

Opening Remarks

Trustee Wright thanked everyone for attending and expressed gratitude to the administration for their work during the crisis.

President McPhee gave an update on how the university is handling the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis. MTSU is in constant contact with THEC, other LGIs, the University of Tennessee, state public health officials, and the Governor's Office, as well as our own Crisis Management Team. We have taken several contingency options communicated via website and by email to students, faculty, staff, and Trustees. President McPhee also acknowledged the work done by Student Health Services and Information Technology staff.

Vice President Sells discussed interactions with parents via the MTSU Parents Facebook page.

Chris Massaro added that Spring sports have been cancelled; eligibility is being discussed at the NCAA; and the Department of Athletics' focus is on student athletes' mental health as they adjust.

Approval of Minutes - Action

The first agenda item was approval of the minutes from the November 12, 2019 Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee meeting. Trustee DeLay moved to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2019 meeting and Trustee Martin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2019 meeting of the Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee passed unanimously.

Approval of Policy Revision – Action

301 Admissions

The next action item was approval of a revision to Policy 301 Admissions. The most substantive changes were the addition of a definition of “audit” and the requirement for students who register to audit courses to provide evidence of a high school diploma. Other revisions were made for clarity and reflect the requirements of TCA § 49-7-113.

A motion was made by Trustee DeLay to approve the revision to Policy 301 Admissions. Trustee Martin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve the revision to Policy 301 Admissions carried unanimously.

Approval of Revision to Admissions Requirements - Action

Provost Byrnes told the Committee that this revision opens dual enrollment to qualified high school students by allowing applicants who have not taken any of the accepted tests for admission but who have met the GPA requirement to be considered on the basis of a Pre-ACT, Pre-SAT, or university placement test. It also allows high school students to be reviewed holistically for admission by the Undergraduate Admissions office in the event they do not meet guaranteed admissions standards. These revisions put us in accord with the way we admit our regular students.

A motion was made by Trustee Baker to approve revisions to Admissions Requirements. Trustee DeLay seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve revisions to Admissions Requirements carried unanimously.

Approval of Revision to Undergraduate Degree Requirements - Action

Provost Byrnes told the Committee that these revisions are to account for changes in our student population. Students are coming to MTSU with more credit hours than in the past. We are scaling back the number of upper-division hours required at MTSU, so as not to disadvantage transfer students.

A motion was made by Trustee Smith to approve the revisions to undergraduate degree requirements. The motion was seconded by Trustee DeLay. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve the revisions to undergraduate degree requirements carried.

Approval of New Academic Program - Action

Bachelor of Arts in Music

Adding a new degree designation of Bachelor of Arts in Music to the existing Bachelor of Music allows additional opportunities for our music students at no extra cost to the University. The Bachelor of Arts degree requires students to take a foreign language rather than other more prescriptive electives in the Bachelor of Music.

A motion was made by Trustee Martin to approve the new academic program. Trustee DeLay seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve the Bachelor of Arts in Music program carried unanimously.

Approval of New Academic Program - Action

Bachelor of Science in Horse Science

Horse Science is one of our signature programs. Establishing a stand-alone B.S. in Horse Science degree from the existing B.S. in Animal Science (concentration in Horse Science) allows the degree conferred to be more specifically named, which is what the students prefer.

A motion was made by Trustee Smith to approve the Bachelor of Science in Horse Science. Trustee DeLay seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve the Bachelor of Science in Horse Science carried unanimously.

Notification of Academic Action – Information

Winter Session

Beginning in December 2020, a winter session will be offered between fall and spring semester. This session will allow students another opportunity to progress. Initially, only online and study abroad courses will be offered during this session. Provost Byrnes explained that this is a bit of an experiment but many schools in the state do this.

Annual Report of Academic Program Actions - Information

A summary of the curricular changes was presented and included additions, consolidations, terminations, name changes and credit hour changes.

Performance Metrics Dashboard - Information

A list of metrics that will be included on the revised Performance Metrics Dashboard on the Board of Trustees website was shared with the Committee. Minor modifications were suggested and will be taken under consideration.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee