

**MINUTES
OF THE
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

June 5, 2017

Call to Order

The Middle Tennessee State University Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, June 5, 2017. Chairman Stephen Smith called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. (CDT) and requested retired Lt. Gen. Keith Huber to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Board Secretary Heidi Zimmerman called the roll. Present were: W. Andrew "Andy" Adams, J.B. Baker, Pete DeLay, Darrell Freeman, Sr., Joey Jacobs, Tony Johnston, Stephen Smith, Lindsey Weaver and Pamela Wright. A quorum was declared. Trustee Chris Karbowskiak was unable to attend.

Opening Remarks

Chairman Smith welcomed all those present, stating that a great deal of work has been done since the prior Board meeting. He stated that he met with various administrators and faculty on campus during that time in addition to weekly meetings with the President. He then asked Dr. Sidney A. McPhee, President, to provide opening remarks. Dr. McPhee also welcomed those attending the meeting to the MTSU campus and recognized several individuals in the audience including Rep. Bryan Terry from the 48th District, and former Rep. John Hood.

Approval of Minutes

The first agenda item was the approval of the minutes from the April 10, 2017, Board meeting. Copies of the minutes were provided to all Board members prior to the meeting.

Trustee DeLay made the motion to approve the minutes; Trustee Freeman seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2017 Board meeting carried by unanimous voice vote. A copy of these minutes is attached as Appendix 1.

Adoption of Board Committee Minutes and Approval of Committee Actions

Academic Affairs, Student Life and Athletics Committee. Committee Chair Pam Wright gave the report from the May 15, 2017 regular session meeting of the Academic Affairs, Student Life and Athletics Committee at which items approved by the Committee, as stated in the meeting minutes, included university policies, faculty candidates for tenure, faculty candidates for promotion and, a new degree program (B.S. in Interactive Media) as contained in the Committee minutes. The minutes and materials are found in Appendix 2. Trustee Wright moved for approval; the motion was seconded by Trustee Freeman. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Audit and Compliance Committee. In the absence of Committee Chair Chris Karbowskiak, Trustee Adams gave the report of the Audit and Compliance Committee which met in regular session on May 17, 2017. As provided in the meeting minutes, the Committee approved the Audit Charter for the Office of Audit and Consulting Services; the 2018 Audit Plan; and, university policies. The minutes and materials are found in Appendix 3. Trustee Adams moved for approval; Trustee DeLay provided the second. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Finance and Personnel Committee. The Finance and Personnel Committee met in regular session on three occasions: April 24, May 9, and May 22, 2017. Trustee Jacobs gave the report indicating items approved by the Committee, as stated in the minutes of the meetings, which include university policies, the estimated budget for 2016-17, proposed budget for 2017-18, a 3.5 % increase in in-state maintenance fees and out-of-state tuition for undergraduate and graduate courses for 2017-18, mandatory and non-mandatory fees for 2017-18, housing rates for 2017-18, renewal of Dr. Sam Ingram's President Emeritus contract for 2017-18, a salary increase for the Chief Audit Executive, revision in the current compensation plan, and a

3% across-the-board salary increase with a \$1,000 minimum payment for all full-time and part-time regular employees effective July 1, 2017. The minutes and materials are found in Appendix 4. Trustee Jacobs moved for approval; Trustee Wright seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

President's Report

Chairman Smith called on Dr. McPhee to give his President's Report. Dr. McPhee began his report by reading a Welcome Statement adopted unanimously by the Faculty Senate. The Statement is included as Appendix 5. Dr. McPhee then recognized outgoing Faculty Senate president, Dr. Mary Martin, and incoming Faculty Senate president, Dr. Joey Gray, both of whom were in attendance.

Dr. McPhee updated the Board on fall enrollment at MTSU, noting that excellent progress is being made in attracting more high ability students for the freshman class entering in Fall 2017. Guaranteed scholarships are offered to freshman with an ACT score of 25 and a GPA of 3.5; and, to transfer students with a transfer GPA of 3.0 and completion of between 45 to 105 transfer hours. The numbers for both freshmen and transfers show increases in scholarships offered and scholarships accepted as compared to this time last year. This presents the potential for these freshmen and transfers to be the best prepared students ever admitted to MTSU. Additionally, the percentages are up for both fall 2017 applications and admits. Dr. McPhee recognized Dr. Deb Sells, Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, and the university recruiters for their outstanding work; and, the deans and faculty for their ongoing outreach efforts to prospective students. Dr. McPhee reminded the trustees that the True Blue Tours will be making six (6) recruiting stops this year, beginning in the next couple months.

Dr. McPhee next addressed the recent increase in violent crimes and gun-related incidents at apartment complexes near campus. University leadership, along with City of Murfreesboro officials and representatives from the MTSU and Murfreesboro police departments, have been meeting and have developed a strategy to address the situation. Dr.

McPhee stressed that these incidents are not occurring on campus and are not random in nature. Rather, they are connected to illicit drug activities engaged in by individuals who are not currently enrolled students. He stated that the MTSU campus is relatively safe compared to comparable institutions, and that the latest crime statistics for on-campus incidents from the TBI show a decrease between 2015 and 2016 in several criminal offense categories. Dr. McPhee indicated that efforts to make the campus safe have been ongoing, including installation of interior and exterior surveillance cameras throughout campus. By fall 2017, there will be a total of 591 such cameras, all connected to one system, allowing for one location to provide video access to any area on campus. Additional actions include installation of new emergency call boxes and lighting, the hiring of more police officers and an increased police presence on campus, and a public awareness campaign on student and employee safety. Finally, Dr. McPhee responded to assertions made on social media that MTSU has lowered admissions standards to achieve growth, thus enrolling individuals who may be prone to violence. To the contrary, he stressed that admissions standards were raised in 2004 and 2008 resulting in one of the highest standards among public universities in the state. Consequently, the GPA and ACT scores of incoming freshmen have increased over the years.

Dr. McPhee congratulated Electronic Media Communication Production students who were awarded the Outstanding Live Game Production Award at the 2017 College Sports and Media Awards in Atlanta. This marks the second time the national award has been won by our students.

Dr. McPhee then asked Dr. Rick Sluder, Vice Provost for Student Success and Dean of the University College, to make a presentation on the Quest for Student Success, put in place in 2013 to increase retention and graduation rates. Dr. Sluder provided details about integrating predictive analytics into student advising, course redesign, learner support initiatives, and establishing performance metrics and a communication plan for their dissemination. These efforts have been successful in increasing these rates, and the Quest for Student Success has served as a national model for retention and graduation. Chairman Smith remarked on the institution's commitment to helping its students. A discussion about the Scholar's Academy then took place, with Dr. Sluder reiterating how much growth the program has experienced. An

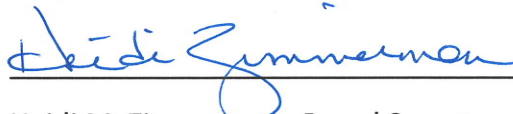
investment in the Academy of \$200,000 is seeing great returns in a retention rate higher than the general population. Each student attending the program pays \$45 to participate. Trustee Freeman inquired about the ratio of advisor to students, currently 1 to 260, asking if hiring additional advisors would further help increase retention and graduation rates. Dr. Sluder responded that he believes the ratio is where it needs to be. The graduation rates already reflect the impact of having added additional advisors. Trustee Freeman also complimented Dr. Sluder and his staff on the work being done to assist at-risk students access higher education. Dr. Sluder's presentation is included as Appendix 6.

Lastly, Dr. McPhee invited the trustees to experience the Great Tennessee Solar Eclipse on August 21 on campus.

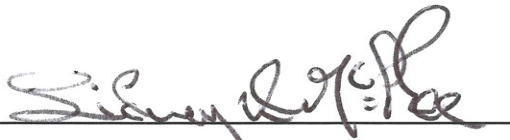
Adjournment of the Meeting

No further business was brought before the Board and Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m. CDT.

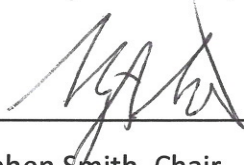
Respectfully submitted,



Heidi M. Zimmerman, Board Secretary



Dr. Sidney A. McPhee, President



Stephen Smith, Chair