

Middle Tennessee State University Strategic Plan

Leadership Committee

October 24, 2023

11:30 a.m.

Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Jeff Gibson, Layne Bryant, Mary Hoffschwelle, Danielle Rochelle, Racha El Kadiri, Lisa Green, Trey Martindale, Jennifer Vannatta-Hall, Sam Zaza

Committee Members Absent: Robyn Ridgley, Joe Whitefield

Updates

Chair Gibson reported that he presented an overview of strategic plan development to the faculty senate, dean's cabinet, and chairs council and asked attendees to encourage participation in the process.

Invitations to Pillar committee members were sent last week, and all but three invitees have accepted. Chair Gibson reached out to three new potential members for declined spots and hopes to have rosters of faculty and staff finalized by the end of the week. Dr. Hoffschwelle and Chair Gibson are still working on recruiting student and community members for each Pillar committee.

Mission Review Survey Results Discussion

Chair Gibson and Dr. Hoffschwelle thanked Angela Harris-Huell, IEPR Research Analyst, and Haylie Lloyd, Strategic Plan graduate assistant, for their work developing the Mission Review Survey results analysis. We received a strong response from alumni, faculty, and students, who did not indicate that a significant change to the current mission statement is needed. Next, IEPR will disaggregate results by respondent type to look for themes in the word frequency.

Chair Gibson pointed out that one-quarter of respondents thought the words 'diverse,' 'innovative,' and 'excellence' should be included in the mission statement. Pillar chairs and co-chairs noted that stakeholders answering the survey did not think the current statement clearly identifies who MTSU serves, nor does it adequately explain how the institution engages with others. Members noticed that 'students' was one of the most cited words, indicating the revised statement should be student-centered.

The Mission Review Subcommittee of the Planning Committee met on October 23 to review the report and discuss potential changes to the institution's current mission statement. Members will work together to create a draft revised mission statement by the end of the fall semester. Once final revisions are made, the proposed statement will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval in Spring 2024.

Next Steps

The entire Strategic Plan Development Leadership Team and the Pillar Committees will meet in November. Chair Gibson offered Friday, November 10 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom as a tentative date, with plans to record the meeting and breakout sessions for members who cannot attend.

Members discussed a potential conflict given that the Leadership Development Institute (LDI) will be meeting the same afternoon, and four members of the Strategic Plan team are participating in the LDI this year. Pillar chairs and co-chairs also noted a preference for meeting in person to build community before future Pillar committee activities. Chair Gibson proposed moving the meeting to 9:00 a.m. in person on November 10, which was affirmed by the group.

Chair Gibson shared the proposed agenda for the November meeting, including a charge to the members, an overview of the Strategic Plan, and an explanation of member roles. Half of the meeting will be dedicated to Pillar Committee breakout sessions, in which groups will discuss available resources and identify stakeholders from whom we need input to inform strategy. Committee members requested a one-page handout that explained the overall Strategic Planning process and the roles and expectations of members. Chair Gibson offered to develop this resource, which will be shared at the November 10 meeting. Co-chair Bryant will also add Pillar Committee members in the Microsoft Teams space in advance of the meeting.

Chair Gibson shared plans to hold a one-day Strategic Plan Leadership Team retreat in May, either on Friday, May 3, or Monday, May 5. The group discussed potential conflicts and agreed that May 6 would be the best date. More information about the retreat will come later in the year.

The committee also determined Tuesday, November 28, at noon will be the next and final Leadership Team meeting of the fall semester.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.