

Middle Tennessee State University  
Admissions and Standards Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, 27 March 2018  
Walker Library, Room 475

**Members present:** Ellen Donovan, Michael Linton Sharon Parente, Chris Quarto, Sean Salter, Holly Spooner

**Ex-Officio members present:**  
Kimberly Douglass for David Butler  
Laurie Witherow

**Guest:**  
Marva Lucas

**Members absent:** Elizabeth McBride, Henrique Momm, Raholanda White, Joshua Windam

**Old Business**

[Informational and request for suggestions]

Laurie Witherow: On-going procedural changes regarding irregular ACT scores.

- Current policy states that the student must submit a valid ACT score.
- Repeated scores that show a 6-point gap are automatically investigated
- The automated process begun in 2017 identified more students with a 6-point gap and requests for verification by ACT threaten to delay enrollment and registration decisions
- Multiple entities can request an investigation of suspicious point gaps: ACT, the lottery scholarship administration, NCAA
- In-house procedural changes in development: Ask if an intervening score exists that was not sent to MTSU; ask if student completed a prep course; investigate student's GPA to confirm that the higher score was indicative. Multiple reviewers must agree. If they disagree, the decision is referred to Witherow and a committee

Requesting feedback from committee about rescinding admission when ACT scores are found invalid. The committee recommends:

- Attorney advice needed: there is a suspicion of fraud (student or testing agency)
- Admissions should seek to understand MTSU's legal status for rescinding admission
- Admissions needs to have an establish protocol for notifying the student
- The committee agrees that current in-house procedures are acceptable

Witherow will return to the next meeting with requests for feedback on feelings about rescinding admission and what, if anything, the committee suggests about decisions at other points of the admission process.

### **New Business**

[Deliberative]

Minutes of the 22 September 2017 meeting were approved with the emendation of the spelling of Salter's name. Minutes will be forwarded to Vicki Sargent for publication on the Student Affairs website

### **Reading Placement Policy Proposal**

Marva Lucas reviewed the background of this proposal: reading requirement has been waived for students transferring credits who would otherwise be required for a prescribed reading course.

Based on the list of Gen Ed courses which require READ 1000 as a prerequisite, the new policy will allow the transfer of listed course prefixes to waive the requirement.

Discussion:

- The committee was uncomfortable with the proposal to waive the requirement based solely on the transfer of any single course with the listed prefixes
- The committee suggested that the waiver be based on multiple factors, for example:
  - ACT subscore as the determining factor;
  - In-house testing those whose scores are not sufficient
  - Combination of X number of credits with the ACT score
  - Combination of number of credit hours and gpa
- Motion was tabled. Motion by Michael Linton; seconded by Sean Salter. The committee recommended that Lucas return with more information as to the number of students this decision affects and suggestions for other means of determining if the student has gained the necessary skill to justify the waiving of the requirement.

Next meeting: May 1, 2018 at 4:00 in Walker Library 475

Meeting was adjourned at 4:50.