

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 17, 2023
Johnson City, Tennessee

The East Tennessee State University Board of Trustees' Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee met on Friday, November 17, 2023, at 8:03 a.m. in the East Tennessee Room of the D.P. Culp Student Center.

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Janet Ayers called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Board Secretary Dr. Adam Green conducted the roll call. The following committee members were physically present:

Committee Chair Janet Ayers
Trustee Charles Allen
Trustee Dr. Linda Latimer
Trustee Tony Treadway

Other Board of Trustees members in attendance were Dorothy Grisham, Melissa Steagall-Jones, Steve DeCarlo, and Aamir Shaikh.

III. Approval of the Committee Minutes from September 15, 2023

The minutes from the September 15, 2023, meeting of the Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee were approved as submitted with Trustee Allen making the motion and Trustee Treadway seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

IV. Quality Assurance Funding Update

Provost Dr. Kimberly McCorkle and Dr. Michael Hoff, Vice Provost for Decision Support and University Chief Planning Officer, provided an overview of the state's Quality Assurance Funding program and how it applies to ETSU.

Prior to that presentation, Provost McCorkle announced that the Tennessee Higher Education Commission has unanimously approved ETSU's proposed bachelor of science degree in mechatronics engineering, starting in the fall semester.

Provost McCorkle explained that Quality Assurance Funding, previously known as Performance Funding, provides incentives for public colleges and universities in Tennessee to improve student learning and institutional quality. Institutions may earn an additional 5.45 percent above the Outcomes Formula funding as part of this process. ETSU is in year three of the five-year cycle in reporting Quality Assurance Funding.

Dr. Hoff and Provost McCorkle analyzed the various standards that comprise the Quality Assurance Funding program, and in summarizing ETSU's point totals for 2022-23, they indicated that the university's score of 96, out of a possible 100, is quite high.

In describing next steps, Provost McCorkle emphasized that this is a process of continuous improvement and that even though ETSU earned a 96, there are areas where the institution can improve. Next steps include focusing on General Education Assessment, Major Field Assessment, and, in the category of Academic Programs, encouraging all accreditable programs to seek accreditation.

V. ETSU Research Update: Sponsored research projects in the field of secondary special education and transition

Dr. Dawn A. Rowe, Quillen Chair of Excellence in Teaching and Learning and Professor of Special Education, shared her perspectives on the impact of sponsored research at ETSU and throughout the region.

Dr. Rowe provided examples of some current projects in which she is involved:

- Brain Injury and Juvenile Services Training: Funded by the National Institute for Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research in the amount of \$600,000
- National Technical Assistance Center: Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, in the amount of \$4.1 million
- RMI (Republic of the Marshall Islands) Teacher Retention Project: Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, at almost \$1.25 million

Dr. Rowe then described two projects with a direct impact on the ETSU campus. Access ETSU is funded by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Postsecondary Education under Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities into Higher Education, at \$2.5 million. And the Community Integration Project is funded by the Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities' Tennessee Believes Program, at \$400,000. Both projects grew out of needs identified by the community. Both programs address gaps, after high school graduation and after college graduation.

VI. Overview of EQUIP (Extending Quillen to the Underserved through an Integrated Program)

Dr. Bill Block, ETSU Vice President for Clinical Affairs and Dean of the Quillen College of Medicine, reviewed Quillen's longstanding mission of training physicians for rural health and primary care medicine.

Dr. Tom Kincer discussed Quillen's pathway program for students who wish to pursue careers as primary care physicians committed to rural and underserved medicine. The program is called EQUIP: Extending Quillen to the Underserved through an Integrated Program. Dr. Kincer explained that EQUIP is vital because:

- Fewer than 5 percent of medical students nationwide are from rural communities
- Fewer than 10 percent of practicing physicians are located in rural communities
- 20 percent of the population lives in rural communities
- Students from rural communities are much more likely to return to rural communities to practice

Dr. Kincer reviewed some of the requirements of the EQUIP program as well as some of the benefits of participating in EQUIP.

Dr. Kincer told the committee that 26 students are currently enrolled in EQUIP, and there are 21 new applicants. Dr. Kincer then introduced two EQUIP students who gained acceptance into the Quillen College of Medicine. Emma Henson and Laken Wood are ETSU seniors who will be attending Quillen starting next summer. They described the benefits of the EQUIP program in preparing them for medical careers.

Dr. Kincer acknowledged the sponsors for the EQUIP program: the Tennessee Center for Workforce Development and Ballad Health.

VII. Student Life and Enrollment Update

Dr. Leah Adinolfi, Dean of Student Engagement and Director of Assessment, discussed with the committee the reasons why student engagement outside the classroom matters: persistence,

critical thinking and academic success, and belonging, relationships, and well-being. She indicated that ETSU is constantly looking for ways to make students feel that they belong. The essential components of belonging, she said, are a sense of valued involvement and a sense of fit.

Dr. Adinolfi listed several examples of student engagement, and reported that the total number of events, meetings, and activities supported by the D.P. Culp Student Center has increased more than three-fold since the building reopened and that participation in those events has more than doubled. She added that engagement in student activities increased between 2018 and 2023.

Dr. Heather Levesque, Assistant Vice President and Executive Director of Admissions, then described the increased levels of engagement that occur when students live on campus. She reported that the total number of first-year students living on campus increased by 37 percent between FY22 and FY23.

Dr. Levesque highlighted the work of the Office of New Student and Family Programs, which has increased the number of students registering for orientation before April by almost 400 percent between 2018 and 2023. During that same time, the number of students signing up for Preview increased by 70 percent with 99 percent of students surveyed stating that Preview increased their social sense of belonging to ETSU, and 96 percent said it increased their academic sense of belonging.

Dr. Adinolfi and Dr. Levesque then presented a video featuring students talking about their sense of belonging and engagement at ETSU.

GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS

VIII. Committee Discussions

- General Discussion

No further discussions took place.

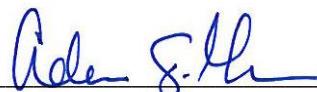
IX. Other Business

There was no additional business to come before the committee.

X. Adjournment

The committee meeting was adjourned by Trustee Ayers at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Adam Green
Secretary of the Board of Trustees