

**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, February 27, 2024, in the Miller Education Center Meeting Room at Middle Tennessee State University.

Call to Order

Committee Chair Pam Wright called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Secretary James Floyd called the roll. The following Committee members were in attendance: J.B. Baker, Tom Boyd, Bill Jones, Mary Martin, Steve Smith, Christine Vanek, Michael Wade, Pam Wright, Molly Mihm, Keith Huber, and Chris Massaro. Trustee Pete DeLay participated in the meeting electronically. Per T.C.A. 8-44-108(c)(3), Trustee DeLay was asked and responded in the affirmative that he could hear clearly and confirmed there was no one else in the room with him. A quorum was declared.

President Sidney A. McPhee; Joe Bales, Vice President for University Advancement; Mark Byrnes, Provost; Andrew Oppmann, Vice President for Marketing and Communications; Yvette Clark, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer; Sarah Sudak, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students; Alan Thomas, Vice President for Business and Finance; Leah Ladley, Chief Audit Executive; James Floyd, University Counsel and Board Secretary; and Kim Edgar, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff, were also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes - Action

The first agenda item was approval of the minutes from the November 14, 2023, Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee meeting. Trustee Vanek moved to approve the

minutes from the November 14, 2023, meeting, and Trustee Wade seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.

Approval of Policy Revision and Related Rule Amendment – Action

Policy 312 Academic Misconduct

Rule 0240-07-04 Academic Misconduct

Provost Byrnes reported that revisions to Policy 312 Academic Misconduct were submitted at the last Committee meeting, but approval was postponed due to concerns by Chairman Smith and Vice Chair Vanek. After further review, adjustments were made to allow reasonable time for faculty and student preparation for an institutional hearing.

Original revisions included verbiage to clarify that the improper use of artificial intelligence (AI) is a type of academic misconduct. Sanctions for graduate students were modified to allow the program to remove a student from the program in addition to sanctions from the academic misconduct committee.

Trustee Vanek thanked Provost Byrnes for looking into their concerns and asked for clarification about when the faculty member assigns the final grade and when the student may appeal the grade. Vice Provost Brian Hinote told the committee that the faculty member assigns the grade after the misconduct determination.

Trustee Jones moved to approve the policy and rule revisions, and Trustee Martin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the revisions passed unanimously.

Post-Approval Monitoring Report – Information

Provost Byrnes presented the annual report noting that it was later than usual because THEC changed the process for reporting productivity for recently approved programs. MTSU had four programs in the report: Africana Studies, Dance, Fermentation Science, and Religious Studies. After Provost's Office staff met with each program's coordinator, department chair, and dean

to discuss ways to improve productivity, they determined the major in Africana Studies was not sustainable. We will proceed with Dance, Fermentation Science, and Religious Studies and terminate the B.A. and B.S. in Africana Studies. The undergraduate minor and general education courses in Africana Studies will remain.

Annual Report of Academic Program Actions and Approvals of Bureaus, Centers, and Institutes – Information

Provost Byrnes presented curriculum changes and new centers and institutes established during 2023.

Athletics Report - Information

Chris Massaro reported that new football coach Derek Mason has made great connections with the team and community.

Women's basketball clinched Conference USA early. The conference championship will be closer to home in Huntsville, AL.

The tennis facility ribbon cutting was held February 1. The facility was the first project funded by the Build Blue Campaign.

The Build Blue Campaign continues. We have significant asks that we are awaiting answers. We have moved into the Murphy Center phase.

New football season ticket holders are trending well.

President's Remarks

President McPhee shared that an MTSU alumna was chosen to be a 2024 Gates-Cambridge Scholar, a prestigious honor for socially committed students, and only 26 were selected.

Adjournment

Committee Chair Wright adjourned the meeting at 9:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee