

## **MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, STUDENT LIFE, AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE**

**February 27, 2018**

The Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee met on Tuesday, February 27, 2018, at Middle Tennessee State University. Chairwoman Pam Wright called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. A quorum was present with the following Committee members in attendance: J.B. Baker, Pete Delay, Joey Jacobs, Tony Johnston, Steve Smith, Pam Wright, Lindsey Weaver, Keith Huber and Chris Massaro. Also present was Trustee Darrell Freeman; Sidney McPhee, President; Joe Bales, Vice President for University Advancement; Brenda Burkhart, Chief Audit Executive; Mark Byrnes, University Provost; 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 Services; Alan Thomas, Vice President for Business and Finance; and, Heidi Zimmerman, University Counsel and Board Secretary.

Dr. McPhee welcomed everyone and said there are some interesting and innovative informational items on the agenda to move the University forward. He thanked everyone for serving. Chairwoman Wright thanked the university staff for providing information in advance of the meeting as doing so enables the meeting to flow better.

Chairwoman Wright began the meeting with approval of the minutes from the December 5, 2017 Committee Meeting. Trustee Delay made the motion, which was seconded by Trustee Smith. A voice vote was taken and the Motion carried to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2017 Committee Meeting.

The next item was promulgation of the rule regarding Student Conduct as required by T.C.A. § 49-8-203. To be consistent with the proposed rule, revisions to the corresponding policy, 540 Student Conduct, were necessary. Trustee Johnston made the motion to approve the rule and revisions to the policy. Trustee DeLay seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the Motion carried unanimously to approve Rules of Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Chapter 0240-07-03, Student Conduct and revisions to Policy 540, Student Conduct.

Approval of new academic programs was the next action item. A Bachelor of Science in Commerce and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education will be established from existing concentrations. A Bachelor of Science (B.S.) will be added to the existing Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in English, and a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) to the existing Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Communication. These new programs will give students more options and clarify the degree they are earning. Trustee Delay moved for approval of the programs and Trustee Smith seconded the motion. No additional resources will be required to implement these changes. A voice vote was taken, and the Motion carried to approve 1) elevation of the existing concentration in Commerce within the B.B.A. in Finance to a free-standing B.S. degree in Commerce; 2) elevation of the existing specialization in K-5 within the existing

B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies to a free-standing B.S. degree in Elementary Education; 3) addition of a B.S. in English to the existing B.A.; and 4) addition of a B.A. in Communication to the existing B.S.

Next, Dr. Byrnes notified the committee of the establishment of the International Ginseng Institute, a partnership with Guangxi Botanical Garden of Medicinal Plants. This will advance continuing research at MTSU in the commercialization of ginseng and potentially provide a revenue source. There is considerable interest from the Legislature for the potential economic impact in Tennessee.

Dr. Byrnes also notified the committee of the establishment of the MTSU Research Foundation. MTSU is the last institution in the state to establish a research foundation. The MTSU Research Foundation will offer nimbleness to respond to market demand from small businesses, state contracts, and large enterprises that want to work with MTSU researchers. The MTSU Research Foundation will also provide easy interaction to commercialization and protect the university from liability of intellectual property. Trustee Jacobs voiced his favor and suggested adding a general purposes section to the incorporation. Trustee Wright stated that she looked forward to discussing at a future committee meeting.

Athletic Director Chris Massaro discussed legislation allowing the sale of alcohol by a third party vendor at MTSU athletic venues and the opportunities for Blue Raider Athletics. After a lively discussion, the trustees were positive about the plans being discussed by the Department of Athletics.

The meeting adjourned 12:12 p.m. (CST).

Respectfully submitted, Academic Affairs, Student Life and Athletics Committee