

Middle Tennessee State University Strategic Plan

Leadership Committee

March 25, 2024

9:30 a.m.

Cope Administration Building Room 207

Meeting Minutes

Roll Call

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

Committee Members Absent: Joe Whitefield

Pillar Updates

Innovation Pillar:

Dr. Green shared that the committee participated in a SWOT activity where members shared feedback, including former innovation strategies that were unsuccessful. They also expressed skepticism that the planning process will be meaningful, successfully implemented, and evaluated. Chair Gibson affirmed that the final plan would include an implementation plan, oversight of which will belong to the university planning committee.

Academic Quality Pillar:

The committee met on March 13 to discuss the results of the SWOT survey and listening sessions. Members identified the emerging themes that could be linked to Academic Quality. Dr. Vannatta-Hall recommended pillars share their current definitions of the pillar categories to ensure members are aligned in their understanding.

Student Success Pillar:

Dr. Ridgely and Ms. Rochelle met with Dr. Sluder and the advising managers to learn more about their work. Advisors shared their perspective that MTSU should have a more cohesive approach to student success and a focus on wrapping students in holistic support. Pillar committee members met on March 16 to review their current definition of student success and the emerging themes from the SWOT survey and listening sessions. The committee plans to meet again before the May 6, 2024 retreat.

Engagement Pillar:

Dr. Zaza reported the pillar committee will meet on April 14 to bring members up to speed about planning progress and to prepare for the May 6, 2024 retreat. The engagement database is under development, and directors have been invited to add information.

Mission Review and QEP Update

Dr. Hoffschwelle shared that Chair Gibson had received productive feedback from trustees at their March 2024 meeting. She also reported that the mission, vision, purpose, and community standards/values statements have all been revised and approved. Dr. Hoffschwelle thanked chairs and co-chairs for their work, especially as it will inform the university's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

Review of Draft Strategic Plan Survey Results

Ms. Lloyd updated the committee on the continuing analysis of the SWOT survey results. Emerging themes were identified based on common comments from respondents. Chair Gibson explained that the raw survey data will not be shared widely; however, a redacted version will be available to the leadership team.

Update on the Next Round of Listening Sessions

Chair Gibson will continue to update the list of potential sessions while waiting to hear from alum relations and the development office. He shared the draft of the questions for the next round of listening sessions and asked pillar chairs and co-chairs if they had pillar-specific questions that they would like asked at the sessions. Chairs and co-chairs discussed the benefits of broad and pillar-specific questions to ensure the committee is prepared if pillar definitions need to be refined.

Chair Gibson asked members to share any feedback or recommended changes to the questions. Dr. Zaza asked that we add 'engagement' to the communication question after a community member gave feedback that they had trouble contacting people at MTSU. Dr. Vannatta-Hall suggested customer service as a corollary for engagement. Dr. Martindale offered the term Concierge as someone who knows who to contact and how to direct them. Dr. El Kadiri asked if we could ask chairs for feedback about improving academic quality, including initiatives they have implemented that helped increase academic quality and unsuccessful ones. Chair Gibson will revise questions for the March 25 meeting with the Vice Provosts and further revise, if needed.

Dr. Green reminded the committee that directors of programs that don't have departments function like department chairs but aren't included in chair meetings. Chairs and co-chairs agreed to hold a listening session for program directors of interdisciplinary programs and center directors.

Other Business

Dr. Vannatta-Hall shared that the LTITC re-envisioning will be complete at the end of April; therefore, the report may also be ready before the retreat. Dr. El Kadiri asked about the role of leadership team members in the listening sessions. Chair Gibson noted committee members would only be expected to listen to the participants' discussion. Chairs and co-chairs asked what the work committee's work looks like moving into the summer. Chair Gibson will share a draft schedule of meetings for the Leadership Committee to help members plan.

Chair Gibson will also share a draft agenda for the May 6 retreat in the Student Union Building. The event will begin with a full committee meeting, followed by pillar breakout sessions. All members will reconvene at the end of the session to share with the entire group.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.