

## Chairs Council Resolution

presented to Provost Bartel and Vice President Sells

*date*

The members of the Chairs Council appreciate the impact of enrollment on the financial well-being of the university. The council understands that support from the department chairs is an important element in the recruitment and retention process. The Council believes that academic departments are the most critical factors in insuring the quality of MTSU academic programs. The Council also believes that the quality of academic programs and the quality of graduates is of the utmost importance in maintaining a positive reputation and a sustainable future for the university. Importantly, maintaining high quality academic programs necessitates that students who are admitted to the university are prepared for academic challenges inherent to those programs.

The Chairs Council has examined ACT scores and high school grade point averages (HSGPA) as they relate to student success at MTSU. Specifically, the Council examined the 6 year graduation rate relative to ACT and HSGPA. We also examined success in general education classes relative to ACT and HSGPA. The analysis indicates that a shift in our admissions policy is needed. Students who are admitted to the university with an ACT score below 19 have a DFW rate in the general education courses of 36.4 % versus 23.6% for students who have an ACT of 19 or higher. Students who have an ACT lower than 19 have a 6 year graduation rate of 34.78% versus 47.97% for students with an ACT of 19 or higher. (all data are obtained from IEPR and are attached)

The Chairs Council has examined HSGPA relative to student success. The current admissions standards allow students who have a HSGPA of 3.0 or higher to have unconditional admission. However, the data show that students with a HSGPA between 3.0 and 3.5 actually have a lower success rate in general education courses and a lower graduation rate than the aggregate (see attached data regarding success rates in Gen Ed courses). Students with a HSGPA of 3.5 or higher have a 6 year graduation rate of 63.71% versus 34.72% for students with a HSGPA lower than 3.5. This data suggest that 3.5 would be a better cut off for unconditional admission than 3.0.

Accordingly, the Chairs Council strongly recommends that recruiting of students should be focused on higher ability students. The recruitment of higher ability students

will result in the admission of students with higher retention and graduation rates. This strategy will benefit MTSU in terms of the Tennessee funding formula for higher education institutions. The Chairs Council recommends that the Provost and the Vice President for Student Affairs organize a campus-wide initiative aimed at increasing the guaranteed HSGPA admission standard from 3.0 to 3.5. The council realizes that this will require significant discussion and planning and will be a multi-year process.

The resulting change in admissions will be from the current guaranteed admissions requirements:

3.0 GPA, OR

Minimum composite ACT score of 22 (Equivalent SAT of 1020-Critical Reading & Math), OR

Minimum 2.7 GPA plus ACT score of 19 (Equivalent SAT of 900- Critical Reading & Math)

to:

3.5 GPA, OR

Minimum composite ACT score of 22 (Equivalent SAT of 1020-Critical Reading & Math), OR

Minimum 2.7 GPA plus ACT score of 19 (Equivalent SAT of 900- Critical Reading & Math)

The Chairs Council requests that this recommendation be reviewed and discussed by both Academic Affairs and Student Affairs and that a response to our recommendation be given to the council. The Council is eager to work cooperatively with the Provost and the Division of Student Affairs on this initiative to enhance student success at MTSU.

## 6-year Graduation Rates by ACT Composite and High S

FT/PT (All)

ACT Composite	Cohort Term				Total Headcount	Total % Grad.
	Fall 2007		Fall 2008			
	Headcount	% Grad.	Headcount	% Grad.		
12			5	20.00%	5	20.00%
13	4	25.00%	2	0.00%	6	16.67%
14	7	14.29%	17	23.53%	24	20.83%
15	23	39.13%	30	20.00%	53	28.30%
16	61	32.79%	63	33.33%	124	33.06%
17	112	35.71%	136	30.88%	248	33.06%
18	188	43.09%	206	34.47%	394	38.58%
19	297	44.44%	304	38.49%	601	41.43%
20	386	44.30%	362	44.75%	748	44.52%
21	428	42.06%	420	44.52%	848	43.28%
22	445	45.84%	377	45.36%	822	45.62%
23	324	45.06%	331	47.13%	655	46.11%
24	279	51.25%	243	49.38%	522	50.38%
25	221	47.51%	192	47.92%	413	47.70%
26	182	50.55%	174	57.47%	356	53.93%
27	140	55.71%	145	49.66%	285	52.63%
28	117	64.96%	86	54.65%	203	60.59%
29	79	63.29%	80	70.00%	159	66.67%
30	50	54.00%	57	63.16%	107	58.88%
31	18	77.78%	20	80.00%	38	78.95%
32	17	88.24%	16	62.50%	33	75.76%
33	5	60.00%	8	50.00%	13	53.85%
34	4	100.00%			4	100.00%
35	1	0.00%			1	0.00%
No ACT	188	31.38%	182	34.62%	370	32.97%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3576</b>	<b>46.17%</b>	<b>3456</b>	<b>44.97%</b>	<b>7032</b>	<b>45.58%</b>

## chool GPA for Fall 2007 and Fall 2008 Incoming Freshmen

FT/PT (All)

HS GPA	Cohort Term		Fall 2008		Total Headcount	Total % Grad.
	Fall 2007		Headcount	% Grad.		
< 3.0	1030	29.22%	964	24.90%	1994	27.13%
3.0 - 3.49	1235	44.70%	1230	43.58%	2465	44.14%
>= 3.5	1252	63.26%	1206	64.18%	2458	63.71%
No HS GPA	59	10.17%	56	7.14%	115	8.70%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3576</b>	<b>46.17%</b>	<b>3456</b>	<b>44.97%</b>	<b>7032</b>	<b>45.58%</b>

# DFW data 2011-2015

