Middle Tennessee State University
Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee

May 24, 2022
11:00 am

MEC Meeting Room – 2nd Floor
Miller Education Center
503 East Bell Street
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37130
AGENDA

Call to Order and Opening Remarks
Roll Call
Approval of Minutes (Action) ................................................................. Tab 1
Approval of Tenure and Promotion Candidates (Action) ......................... Tab 2
Approval of Appointment of Chair of Excellence (Action) ........................ Tab 3
Approval of Degree under Consideration (Action) .................................. Tab 4
Application and Enrollment Activity (Information) ..................................... Tab 5
Open Educational Resources (OER) Presentation (Information) ............... Tab 6
Closing Remarks
Adjournment
DATE: May 24, 2022

SUBJECT: Minutes of the March 15, 2022 Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee Meeting

PRESENTER: Pam Wright Committee Chair

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee met on March 15, 2022.

Attached for your review and approval are the minutes from this meeting.
The Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee met on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 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 9:04 a.m. and congratulated President and Mrs. McPhee for receiving the Murfreesboro NAACP special president’s award for ongoing support of underserved populations in the Murfreesboro City Schools.

Roll Call
Board Secretary James Floyd called the roll. The following Committee members were in attendance: J.B. Baker, Pete DeLay, Darrell Freeman, Joey Jacobs, Steve Smith, Pam Wright, Chris Karbowiak, Rick Cottle, Gabriela Jaimes, Keith Huber, and Chris Massaro. A quorum was declared. Trustee Tom Boyd arrived after the action items on the agenda had been addressed.

President Sidney A. McPhee; Mark Byrnes, University Provost; Joe Bales, Vice President for University Advancement; Andrew Oppmann, Vice President for Marketing and Communications; 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; Brenda Burkhart, 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 9, 2021, Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee meeting. Trustee Delay moved to approve the minutes
from the November 9, 2021, meeting, and Trustee Baker seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2021, meeting of the Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee passed unanimously.

**Approval of New Academic Degree Programs - Action**

Provost Byrnes presented two new academic programs and reminded the Trustees that program creation is a lengthy process with constant review over a year and a half.

**Bachelor of Science in Public Writing and Rhetoric**

Provost Byrnes reported that the job data and letters of support demonstrate a demand for writing positions of all sorts. Our writing minor has 100 students. No new faculty are required for this program, and we are confident it will be successful.

Chairman Smith moved to approve the Bachelor of Science in Public Writing and Rhetoric. Vice Chair Karbowiak seconded the motion.

Chairman Smith and Trustee Wright were impressed with the materials, especially the letters of support. Trustee Freeman asked how this program would impact enrollment. Provost Byrnes said enrollment is projected as part of the program proposal, and we have met those projections for new programs over the last five years. Trustee Cottle added that there is interest in high schools for writing programs, and we can use this degree as a recruiting tool.

A voice vote was taken and the motion to approve the Bachelor of Science in Public Writing and Rhetoric passed unanimously.

**Master of Science in Supply Chain Management**

Provost Byrnes noted that we recently created a Bachelor of Science in Supply Chain Management by elevating the concentration, and this request is the same at the master’s level. We are optimistic about the student demand as well as the employment potential.
Trustee Delay moved to approve the Master of Science in Supply Chain Management. Trustee Cottle seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion to approve the Master of Science in Supply Chain Management passed unanimously.

**Approval of Honorary Degrees - Action**

Provost Byrnes noted that the University has not offered many honorary degrees in its history. Nominations for the former Governor of Tennessee and the current Prime Minister of the Bahamas were reviewed and recommended by a committee of faculty, staff, and administrators to the provost and president, who also recommend.

Trustee Karbowiak moved to approve honorary degrees for Bill Haslam and Philip Edward Davis. Trustee Baker seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion to approve honorary degrees for Bill Haslam and Philip Edward Davis passed unanimously.

**Annual Report of Academic Program Actions - Information**

Provost Byrnes presented a summary of all program level curriculum changes during 2021.

**Fraternity and Sorority Life Update - Information**

Vice President Deb Sells introduced Leslie Merritt, Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life, who gave an update of Fraternity and Sorority Life at MTSU including national trends, membership, and GPA data. MTSU has 24 chapters on MTSU campus, 10 sororities and 14 fraternities.

Trustee Freeman noted that student engagement in organizations like fraternities or sororities improves their chance of graduating. He asked about the gap in graduation rates for those not in the organizations and how to go forward with engaging students to feel welcome at MTSU.

Vice President Sells joined the conversation and gave an overview of the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership, the Connection Point program, and ways for students to build affinity to the university to carry them through tough times. President McPhee asked Dr. Sells to describe the button program. As part of Connection Point, there is a button for each activity.
which drives students to events and activities. Dr. McPhee added that the colleges have academic activities, and he hosts a semesterly pizza dinner for students. We are always looking for more ways to include and engage our students.

Trustee Jaimes inquired about the decline in the men’s GPA and how that relates to an increase in high-risk behavior. Ms. Merritt said the men’s groups learned that they had to make some adjustments in coming back to campus to in-person classes and activities. Each chapter sets their own scholarship goals, and she expects an improvement this semester. Regarding high-risk behavior, Ms. Merritt added that we are fortunate to have strong leaders in the FSL community who are willing to stand up and report violations.

Trustee Freeman asked about the correlation between overall enrollment and FSL membership. Dr. Sells stated that the percentage of undergraduate students who become members of fraternity and sorority life has stayed remarkably stable over the years.

**Athletics Build Blue Project Update - Information Item**

Athletics Director Massaro introduced new staff in the department and acknowledged the efforts of Andy Womack and Drew Shea in fundraising. Mr. Womack reported on the ongoing Build Blue capital campaign and the associated projects. Vice President Alan Thomas reported that we will be disclosing two additional projects in our planning and introduced Bill Waits, Assistant Vice President for Campus Planning. Mr. Waits described the capital disclosure process.

Trustee Freeman asked about the facility construction decision making process and its connection to enrollment, retention, and graduation rates. President McPhee responded that the majority of the budget goes to the academic division. With regards to facilities, our recent and proposed building construction reflects the demand for our graduates in those academic areas. MTSU produces 5,000 graduates per year for the local economy.
Chairman Smith added that we should look to the state legislature for answers about funding buildings and the purge. Purging students for non-payment is a statutory requirement. President McPhee referenced documents showing the University’s efforts towards a 50% reduction in the number of students purged and private funds raised to help students from being purged.

Trustee Boyd noted that improving athletics facilities attracts students. He supports the Build Blue campaign as an effort to present an attractive “front door” to the University so that we can catch up with our peers and enhance our appeal to prospective students in all disciplines.

Trustee Cottle added from the academic side that the Campus Planning office thinks about the changing needs every day and is projecting future long-term needs.

**Faculty Senate Academic Presentation - Information Item**

Bob Gordon, associate professor of media arts and Faculty Senate President, read a statement from the Faculty Senate to affirm Policy 201 Academic Freedom and Responsibility and referred to the Chicago Statement previously approved by this Committee. Dr. Lando Carter, chair of the Faculty Senate subcommittee on academics, stated that while there are boundaries to academic freedom, House Bill 2670 looks likely to pass, and the faculty have concerns about how this would affect recruiting and retaining talented faculty. Mr. Gordon added that the faculty at MTSU both appreciate and need the Board’s support as we prepare students for not only productive careers but also to become informed, discerning, and involved citizens.

Trustee Cottle made a motion to change this item from information to an action item so that the Committee could vote to reaffirm Policy 201. Trustee Delay seconded the motion. President McPhee added that Policy 201 is in place. He noted that the Board has indicated that it supports the policy, and there was no need for further action. A voice vote was taken and the motion to move this item from information to action did not pass.

Trustee Wright affirmed that the Board supports academic freedom, and the Board would want to know if the policy was not being honored. Trustee Cottle then added that the policy stands for
itself, and issues will be handled internally before becoming a Board matter. In addition, Trustee Karbowiak expressed her full support and asked that issues be brought to the Board immediately. Finally, Chairman Smith added that the Board of Trustees discussed and accepted the Chicago principles previously.

**Adjournment**

Committee Chair Wright adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee
DATE: May 24, 2022

SUBJECT: Approval of Tenure and Promotion

PRESENTER: Mark Byrnes
Provost

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The following faculty members have been reviewed for tenure and/or promotion by their department chair/school director, department/school committee, college committee, college dean, provost, and president, as stipulated by MTSU Policies 204 Tenure, 205 Promotion of Tenured and Tenurable Faculty, and their respective college and department policies. The president and provost recommend they be granted tenure and/or promotion effective August 1, 2022.
## Faculty Tenure Recommendations for 2022-23

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*Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee*

*May 24, 2022*
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DATE: May 24, 2022

SUBJECT: Approval of Chair of Excellence

PRESENTER: Mark Byrnes
Provost

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

MTSU Policy 800 General Personnel requires the approval of the President and the Board of Trustees for appointments of Chairs of Excellence.

The Joey A. Jacobs Chair of Excellence in Accounting chairholder is expected to provide leadership in their field and energize our campus by attracting national attention to MTSU.

Attached for your review and approval is the recommendation by the Dean, Provost, and President of Mr. Jarett Decker to be the next chairholder of the Joey A. Jacobs Chair of Excellence in Accounting.
ON-CAMPUS MEMO

From: David Urban
Dean

To: Sidney A. McPhee
President

Mark Byrnes
University Provost

Date: April 22, 2022

Subject: Appointment of Mr. Jarett Decker to Joey Jacobs Chair of Excellence in Accounting

With this memo, I formally request that you approve the appointment of Mr. Jarett (Jerry) Decker to the Joey Jacobs Chair of Excellence in Accounting, and recommend approval of the appointment by the MTSU Board of Trustees.

A native of Michigan, Mr. Decker received academic degrees from two of the most selective state universities in the country. He earned a B.A. with High Honors in Economics from the College of William and Mary, and a J.D. from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

Mr. Decker has collegiate teaching experience in accounting at Nova Southeastern University and business law at the University of Miami. He is the former Head of the World Bank's Centre for Financial Reporting Reform (CFRR) in Vienna, Austria. He has been Deputy Director and Chief Trial Counsel of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB). He has also served as Senior Trial Counsel with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). He has experience advising governments in more than 30 developing countries on corporate accounting and auditing reform. He is currently an international consultant working in emerging-market countries to strengthen auditing, financial reporting, and anti-money laundering (AML) oversight, with current funding from the Asian Development Bank. He is leading projects to reform the Committee on Financial Monitoring (CFM) in Kazakhstan and the Mongolian National Audit Office (MNAO). He also advises the corporate audit regulator in the Republic of Georgia. Mr. Decker has published in Reason magazine and The New York Times.

He comes very highly recommended and was quite impressive in his semifinalist and finalist interviews, including in his on-campus presentation to faculty and staff in which he described his vision for the Jacobs Chair. He was clearly the highest-rated overall of the three finalists who interviewed on campus.

Mr. Decker is an especially attractive candidate for the Jacobs Chair in that he will bring a unique international perspective on accounting to our students and faculty. He also has an interest in anti-
money laundering which fits well with the new partnership Jones College has with the Associate of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists (ACAMS). This partnership will fuel executive education programs and regular coursework in financial crime and fraud prevention. His interest in free-market economics will also connect him to important research being done in our Political Economy Research Institute. At a time when academicians are challenged to be more cross-disciplinary, Mr. Decker’s background will help the Department of Accounting to integrate more with other Jones College and MTSU units.

I strongly encourage you to approve Dr. Decker’s appointment and to send it forward to the MTSU Board of Trustees.

APPROVED:

Mark Byrnes  
University Provost  

Sidney A. McPhee  
President
JARETT DECKER
Lawyer and CPA

SUMMARY: Adjunct professor of international law at University of Miami School of Law and adjunct professor of accounting at Nova Southeastern University. Former Head of the World Bank’s Centre for Financial Reporting Reform (CFRR) in Vienna, Austria. Former Deputy Director and Chief Trial Counsel of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB). Former Senior Trial Counsel with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Experience advising governments in more than 30 developing countries on corporate accounting and auditing reform.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Adjunct Professor of International Law, University of Miami School of Law
Coral Gables, FL 1/2021 to Present

Teaching courses of my own design to Master of Law (LLM) and Juris Doctor (JD) students on:
- Compliance Challenges in Emerging Markets (Spring 2021)
- Offshore Financial Centers: Law, Policy, and Practice (Fall 2021)
- International Anti-Money Laundering: Law, Policy, and Compliance (Spring 2022)

Adjunct Professor of Business Law and Accounting, Nova Southeastern University
Fort Lauderdale, FL 1/2021 to Present

Teaching accounting and business law courses to Master of Accounting and undergraduate students:
- Business Law for Accountants (Spring and Fall 2021; Spring 2022)
- Auditing (Summer 2021)
- Introductory Accounting (Spring 2022)

International Consultant
Boca Raton, FL USA 6/2019 to Present

Self-employed consulting advisor in emerging-market countries to strengthen auditing, financial reporting, and AML oversight, with current funding from the Asian Development Bank. Leading projects to reform the Committee on Financial Monitoring (CFM) in Kazakhstan and the Mongolian National Audit Office (MNAO). Advising the corporate audit regulator in the Republic of Georgia.

Head of the Centre for Financial Reporting Reform (CFRR), the World Bank
Vienna, Austria 5/2014 to 6/2019

I led a multinational team of accountants and lawyers providing technical assessments, advice, and training to improve corporate financial auditing and accounting regulation in developing countries.

- Primary advisor on audit oversight reform to the governments of Poland and Philippines
- Provided advice and workshops to ASEAN Audit Regulators Group (AARG) in SE Asia
• Led technical assistance projects to reform financial reporting in the EU Eastern Partnership (Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Azerbaijan, and Armenia) and in the Western Balkans
• Strong collaborative relationships with financial reporting regulators in Europe and Asia
• World Bank liaison to the International Forum of Independent Audit Regulators (IFIAR)
• Hired as Senior Specialist 5/2014 and promoted to Head of the Centre effective 6/2016

Deputy Director and Chief Trial Counsel
Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB)
Washington, DC

As the first person to serve as Deputy Director and Chief Trial Counsel in the Division of Enforcement and Investigations, I established and led the PCAOB's disciplinary litigation program against independent auditors, reporting to the Division Director. My accomplishments include:

• Lead trial counsel or supervisor for all litigated disciplinary matters during my eight-year tenure, see press release: https://pcaobus.org/News/Releases/Pages/04092014_Decker.aspx
• Supervised litigation globally against auditors from Big 4 and other international network firms involving deficient auditing of accounting for securitizations, off-balance sheet accounting, reserves for sales allowances, loan-loss reserves, going concern, misappropriation through fraudulent journal entries, revenue recognition, auditor ethics, and other issues.
• Developed Division policy; led Division training; Ethics Liaison Officer for the Division
• With Division Director, helped organize the Enforcement Working Group of IFIAR

Senior Trial Counsel, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
Chicago Regional Office

As Senior Trial Counsel in the Division of Enforcement, my accomplishments included:

• Successfully prosecuted conspirators in “reverse merger” of Chinese software company with public shell and subsequent “pump and dump” market manipulation, issuer frauds, and insider trading
• Initiated and led office-wide training on the use of expert witnesses in securities trials

U.S. Private Sector Civil and Criminal Litigation Experience
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Minneapolis, Minnesota

Partner and Associate with law firms in Philadelphia (Wolf Block LLP) and Minneapolis (Maun & Simon PLC and Mauzy Law Firm), specializing in commercial litigation and criminal defense:

• Led commercial litigation involving contract disputes, UCC, fraud, debtor-creditor law, securities law, business torts, antitrust, agency, and intellectual property licensing
• Lead counsel in white-collar criminal investigations and trials involving money laundering, tax evasion, insider trading and market manipulation, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, and antitrust
SAMPLE OF SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- International Forum of Independent Audit Regulators Plenary Meeting, “Audit Regulation and Bank Fraud in Emerging Markets.” Ottawa, Canada, April 19, 2018
- ASEAN Audit Regulatory Group, “Enhancing Investor Confidence through Public Oversight.” Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, February 22, 2017
- Warsaw Stock Exchange, “The Effective Audit Committee.” Warsaw, Poland, Jan. 2015

SAMPLE OF MEDIA CITATIONS (QUOTED IN THE PRESS)

- “Improve audit quality.” New Straits Times (Malaysia), 23 February 2017
- “ASEAN audit regulators to work with World Bank to strengthen audit oversight in the region.” The Asian Banker, 26 August 2016
- “How better governance reaps rewards for Central and Eastern Europe.” Financial Times, 11 May 2016. https://www.ft.com/content/da6813e6-0ad2-11e6-b0f1-61f222853ff

SAMPLE OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES

- “Lost in Transition: 30 years after the Soviet collapse, what happened to the Russian dream of a free economy?” Reason magazine (feature article), December 2021
- “Criminal Representation.” Reason magazine (feature article), June 2004

EDUCATION

University of Michigan Law School
Ann Arbor, Michigan

- Juris Doctor in May 1990

College of William & Mary
Williamsburg, VA

- BA in May 1987

- Graduated with High Honors in Economics
- Semester Abroad at the Pushkin Institute, Moscow, USSR (fluent in Russian)

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

- Licensed CPA in Virginia and Illinois; licensed attorney in Washington, D.C.
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

To meet the growing demand for knowledgeable and skilled workers in the field of information security, the Department of Information Systems and Analytics in the Jones College of Business is seeking to create a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Cybersecurity.

Current projections by the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimate that IT occupations will increase faster than average through 2030. Specifically, the information security analyst was mentioned as a high-demand position requiring a bachelor’s degree; it is expected to grow 33% through 2030 with a median pay of $102,600 per year. The job is also listed as in-demand for the State of Tennessee in the Tennessee Long Term Outlook to 2028 report (n.d.).

Building an undergraduate program in cybersecurity will help in sustaining a pipeline of skilled professionals to implement and maintain secure systems and infrastructure.
DATE: May 24, 2022

SUBJECT: Application and Enrollment Activity

PRESENTER: Deb Sells
Vice President for Student Affairs and
Vice Provost for Enrollment and Academic Services

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

An update of the most recent application, admission, enrollment, and CUSTOMS data for Fall 2022.
DATE: May 24, 2022

SUBJECT: Open Educational Resources Presentation

PRESENTER: Cheryl Torsney, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs
           Erica Stone, Assistant Professor of English

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

An update of the Open Educational Resources (OER) program originally presented to this Committee in November 2019.