

Middle Tennessee State University
Admissions and Standards Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 22, 2017
Keathley University Center, Room 210

Members present:

Ellen Donovan, Elizabeth McBride (student), Sharon Parente, Sean Salter, Holly Spooner, Raholanda White, Joshua Windam (student)

Ex-Officio members present:

Laurie Witherow, Teresa Thomas

Guest: Deb Sells

Members absent:

Michael Linton, Henrique Momm, Chris Quarto

New Business:

The Board of Trustees has inquired if potential students are required to report a felony conviction on their admissions application and if such a record is a factor in their acceptance or rejection. University attorney, Heidi Zimmerman and Deb Sells are planning to discuss this issue with the trustees at their November meeting.

MTSU presently does not ask students this question. ETSU, as well as some private universities, does ask applicants about felony status. The state of Louisiana has a new law that prevents asking about felony status. The state of Tennessee restricts what can be asked on employment applications. There is a national “Ban the Box” movement.

The Admissions and Standards Committee can provide input to the Board concerning whether we should ask this question. If the Board decides to proceed with this change, legal counsel will guide the process. The Faculty Senate has also discussed this issue.

Laurie Witherow:

Proposal – Admissions standards are guaranteed. Scores upon which an admissions offer are based are sometimes questioned. A six or more point jump in scores from one test attempt to another flags the test result. Resolution by the ACT as it investigates takes from two weeks to six months. Ninety percent of these scores are thrown out. Last year more were approved.

How should the Admissions Office deal with a questioned score? This delay can affect scholarship offers. The Admissions Office has never rescinded admissions due to this situation.

The question was raised if this is committee business and if so whether it should be handled as a procedure or a policy. It is up to the schools to report. How can we best serve our students? We will need to determine what is a valid score since this directly influences the Lottery Scholarship.

Sean Salter recommended developing a policy. There should be some clarity concerning whether it is a policy or procedure.

No action is taken until we hear from the ACT. ACT recently removed language concerning a six point or greater jump in score from its website. If we rescind the requirements, it will possibly affect around thirty students.

Holly Spooner moved that it should be considered a proposal. The motion was seconded by Sean Salter and was approved.

Sharon Parente will contact the Faculty Senate and ask about any discussions or actions that they have taken concerning a felony checkbox on the application.

It is understood that the purview of the committee has been changed to where it will not review programs any longer. Sharon Parente will attempt to check on what went forward in June. Dr. Susan Myers-Shirk's name needs to be corrected from Sheila to Susan.

Ellen Donovan volunteered to serve as committee secretary and Holly Spooner as Vice-Chair/Chair Elect.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 P.M.