

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, STUDENT LIFE, AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

The Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee met on May 29, 2019, in the Miller Education Center Meeting Room at Middle Tennessee State University.

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Committee Chair Pam Wright called the meeting to order at 10:52 a.m. President McPhee gave welcoming remarks.

Roll Call

The following Committee members were in attendance: J.B. Baker, Pete DeLay, Joey Jacobs, Tony Johnston, Steve Smith, Pam Wright, Peyton Tracy, Keith Huber, and Chris Massaro. A quorum was declared present.

Trustee Darrell Freeman, Sr.; President Sidney A. McPhee; Alan Thomas, Vice President for Business and Finance; Cheryl Torsney, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs; Joe Bales, Vice President for University Advancement; Andrew Oppmann, Vice President for Marketing and Communications; Bruce Petryshak, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer; Deb Sells, Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Enrollment and Academic Success; Brenda Burkhart, Chief Audit Executive; Heidi Zimmerman, University Counsel and Board Secretary; and, Kim Edgar, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff were also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

The first agenda item was approval of the minutes from the March 18, 2019 Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee meeting. Trustee Smith moved to approve the minutes

from the March 18, 2019 meeting and Trustee Baker seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2019 meeting of the Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee carried.

Approval of Tenure and Promotion Candidates

The next action item was approval of candidates for tenure and promotion. Vice Provost Torsney presented thirty-nine (39) faculty recommended for tenure and seventy-five (75) faculty recommended for promotion and said they were reviewed at four levels before the Provost and President reviewed and made their recommendations.

A motion was made by Trustee Johnston to approve thirty-nine (39) candidates for tenure and seventy-five (75) candidates for promotion. Trustee DeLay seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken and the motion to approve thirty-nine (39) candidates for tenure and seventy-five (75) candidates for promotion carried unanimously.

Academic Degree under Consideration

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Public Writing and Rhetoric

Vice Provost Torsney introduced Assistant Professors Eric Detweiler and Kate Pantelides from the Department of English. Development of this degree program began based on responses from employer surveys and increased participation in English electives by science and other majors. Employers want graduates with a broad set of written communication skills that could apply in a variety of public and professional settings. Pending the approval of the Board of Trustees and results of feasibility studies, the University may submit a Letter of Notification to THEC.

A motion was made by Trustee Smith to approve the academic degree under consideration. Trustee DeLay seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken and the motion to approve the academic degree under consideration carried unanimously.

Notification of Academic Action

Establishment of Free Speech Center

Vice Provost Torsney introduced Ken Paulson, Dean of the College of Media and Entertainment. Dean Paulson said the Free Speech Center aims to reignite and transform the American conversation about free speech through information and education. The Center is intended to be a national organization modeled in part on the First Amendment Center, and would be apolitical, nonpartisan, and not involved in politics or litigation. It will be funded with a combination of institutional reallocation and external support.

Athletics Update

President McPhee has convened a committee of Athletics, Student Affairs, and legal staff to review the concerns brought before the Board of Trustees at their April 3, 2019.

Vice President Sells said the committee has met twice and determined deliverables for the end of August to address athletics staff behavior and student-athlete complaints.

President McPhee added that we are being proactive, and this issue is allowing us to do some self-examination and make improvements.

Closing Remarks

President McPhee invited Lauren Collier, THEC Director of Institution and Board Affairs, to address the Committee. She told the Committee that there will be a professional development event for the boards of all locally-governed institutions on August 15 and 16 at the University of Memphis. The governor will attend along with experts from around the country. More information will be sent in the coming weeks.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee