

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES

The Middle Tennessee State University Board of Trustees met on September 13, 2022, in the Miller Education Center Meeting Room at Middle Tennessee State University.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chair Steve Smith called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Keith Huber led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of Veteran

Gen. Huber acknowledged the incredible veteran population that exists in the faculty and administration. As an example, he introduced former Captain, Dr. Anne Anderson who currently serves as the Weatherford Chair of Finance in the Department of Economics and Finance.

Dr. Anderson is a West Point graduate who was commissioned as one of the few female officers in the Engineering Corp. She faithfully served in the Army for 12 years and thereafter received her MBA from the University of Tulsa and her PhD in finance from the University of Arizona.

Dr. Anderson noted that she joined the MTSU faculty in 2018 and that the Daniels Center was one of the reasons she came here. She has observed that the time, energy, and support that the Daniels Center gives our military affiliated students cannot be valued from a monetary perspective but provides a great return on investment.

Resolution

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Dr. McPhee, Trustee Pam Wright shared a tribute to the late Darrell S. Freeman, Sr. Trustee Wright expressed that Darrell was a man of many talents and passions, with a vast array of accomplishments and achievements, honoring his perseverance and his humanity.

Darrell was born on December 23, 1964, in Chattanooga, TN, the youngest child of Howard and Jimmie Louse Freeman. His parents instilled in their children the importance of helping others and the value of an education, life lessons that would shape Darrell from an early age into a successful executive and entrepreneur. As a first-generation student, Darrell valued his education and those that provided it. As an undergraduate at MTSU, he met a professor, Dr. Richard "Dick" Redditt, who recognized his untapped potential and challenged him to do better. When Darrell responded to Dr. Redditt's strict and demanding encouragement, his academic success soon followed. He used the lessons he had received from Dr. Redditt to earn two degrees from Middle Tennessee State University, a BS in Industrial Technology and a Master's degree in Industrial Technology with an emphasis on computers.

Following graduation, Darrell started his career with Stingray Computers. However, he saw greater opportunity, and his entrepreneurial yearnings began to develop. Starting with only \$2,000 of his own money and maxing out his wife, Gloria's, credit cards, he launched his own business. He began Advanced Computer Services, which he later renamed Zycron, Inc., an information technology company that eventually grew to over 300 employees. Darrell's own experience proved that even against the odds, no matter your starting point, everyone has the ability to dream big, work hard, and exceed even those dreams. While much of Darrell's success came from his own drive and dedication, he was a strong believer in the strength and the power of organizations. Generous with his time and talents, he was quick to give back to those who shared his beliefs. He was the second African American chair of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce and served an unprecedented two terms. A true public servant, over a thirty-year public career, he was a board member of many prestigious organizations and companies such as Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee, Centennial Medical Center, the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, and the Federal Reserve Advisory Board. He was most recently inducted into the Nashville Entrepreneurial Center's Hall of Fame and recognized as the Tennessee Tribune's Man of the Year.

Darrell's passion and love for his alma mater was unquestioned. He provided scholarships and support for students, many of whom, like him, came from first generation families and underrepresented populations. The pinnacle of his service to his alma mater came when Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam asked him to serve on the institution's inaugural Board of Trustees. A dynamic and passionate advocate for students, Darrell served two-terms as Vice Chairman of this Board. He made sure to empower by giving back to local schools and community organizations. He wanted students to see that that despite one's circumstance or environment you could achieve. One of his greatest passions was for education, as he would say "Education solves every problem except traffic."

Roll Call

Board Secretary James Floyd called the roll. The following trustees were in attendance: J.B. Baker, Tom Boyd, Andrew Carpenter, Rick Cottle, Pete DeLay, Joey Jacobs, Chris Karbowskiak, Stephen Smith, and Pam Wright. A quorum was declared.

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

Approval of June 14, 2022, Meeting Minutes – Action

The first agenda item was approval of the minutes from the June 14, 2022 Board Meeting. Trustee Delay made the motion to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2022, meeting, and Trustee Baker seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Rulemaking Hearing – Action

A Rulemaking Hearing was called to order by Chairman Smith at 1:12 p.m. on Sept. 13, 2022, to consider one rule. The hearing was conducted in manner set by the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, T.C.A. § 4-5-204. The meeting was video recorded as a record for the hearing. The purpose of the hearing is to afford all interested persons an opportunity to present facts, views, or arguments relative to the rule. Notice of the hearing on the prescribed form was submitted for publication to the Tennessee Secretary of State's office; emailed to all MTSU students, faculty, and staff; posted on the Board of Trustees webpage; and provided to the Associated Press, Murfreesboro and Nashville area newspapers, radio, television stations and digital publication, newspapers in adjacent counties, and MTSU student media. Anyone interested in making comments on the rules were instructed to sign-in on the provided forms. Copies of the rules were made available.

Chairman Smith noted there were no interested parties present to speak on any of the four rules being presented. Board Secretary Floyd reported that there was one written comment received from Denise Seyl. Her comment did not relate to the proposed rule amendment, but instead focused on current rule section regarding lost or stolen parking permits.

Rule 0240-07-03 Traffic, Parking and Safety Enforcement - James Floyd, University Counsel and Secretary to the Board, provided a rule amendment summary. A motion to approve the amendment to Rule 0240-07-03 Traffic, Parking, and Safety Enforcement as presented was made by Trustee Karbowiak and seconded by Trustee Wright. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously. The hearing on Rule 0240-07-0 Traffic, Parking, and Safety Enforcement concluded.

Rulemaking Hearing adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Committee Report: Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics

Committee Chair Pam Wright reported that the Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics

Committee met on August 16, 2022. The Committee approved the minutes from the May 24, 2022, meeting. The Committee report contained one action item, which was unanimously approved for the Board's consideration. Several information items were also presented. Materials outlining this action were made available for review prior to the Board meeting and were contained in the Board notebooks.

Expedited Tenure – Action

The University may find it necessary to expedite tenure review in order to recruit high-quality faculty for administrative positions. Departmental input regarding tenure for an administrator is necessary since tenure is awarded in a specific department per Policy 204 Tenure.

Provost Mark Byrnes reported that Professor Nancy Stone has been reviewed for tenure by her department chair, department and college committees, and college dean according to Policy 204 Tenure and the respective college and department policies. The President and University Provost recommended that tenure be granted effective September 14, 2022, to this individual. The Committee unanimously approved that the recommended expedited tenure be granted.

Motion

Trustee Boyd made the motion to approve the action item recommended by the Committee and Trustee Delay seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion to approve the action item carried unanimously.

Committee Report: Audit and Compliance Committee

Committee Chair Pete DeLay reported that the Audit and Compliance Committee met on August 16, 2022. The Committee approved the minutes from its May 24, 2022, meeting. The Committee report contained two (2) action items, unanimously approved by the Committee, to be considered and voted on by the Board. Several information items were also presented. Materials outlining these actions were made available for review prior to the Board meeting and were contained in the Board notebooks.

Annual Report for Audit and Consulting Services – Action

TCA 49-14-102, the MTSU Board of Trustees Bylaws, and Policy on Board Committees require that an annual comprehensive report on the internal audit function be submitted for the Committee's review. The Annual Report for Audit and Consulting Services was submitted and reviewed. In addition, Policy 70 Internal Audit requires approval of the audit plan by the Audit and Compliance Committee. Diane Snodgrass, Interim Chief Audit Executive presented the Internal Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2022. The Committee unanimously approved the annual plan as presented.

Risk Assessment Reporting – Action

T.C.A. § 9-18-104 of the Financial Integrity Act requires institutions of higher education prepare and provide a management assessment of risk to the State of Tennessee's Commissioner of Finance and Administration and to the Comptroller of the Treasury by December 31 annually. For 2022, the Division of Student Affairs, University Advancement, and Marketing and Communications performed and provided, risk assessment reporting.

In addition, a risk assessment report was completed detailing university-wide risk and control activities. The risk assessment documents are designated as confidential and are discussed in the non-public executive session of the Committee. Drew Harpool, Assistant Vice President Office of Compliance and Enterprise Risk Management, presented the risk assessment reports to the Committee for approval prior to the reports' submission to the State, as required by law.

Motion

Trustee Jacobs made the motion to approve the action items recommended by the Committee and Trustee Karbowski seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion to approve the action items carried unanimously.

Committee Report: Finance and Personnel Committee

Trustee Jacobs reported that the Finance and Personnel Committee met on August 16, 2022. The Committee approved the minutes from its May 24, 2022, meeting. The Committee report contained two (2) action items, unanimously approved by the Committee, to be considered and voted on by the Board. Information items were also presented. Materials outlining these actions were made available for review prior to the Board meeting and were contained in the Board notebooks.

Policy Revisions and Related Rule Amendment – Action

- (1) Revision to Policy 160 Naming of Building and Facilities
- (2) Revision to Policy 100 Use of Campus Property and Facilities Scheduling
- (3) Revision to Policy 775 Traffic, Parking, and Safety Enforcement and amendment to coordinating Middle Tennessee State University Rule 0240-07-03 Traffic, Parking, and Safety Enforcement

Revision to FY 23-24 Capital Outlay – Action

Revision of the FY 23-24 Capital Outlay submission to request an additional \$20 million for the Applied Engineering project due to significant inflation in construction costs.

Motion

Trustee Delay made the motion to approve the action items recommended by the Committee and Trustee Boyd seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion to approve the action items carried unanimously.

The meeting paused for approximately fourteen (14) minutes to resolve a livestream technical issue and resumed with the Board Secretary's report.

Board Secretary Report

Board Secretary Floyd reported that a technical revision was made to Policy 90 Athletics Integrity and Conduct of Athletics Staff to correct an office reference.

Report of the President

Dr. McPhee thanked the Board for the opportunity to give updates on activities since the last meeting.

Enrollment

The Fall 2022 census is complete and we will further examine and analyze our enrollment details in the next couple of weeks. At present, total enrollment stands at 20,686 students. For this past recruitment cycle, Fall 2022 semester, we received a record-setting 12,276 freshmen applications and admitted a record-setting 7,844 freshmen students. This represents an increase of 26% increase in the number of new freshmen admitted. The total number of freshmen who are enrolled this fall is 2,779, an increase of 1.5% compared to the Fall 2021. The new students total at all levels stands at 6,223 students for fall 2022, which is an increase of about 2% over the total number of new students who joined MTSU last year. Our dual enrollment program is another bright spot in our efforts, with an increase of 36% in the number of high school students enrolled in MTSU classes, bringing us back to our more typical pre-pandemic numbers in this category. However, as anticipated, we did lose new transfer student enrollments, which are down this year by a bit more than 8%. Last year, total number of MTSU student enrolled who had transferred at some point in their student career stood at 57.56%; this year, that has dropped slightly to 56.03%. MTSU's student body diversity remains strong and is consistent with last year. Approximately 31.5% of the total student body reported as either African American, Hispanic, or Asian. Dr. McPhee also shared that graduate student enrollment tends to move in sync with the nation's unemployment rates. MTSU's graduate enrollments peaked in the first two years of the pandemic, 2020 and 2021. However, as unemployment rates in the nation have dropped, both current and prospective students are electing to pursue employment instead of education which is impacting all higher

education. Consequently, our graduate enrollments have dropped this year, after two years of significant growth. Our total overall enrollment shows a decrease of approximately 3%. The new recruitment cycle for Fall 2023 has already begun, and several new initiatives are in the works. For example, Dr. McPhee will host a luncheon for all the middle Tennessee high school and community college advisors tomorrow. In addition, we have already held the local Rutherford County True Blue Tour.

SACSCOC

Dr. McPhee next publicly shared the results of Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) review of MTSU's Fifth-Year Interim Report. After reviewing the University's compliance with twenty-two selected standards of the Principles of Accreditation and the Impact Report on our Quality Enhancement Plan, MT Engage, the Committee on Fifth-Year Interim Reports issued no findings for additional reporting. He congratulated Provost Mark Byrnes and his Fifth-Year Interim Report team, which included Vice Provost Mary Hoffschwelle among other faculty and staff for this successful outcome. This summer there were forty (40) university reports that were reviewed by SACSCOC and only two (2) universities received a "no recommendations or deficiency" outcome and MTSU was one of the two. MTSU will next submit a full accreditation compliance report to SACSCOC in 2026.

MTSU Aerospace / Shelbyville Airport Project

The Shelbyville City Council approved the City's purchase of thirty-two (32) acres located between the airport and U.S. Route 231. A portion of this acquisition will be the new home for MTSU's Aerospace department. The university is currently working with the Shelbyville Airport Authority on a tentative sketch for its operations that will assist in the development of lease agreements with both the Shelbyville Airport and City of Shelbyville.

Partnerships

Dr. McPhee shared exciting news about new partnerships. In late August, MTSU forged a partnership with the Metro Nashville Police Department to encourage its officers and

employees to enroll in our new Public Safety concentration in our Bachelor of Integrated Studies degree program. With the strong support of Metro Police Chief John C. Drake and Deputy Chief Dwayne Greene, we created a special three-day enrollment period for over 2,000 Metro employees to start taking classes in the Fall semester. MTSU, with the approval of our police chief, sent all MNPD employees a video message and a detailed email explaining the attributes and advantages of the program. We have received very positive responses. Similar efforts are underway with the Rutherford County Sheriff's Department and the Town of Smyrna Police Department.

Rankings

MTSU continues to earn recognitions through national rankings for the excellent academic programs that we offer. The U.S. News & World Report 2022-2023 Best Colleges rankings were recently published. Middle Tennessee State University earned rankings in four categories including: Best Undergraduate Nursing, Best Undergraduate Business, top recognition in Social Mobility - National Universities, and Best Undergraduate Engineering Program at universities without a doctorate in engineering.

Conclusion

In closing, Dr. McPhee reminded everyone that the Outdoor Tennis Complex Groundbreaking will be this Thursday at 10 a.m. It will be held at the current Buck Bouldin Tennis Courts and parking will be available in the Greenland parking lot. He invited the Board to come join in the festivities.

Requests to Address the Board

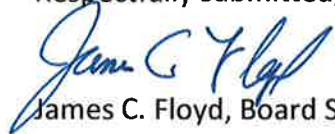
Chairman Smith asked Board Secretary Floyd to open the meeting up for any public comments. Board Secretary Floyd noted that Braxton Coleman made a timely request to speak before the Board. He advised Mr. Coleman he had the opportunity to address the Board for 5 minutes.

Braxton Coleman, a Senior at MTSU, shared remarks regarding the passing of Darrell S. Freeman Sr. and made a call to serve underrepresented MTSU students as Mr. Freeman did through his vision and message.

Adjournment

Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


James C. Floyd, Board Secretary