

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES

The Middle Tennessee State University Board of Trustees met on April 3, 2019, in the Miller Education Center Meeting Room at Middle Tennessee State University.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chair Steve Smith called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Lt. Gen. Keith Huber was asked to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of Student Veteran

Gen. Huber introduced Manuel Doyle, a Command Sergeant Major, the highest rank of a non-commissioned officer in the armed forces of the United States. Command Sergeant Major Doyle enlisted in the Army in 1986 wanting to be a combat medic. He served for 30+ years. His overseas tours include Germany, Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan, and most recently, Africa, where he worked on battling the deadly impact of Ebola. He will graduate from MTSU this summer with a B.S. in Health Management.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Board Chair Smith welcomed those present to the meeting of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Sidney A. McPhee, President, also welcomed those attending the meeting and acknowledged special guests in the audience, including Lauren Collier who is a liaison with THEC, and some of our coaches and student-athletes who he stated would be introduced later in the day.

Roll Call

The following trustees were in attendance: Andy Adams, J.B. Baker, Pete DeLay, Darrell Freeman, Sr., Joey Jacobs, Tony Johnston, Christine Karbowskiak, Stephen Smith, Peyton Tracy, and Pamela Wright. A quorum was declared. President Sidney A. McPhee; Alan Thomas, Vice President for

Business and Finance; Mark Byrnes, University Provost; 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 Burkhardt, 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.

Public Comment

Board Chair Smith reported that Scott and Michelle Huddleston submitted a timely request to speak to the Board and were provided five (5) minutes for this purpose. Ms. Huddleston asked the Board to consider developing and adopting a professional coaching code of conduct. She referenced situations at Georgia Tech, the University of North Carolina, and Northern Kentucky where coaches were suspended and fired for verbal, mental, and emotional abuse. She stated that this is a widespread problem and a real concern. She stated that MTSU has Policy 10 for faculty, but felt that it is very generic and does not go deep enough for the situations that come up in coaching and athletics. She stated that people should be treated with decency and dignity; this is easy to understand in the educational situation where a professor does not call out a student who does poorly on a test and kick them out because they haven't worked hard enough, or ask them to turn their MTSU shirt inside out because they do not deserve to wear the logo. But those things in a coaching context are considered by some to be acceptable. Without any guidelines, the student-athletes have to accept whatever they are dealt because there is nothing saying they cannot be treated that way. Ms. Huddleston felt it would be in the best interest of the school and for the student-athletes, if policies were written that are very specific to coaching, that set standards that are enforceable and accountable, and that have means for reporting and observation. She also asked for consideration in adopting or implementing some of the NCAA best practices for mental health. Currently, MTSU has no services that are specifically for mental health for the student-athletes. Students need somebody who is not associated with the athletic department that they feel confident that they can go to when they need help because currently there is nothing there for them in those situations. And not only negative problems, just all the

stuff they have to deal with as far as being an athlete and being a student. She explained that having some mental health services could be beneficial for the coaches also because they can observe things and they can help the coaches to better reach a student, to be able to reach their full potential if they are struggling with performance anxiety and things like that. She reiterated her desire to see MTSU adopt a code of conduct for coaches specifically that would also be applicable to the whole athletic program. Ms. Huddleston sees this as a positive thing for everybody and feels that it needs to be done. She also feels the mental health issues really need to be addressed.

Board Chair Smith thanked Ms. Huddleston for taking the time to address the Board. He asked that the appropriate university staff take the time to review her suggestions.

Approval of Minutes

The first agenda item was approval of minutes from the December 11, 2018 Board meeting. Trustee Freeman made the motion to approve these minutes and Trustee Karbowski seconded the motion. A voice vote on the motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2018 Board meeting was taken and the motion carried unanimously. Trustee Baker asked about the status of the declaration of appreciation for Governor Haslam that is noted on Page 13 of the materials. Dr. McPhee replied that has not yet been done but it will be taken care of.

Committee Report: Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee

Committee Chair Pamela Wright gave the report from the March 18, 2019 meeting of the Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee. The meeting began with approval of the minutes from the November 13, 2018 Committee meeting. The Committee report contained three (3) action items to be considered and voted on by the Board, along with one (1) information item. Materials outlining the action items were made available for review prior to the Board meeting and are contained in the Board notebooks.

Rule Promulgation – Rule 0240-07-04 Academic Misconduct and Revisions to Policy 312

Academic Misconduct - Action

T.C.A. § 49-8-203(a)(1)(D) requires the promulgation of rules regarding student conduct which includes academic misconduct. Revisions to Policy 312 Academic Misconduct clarify the role of the Director of Academic Integrity, establish a revised process for faculty to refer students accused of academic misconduct, discuss possible sanctions for repeat offenders, and establish a procedure for adjudicating academic misconduct for graduate students. The content of the proposed rule and revised policy are consistent.

Trustee Freeman made a motion to approve promulgation of Rule 0240-07-04 Academic Misconduct and the revisions to Policy 312 Academic Misconduct. The motion was seconded by Trustee Baker. A roll call vote was taken. The vote to approve promulgation of Rule 0240-07-04 Academic Misconduct and the revisions to Policy 312 Academic Misconduct was nine (9) Aye and zero (0) No votes; the motion passed.

Rule Promulgation – Rule 0240-07-02 Residency Classification and Revisions to Policy 501

Residency Classification - Action

T.C.A. § 49-8-104 requires the Board to promulgate a rule defining residency of students to be used for the purpose of determining whether or not out-of-state tuition shall be charged to a student enrolling at MTSU. The proposed rule incorporates the criteria of § 49-8-104, as well as, additional criteria to define residency. The policy was recently reviewed by the Division of Student Affairs revealing a number of updates needed to reflect current policies and changes to state laws. These changes align the policy with current state and federal laws. The most significant changes to the policy relate to student veterans and the benefits they receive, requiring many of them to be classified as in-state for tuition and fee paying purposes. Other minor clarifications of existing criteria were made and the title of the policy was condensed. The content of the proposed rule and revised policy are consistent.

Trustee Freeman made a motion to approve promulgation of Rule 0240-07-02 Residency Classification and the revisions to Policy 501 Residency Classification. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wright. A roll call vote was taken. The vote to approve promulgation of Rule 0240-07-

02 Residency Classification and the revisions to Policy 501 Residency Classification was nine (9) Aye and zero (0) No votes; the motion passed.

Approval of Academic Program Modifications – Action

Several action items regarding academic programs were presented by Provost Mark Byrnes and approved by the Committee. This action item for Board consideration concerned academic program modifications to:

1. Elevate the Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Professional Counseling to Specialist in Education (Ed.S.) in Professional Counseling; and,
2. Change the Master of Science (M.S.) in Public Health to Master of Public Health (M.P.H.).

Approval of Academic Degree under Consideration – Action

Also approved by the Committee were academic degree programs under consideration which included:

1. Master of Science (M.S.) in Speech-Language Pathology;
2. Master of Science (M.S.) in Biomedical Sciences; and,
3. Master of Public Health (M.P.H.).

Notification of Academic Actions - Information

This item concerns the consolidation of the M.S.T. in Mathematics and the M.S. in Mathematics; and, termination of the post-Masters Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner.

A motion to approve the remaining action items recommended by the Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee was made by Trustee Freeman, seconded by Trustee Karbowskiak. A voice vote was taken; the motion to approve the remaining action items recommended by the Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee passed and the action was approved.

Committee Report: Audit and Compliance Committee

Committee Chair Chris Karbowski provided the report for the Audit and Compliance Committee which met on April 3, 2019. The Committee report contained one (1) action item to be considered and voted on by the Board, and five (5) information items. Materials outlining the action items were made available for review prior to the Board meeting and are contained in the Board notebooks.

Revisions to Policy 10 Ethics and Code of Conduct; and, Policy 12 Conflict of Interest – Action

Revisions to Policy 10 Ethics and Code of Conduct provide for the addition of an annual, mandatory ethics training for all employees, including student workers, where appropriate. In addition, a new section entitled “Healthy Workplace” was added to comply with the Healthy Workplace Act, T.C.A. § 50-1-50, which includes information about abusive conduct in the workplace. Greater clarity concerning reporting procedures for ethics violations (outside of abusive conduct which is handled by Human Resources) also is included in the policy as part of the revisions. Finally, inappropriate use or misuse of computer or information technology resources in violation of institutional policy was added to the section entitled, “Appropriate Use of University Resources” and more detailed information was included regarding the enforcement of the policy.

Revisions to Policy 12 Conflict of Interest include the following: (1) a change in the responsible office and officer of the policy from the Office of the University Counsel to the Office of Compliance and Enterprise Risk Management; (2) greater clarity concerning the process for new employees to disclose conflicts of interest; (3) revisions to the Conflict of Interest Checklist that faculty are required to utilize for any of their authored works used in class; and, (4) greater clarity and specificity regarding the process for conflicts of interest that primarily involve externally funded research which will be referred to the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and/or the Division of Academic Affairs for review pursuant to Policy 404 Conflict of Interest for Externally Funded Projects.

Information items

The following were presented as Information Items:

1. A report of conflict of interest disclosures for 2018;
2. A review of the President's statement of disclosures of interest for 2019;
3. A report on compliance with the public records policy;
4. The result of external reviews including Comptroller of the Treasury Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2018, and the NCAA Agreed Upon Procedures for Fiscal Year 2018; and,
5. The quarterly report providing results of internal audit reports.

A motion was made by Trustee Freeman and seconded by Trustee Jacobs to approve the revisions to Policy 10 Ethics and Code of Conduct; and, Policy 12 Conflict of Interest. A voice vote was taken, and the motion to approve the revisions to Policy 10 Ethics and Code of Conduct and Policy 12 Conflict of Interest passed.

Committee Report: Executive and Governance Committee

Board Vice Chair Darrell Freeman provided the report for the Executive and Governance Committee which met on March 18, 2019. Minutes from meetings held on November 13, 2018 and November 27, 2018 were approved. The Committee report contained two (2) action items to be considered and voted on by the Board. Materials outlining the action items were made available for review prior to the Board meeting and are contained in the Board notebooks.

Institutional Mission Statement/Mission Profile - Action

T.C.A. § 49-8-101(d) requires the institution to annually submit its institutional mission statement to THEC for review and approval. On February 22, 2019, the University Planning Committee reviewed the mission statement and mission profile. It approved one correction of fact to keep the mission profile current. The mission statement and mission profile were reviewed and approved by the President, followed by review and approval by the Committee. Once approved by the Board, the mission statement and mission profile will be provided to THEC to fulfill this statutory requirement.

Establishment of Expense Limit for Spouse of University President - Action

At its December 11, 2018 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the President's employment agreement. Provision 6.F. of that agreement states:

The Board recognizes that the spouse of the University President is often called upon to devote substantial time and energy to activities which benefit the University. Dr. McPhee's spouse is hereby authorized to serve when called upon as a representative of the institution, and to accept reimbursement from the University or Foundation for expenses incurred in connection with such activity, to the extent such reimbursements are requested by Dr. McPhee and must be approved for payment by the Vice President for Business and Finance, the Foundation, or the Chair of the Audit and Compliance Committee in writing and in advance of any reimbursement, and approved exceptions shall be reported by the Vice President for Business and Finance to the Audit and Compliance Committee at its next meeting. It is understood that Dr. McPhee's spouse may use facilities and other resources of the University in the same manner as an employee when involved in such activities. The institution shall also assume the travel expenses of Dr. McPhee's spouse on business trips to which she is officially invited or for which her presence is regarded by Dr. McPhee as necessary to carry out his official presentational duties to promote a favorable image of the institution. Dr. McPhee will be responsible for any tax consequences resulting from benefits provided to Dr. McPhee's spouse pursuant to this Section F. The Board of Trustees shall annually establish a reasonable cap on expenses allowed by this Paragraph F. From time to time, the Board Chair may increase the cap based on need. An annual accounting of expenses will be provided to the Audit and Compliance Committee.

Specifically, the provision provides: "The Board of Trustees shall annually establish a reasonable cap on expenses allowed by this Paragraph F." Based on an analysis of the past three years' expenses for Dr. McPhee's spouse, as included in the annual audit of the Office of the President, a \$5,000 annual cap is recommended by the Committee.

A motion was made by Trustee Karbowiak to approve the actions of the Executive and Governance Committee, and seconded by Trustee DeLay. A voice vote was taken and the motion to approve the actions of the Executive and Governance Committee passed.

Committee Report: Finance and Personnel Committee

Committee Chair Joey Jacobs provided the report for the Finance and Personnel Committee which met on March 18, 2019. Minutes from the November 13, 2018 Finance and Personnel

Committee meeting were approved. The Committee report contained two (2) action items to be considered and voted on by the Board, and one (1) information item. Materials outlining the action items were made available for review prior to the Board meeting and are contained in the Board notebooks.

Rule Promulgation – Rule 0240-07-03 Traffic, Parking and Safety Enforcement and Revisions to Policy 775 – Traffic, Parking, and Safety Enforcement - Action

Current Policy 775 Traffic, Parking, and Safety Enforcement does not identify a specific duration for the awarding of a temporary disabled permit. The policy only states that such permits “will be issued for injuries or disabilities of limited duration as specified by a physician’s statement certifying an impairment.” The proposed revision to this policy will set the issuance duration to “a period not to exceed one (1) semester or four (4) consecutive months, whichever is of greatest benefit to the individual requesting the permit.” This revision will allow the University to be consistent with current per-semester permit issuances, and will eliminate the potential for oversight error by requiring matters concerning temporary disabled permits to be resolved by the conclusion of the current or upcoming term. Corresponding revisions to Rule 0240-07-03 were also proposed.

Trustee Freeman made a motion to approve revisions to and promulgation of Rule 0240-07-03 Traffic, Parking and Safety Enforcement and revisions to Policy 775 – Traffic, Parking, and Safety Enforcement. The motion was seconded by Trustee Baker. A roll call vote was taken. The vote to approve revisions to and promulgation of Rule 0240-07-03 Traffic, Parking and Safety Enforcement and revisions to Policy 775 – Traffic, Parking, and Safety Enforcement was nine (9) Aye and zero (0) No votes; the motion passed.

Building Naming – Stark Agriculture Center - Action

The faculty in the School of Agribusiness and Agriscience met on February 21, 2018 and voted to change the name of the department to the “School of Agriculture.” This was the name of the department prior to the name change in the late 1990’s. This change was approved and

became effective July 1, 2018. In alignment with the department name change, a request was made in October 2018 to change the name of the Stark Agribusiness and Agriscience Center back to the “Stark Agriculture Center”, which was the name given to the building when it was erected in 1978. As required by MTSU Policy 160, the request was submitted to the Building Name Advisory Committee for consideration and recommendation. The committee concurred with the request. The Finance and Personnel Committee approved the recommendation for the name change.

MTSU Foundation Agreement - Information

The last item on the Committee agenda was the approval of the MTSU Foundation Agreement. Upon recommendation, this item was deferred and the request was made for University Advancement Vice President Joe Bales to provide an overview of the relationship between the Foundation and the University. That presentation occurred just prior to this Board meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee DeLay and seconded by Trustee Baker to approve the remaining action items that were recommended by the Finance and Personnel Committee. A voice vote was taken and the motion to approve the remaining action items that were recommended by the Finance and Personnel Committee passed.

Report of the Board Secretary

Ms. Zimmerman reported on various minor revisions made to policy as provided in the Board materials. She noted that the changes concern titles, names of titles, or correcting errors. She also indicated as an item of information that a new policy has been established, Policy 608 Taxability of Employee Benefits. This is a President-approved policy.

Report of the President

Enrollment Update

Dr. McPhee gave an update on the Fall 2019 enrollment. He complimented faculty, staff, and administrators, particularly Student Affairs, for the tremendous work they have done on

recruitment. As of April 1, freshman applications are up by 12.0% and freshman admits are up by 16.8%. It is anticipated that the August number of new freshmen enrolled will be up by about 10% over Fall 2018. It is believed that these freshmen numbers are being driven up by the significant increase in the amount of the guaranteed freshman scholarship at the Presidential Level. The trend of increasing numbers is anticipated for Fall 2020 by also adding to the amount of the guaranteed freshman scholarship at the Trustee Level for Fall 2020. MTSU continues to be the number one destination for transfer students in the entire state. Transfer applications are up by 9.4% and transfer admits are up by 12.0%. The University has very strict, high guaranteed admission requirements. Only about 69-70% of all applicants are admitted. As of April 3, there are 10,870+ applications for 2019 and there are still about six or seven months to go as part of the application process. It appears applications will top 11,000 which will be a record number for the University. The increase in the number of transfer students is being driven by the on-going presence of MTSU transfer recruiters on-site at the major feeder community colleges. MTSU is very active in some of the community colleges and actually has office space for the MTSU recruiters and advisors. Dr. McPhee stated that every summer he makes a personal trip to every single community college to visit with the president and talk about how MTSU services and support can be improved. These partnerships continue to be strengthened through a very unique program that the Division of Student Affairs developed called the MTSU Promise Transfer Agreement; the community college presidents have been very positive about it. The community colleges that have signed include Motlow, Chattanooga, Columbia, Southwest, Cleveland, and Dyersburg. Nashville State will be signing in the next few months.

Dr. McPhee noted the initiative from the University of Tennessee – Knoxville in providing free tuition for families with income levels of \$50,000 and below. Due to the differential in average family income, it might be assumed the MTSU loan debt statistics would be higher than UTK. However, it was found through looking at income levels and PELL eligibility that while UTK is celebrating that 46% of their students graduate with no debt at all, MTSU can celebrate that 41% of its students do not take on any debt if MTSU is the only institution they attend. As concerns transfer students, who make up 50% of MTSU students, 38% graduate with zero debt.

Considering the disparity in median family income between a UTK student and a MTSU student, these results really show significant progress in that area.

Legislative Activity

On March 12 there was a very successful “MTSU Day on the Hill.” Trustees and staff members met with many members of the local legislative delegation as well as legislative committee chairs. On March 25, Dr. McPhee appeared before the House Finance Ways and Means Committee to present the MTSU budget. Each year, every institution has to defend its budget and that budget must be approved by these committees in order for the institution to be funded for the new year. That afternoon the MTSU Board of Trustee sunset bill was considered by the House Government Operations Committee. Every two years, the legislature requires the Board and the University to come before it in order for it to be continued. The committee passed this bill on to the House floor. On March 26, the MTSU budget was presented to the House Higher Education subcommittee and the presentation went very well. Finally, on March 27, Board Chair Smith and Vice Chair Freeman joined Dr. McPhee for the budget hearing before the Senate Education Committee. This meeting went exceptionally well, the budget was approved and will be considered by the full Senate within a few weeks. Dr. McPhee thanked the following staff members who did a great deal of preparation for the various hearings: Sondra Wade, John Hood, Joe Bales, Alan Thomas, and Kim Edgar. Finally, on February 26, Board Chair Smith and Dr. McPhee spent an entire day meeting various colleagues and legislators. Board Chair Smith stated that they met with the President of UT, Randy Boyd, Belmont President Dr. Fischer, and Dr. Loughry, President of Lipscomb University. He noted that we have exchange programs all over the world, but we don’t have one with Belmont, Lipscomb, or UT. He stated that we should be looking at ways to ensure that any students who transfer from one of those schools does well at MTSU. Discussions to this end have begun and are ongoing. Board Chair Smith also indicated that there were meetings with Speaker Glen Cassada, Lt. Gov. McNally, and Gov. Lee that he feels were beneficial. Lastly, Board Chair Smith stated that Trustee Adams asked how it can be judged if MTSU is doing good. This is a topic he and Dr. McPhee have discussed on numerous occasions. Dr. McPhee sent him a scorecard as a suggestion with three or four metrics. He stated the

challenge is to determine if there need to be additional metrics if the current ones are inadequate or if there are too many, that now is the time for the Board to weigh in on how you think MTSU should be measured. This will give the opportunity for comparisons against the other LGIs.

Student Recognition

Several outstanding students were recognized as representing the best of the best.

Kirsten Cunningham was accompanied by Dean Vile of the Honors College. Kirsten came to MTSU after two years of study at the University of Alaska at Anchorage and several years of work at an insurance company. A single mother who has overcome a serious health issue, Kirsten has earned a 4.0 GPA average in Chemistry and Biology with a concentration in Physiology and is graduating this spring. Last year she was named a national Goldwater Fellow and participated in a Research Experience for Undergraduates at Scripps Research Center in La Jolla, California. She has received the MTSU University Provost Award and the Outstanding Nontraditional Student Award, as well as, the Outstanding Senior Award from the Biology Department and several URECA and other travel awards to present her research at the American Society for Cell Biology. She received first place among presentations from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences at the 2017 Scholars Day and is a member of Phi Kappa Phi. She is the coauthor of articles in the Journal of Visualized Experiments and International Immunopharmacology and abstracts in Molecular Biology of the Cell. After being accepted into Scripps, Duke, and Princeton, she has decided to attend the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland, where she has received full funding to pursue a Ph.D. either in biochemistry, cell and molecular biology, or cell and molecular medicine.

Robert Owen was accompanied by Dean Vile of the Honors College. Robert is an Honors Transfer Fellow who came to MTSU after attending Full Sail University and after serving as a pastor for several years. He is graduating with a degree in biology and is planning to go to medical school. He has already been accepted into the University of Alabama at Birmingham, is on the waiting list at the Mayo Clinic School of Medicine, and is awaiting an interview at New York University. He has participated in a number of research projects and has received a URECA grant and other scholarships to support his work. Robert is a recipient of the statewide Harold Love Award for

Outstanding Community Service, is an active member of a number of campus organizations and honor societies, has participated in numerous mission trips, and is MTSU's nominee for the Phi Kappa Phi Scholarship. He and his wife Ferris, who is undergoing treatment for cancer, have three children.

Alex Johnson was accompanied by Coach Insell. First Lady McPhee was very active in recruiting Alex. Murfreesboro native Alex recently completed one of the greatest individual careers of any Lady Raider in program history. The Blackman High School graduate finished her career ranking in the Top 10 of nine all-time categories at Middle Tennessee, including scoring, games started and field goal percentage, among others. Alex finished her career eighth on the Lady Raider all-time scoring list with 1,872 points. Additionally, Alex is among the Top 10 in five single-season categories. Alex's outstanding play on the court has been recognized by coaches and media as evidenced by nine different all-conference honors, including Conference USA Freshman of the Year, Conference USA Preseason Player of the Year and a three-time All-Conference USA performer. While Alex has been dominant on the court, she has also excelled in the classroom. Alex is graduating with a degree in Bio Chemistry with a Pre-Pharmacy emphasis. She has been named to the Conference USA Academic Honor Roll each year of her collegiate career. Alex has excelled in the classroom and on the court, doing so with humility, class and dignity.

Brent Stockstill was accompanied by his dad and coach, Rick Stockstill. Brent enjoyed a stellar collegiate career both in the classroom and on the football field during his time with the Blue Raiders. The Murfreesboro native was a three-time Conference USA All-Academic Team member, earned the 2017 C-USA Scholar-Athlete of the Year award, was one of just three players nationally last year who entered the season with a Master's degree already in hand, and was a semifinalist for the prestigious William V. Campbell Trophy. This award is given to the college football player with the best combination of academics, community service, and on-field performance. It is considered by many to be the "Academic Heisman". On the football field, the three-year permanent team captain and the 2018 Conference USA MVP, ended his career as the Middle Tennessee record holder in passing yards, touchdown passes, 300-yard passing games, 400-yard passing games, passing yards per game, completions and attempts. He also finished in the top 10, all-time in Conference USA history in touchdown passes, completions, attempts,

passing yards, completion percentage, and 300-yard passing games. Brent was also exceptional in community service and earned numerous honors for his efforts, including being named a member of the AFCA Allstate Good Works Team where he was honored on the field at the 2018 College Football Playoff semifinal in New Orleans. Board Chair Smith added notes of appreciation for both Rick and Brent Stockstill.

Faculty Trustee/Student Trustee

This was the final Board meeting for Peyton Tracy participating in his role as Student Trustee. Dr. McPhee expressed appreciation for the insight Peyton brought to the Board and wished him all the best. Applicants for a new student trustee are being reviewed, and the incoming student trustee will be introduced to the Board at its next meeting in June.

Dr. McPhee stated that this would also be the last Board meeting for the inaugural faculty trustee, Dr. Tony Johnston. Dr. McPhee said that Trustee Johnston has served as an outstanding representative of his peers and his engagement with this Board is appreciated. The Faculty Senate recently completed the process of electing a new faculty trustee. Dr. McPhee introduced the new Faculty Trustee, Dr. Mary Martin. Dr. Martin is a Professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences. She earned her Bachelor's of Science in Mathematics at MTSU, she studied Commutative Ring Theory and earned her Master's and PhD at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In her 20th year at MTSU, Dr. Martin has taught undergraduate and graduate courses, managed multiple federal grants to benefit Tennessee middle and high school teachers, and served as the Faculty Senate President during the year of transition to the new Board. She brings a strong dedication to students and a broad faculty perspective with her as she assumes the role of the second Faculty Trustee to the Board. Dr. McPhee congratulated Dr. Martin and, on behalf of the Board, welcomed her.

Commencement

On Friday, May 3 at 3 p.m., a commencement ceremony for the College of Graduate Studies will take place. At that time, 400 students will receive either their master's, education specialist, or

doctoral degree. The guest speaker will be Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross, MTSU Chemistry professor, Director of the Women in STEM Center at MTSU, and recipient of the MTSU Foundation's 2018 Career Achievement Award. On Saturday, May 4, more than 2,100 students will receive their bachelors degree. The morning speaker will be Trustee Chris Karbowskiak and the afternoon speaker will be the Honorable Governor Bill Lee.

Concluding Remarks

Trustee Freeman thanked Dr. McPhee for sending out the dashboard of information and made note of several points: the number of degrees per FTE continues to climb, graduation rate continues to climb, and average ACT scores continue to climb. Over 4,000 degrees are conferred per year, and the lowest number of our students are receiving Pell grants. Trustee Freeman voiced his appreciation to the staff for all the work being done at the university to change the lives of young people who come through the halls every day. Board Chair Smith thanked all those who helped put the meeting on and thanked fellow trustees for their dedication to the work of this governing body.

Adjournment

Board Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 2:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Heidi Zimmerman

Board Secretary