

**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 Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 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 10:05 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Secretary James Floyd called the roll. The following Committee members were in attendance: J.B. Baker, Tom Boyd, Pete DeLay, Steve Smith, Pam Wright, Rick Cottle, Drew Carpenter, Keith Huber, and Chris Massaro. Trustee Chris Karbowiak participated in the meeting electronically. Per T.C.A. 8-44-108(c)(3), Trustee Karbowiak was asked and responded in the affirmative that she could hear clearly and confirmed there was no one else in the room with her. A quorum was declared.

President Sidney A. McPhee; 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; Diane Snodgrass, Interim 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 15, 2022, Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee meeting. Trustee DeLay moved to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2022, meeting, and Trustee Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Degrees under Consideration - Action

Vice Provost Amy Aldridge Sanford told the Committee that a cohort of ten faculty was convened to expand the graduate degree portfolio. The existing master's degree portfolio is comprehensive, but there are opportunities to better serve current and future workforce needs. After reviewing five years of localized feasibility studies and national trends, the College of Graduate Studies Dean recommended several potential new graduate degrees and recommended that they be 30 credit hours and fully online to better serve the people who will be attracted to these programs. If approved, new academic program proposal development will continue with letters of notification to THEC.

Trustee Boyd moved to approve the consideration of five master's programs: an M.A. in Organizational and Professional Communication, an M.S. in Digital Media, an M.S. in Music Business, an M.S. in Project Management, and an M.S. in Tourism and Hospitality Management. Trustee DeLay seconded the motion.

Chairman Smith asked that the Committee receive a report on the annual progress of each new program. President McPhee confirmed annual benchmark reporting is required for new programs, and the report will be shared with the Committee. He also noted that these master's degree programs being considered are "ready-to-work" and will also support our Carnegie classification as a Doctoral University with high research activity.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the consideration of the five master's programs passed unanimously.

Approval of Honorary Degree - Action

Associate Provost Mary Hoffschwelle presented the nomination of Mr. John Floyd to receive an honorary doctorate degree at the May 2023 Commencement Ceremonies.

Chairman Smith moved to approve awarding an honorary degree to Mr. John Floyd, and Trustee Delay seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the honorary degree passed unanimously.

Annual Report of Academic Program Actions - Information

Vice Provost Amy Aldridge Sanford presented the annual report on academic program actions and noted that each action listed was proposed by faculty and agreed upon by the campus community.

President McPhee added that the Tennessee Legislature recognized MTSU as one of the few universities that terminated degrees or concentrations due to irrelevance or productivity.

Application and Admission Report - Information

Vice President Deb Sells reported that freshmen applications were up 14% as of March 1, and freshmen admissions were up 5%. Transfer applications and admissions are also up.

Registration opens soon for the new student orientation program, CUSTOMS. Enrollment for Fall begins in May during the first CUSTOMS session.

Dr. Sells acknowledged the work of admissions staff, faculty, and advisors in welcoming students to campus or at True Blue Tours. MTSU has already exceeded the number of students attending our preview days and visiting campus from last year.

Athletics Report - Information Item

Athletics Director Chris Massaro shared the successes of the men's and women's basketball teams, noting that in addition to the women's championship win, their GPA has exceeded 3.5 in the last few semesters.

Build Blue Update: The tennis facility is coming along. Demolition for the Student-Athlete Performance Center will begin at the end of the semester.

Adjournment

Committee Chair Wright adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee