

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

MINUTES

September 16, 2022  
Johnson City, Tennessee

The East Tennessee State University Board of Trustees Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee met on Friday, September 16, 2022, at 8:00 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 8:00 a.m.

**II. Roll Call**

Board Secretary Dr. Adam Green led the roll call and confirmed to the Committee Chair that a quorum was present.

Committee members present were:

Trustee Charles Allen\*  
Trustee Virginia Foley  
Board Chair Dr. Linda Latimer  
Trustee Melissa Steagall-Jones\*  
Committee Chair Janet Ayers

*\*Note: Arrived moments after the roll call was taken.*

**III. Approval of the Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee Minutes from April 22, 2022**

The minutes from April 22, 2022, were approved as submitted, with Trustee Foley making the motion and Board Chair Dr. Latimer seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Action Item: Recommendation for Tenure upon Appointment**

Provost Kimberly McCorkle presented a recommendation for tenure upon appointment of three new faculty members including: Dr. Walid Alali from the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology in the College of Public Health, Ms. Elizabeth Blair Jones from the Sherrod Library, and Dr. Holly Wei from the College of Nursing.

The committee voted to approve the faculty rank and the awarding of tenure to the faculty members recommended by the President, in the particular unit, department, or college as outlined in the meeting materials. Trustee Foley made the motion, and Board Chair Dr. Latimer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. Academic Action Notification for Period of January 1, 2022, through July 31, 2022**

Provost McCorkle updated the committee on academic actions taken between the period of January 1, 2022 through July 31, 2022.

A summary of action items that required notification to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) included:

<i>Type of Action – THEC Notification</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
Academic Program Modification	1
Revise Curriculum Substantive – Credit Change	2
Establish New Certificate Undergraduate	1
Establish New Certificate Graduate	1
Establish New Concentration in an Existing Program	1
Change Name/Title of Academic Program or Concentration	2

A summary of action items that required approval through ETSU’s shared governance process included:

<i>Type of Action – University Level Approval</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
Establish Academic Unit: Center or Institute	2
Revise Curriculum Substantive	8
Establish Academic Minor	1
Revise Academic Minor	1
Establish Articulation Policy (Degrees & Certificates)	2
Establish Program Policy	1

Revise Program Policy - Admission	13
Revise Program Policy - Progression	1
Revise Articulation Agreement	2

Provost McCorkle noted that all curricular changes and modifications described in the meeting materials are made to ensure program quality, student success, accreditation standards, enrollment goals, or better preparation of students for the workforce.

Topics of discussion among Trustees included:

- Brewing and Distillation Studies—Given the growing number of breweries in Appalachia, it is anticipated that community members interested in professional growth will welcome the change in the Brewing and Distillation Studies Certificate. The interaction of the fermentation process and scientific research was also discussed, noting economic progress opportunities.
- Modifications in B.B.A. Supply Chain Management—Changes to this program are timely nationally and locally. Along with Brewing and Distillation Studies, they represent a balanced approach to attracting and retaining talent in the region and embracing Appalachian culture in a positive light.
- Provost McCorkle added that the faculty is looking to expand the minor and the certificate into a standalone bachelor’s program for Brewing and Distillation Studies. There is considerable interest from students and employers in the region, and this is one of the planned curriculum expansions.

## **VI. Annual Institutional Review for Graduate Medical Education**

Dr. David Linville, Associate Vice President for Clinical Affairs, presented a report on the annual institutional review for the Quillen College of Medicine (COM) residency and fellowship training programs, also known as Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs. The 2019-20 and the 2020-21 reports were included in the agenda materials.

## **VII. SACSCOC Reaffirmation Update**

Provost Kimberly McCorkle and Dr. Cheri Clavier, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Accreditation Liaison, updated the committee on the reaffirmation of accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Dr. Clavier explained the timeline and process for reaffirmation of accreditation:

- The compliance certification for ETSU's differentiated review, which included ETSU's narrative response and supporting evidence, was submitted to SACSCOC on September 8, 2022.
- An off-site reaffirmation review committee consisting of a chair and eight peer evaluators will conduct a review on November 1-November 2, 2022.
- The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) and focused report to address any findings of the off-site reaffirmation review committee are due on February 23, 2023.
- An on-site reaffirmation review committee consisting of a chair and eight to ten peer evaluators, plus a QEP lead evaluator, will conduct a focused evaluation from April 3- 6, 2023.
- The SACSCOC Board of Trustees will make the final accreditation decision, which will be announced on December 5, 2023.

Dr. Clavier summarized her report by stating that she believes ETSU is compliant with all of the core requirements and standards and is confident that the university will receive reaffirmation in December 2023.

### **VIII. Office of Military and Veterans Services Update**

Col. (Ret.) Dan Bishop, Director of Military and Veteran Services, provided an overview of the university's support for military and veteran students. He discussed the office's roles and responsibilities, the spring/summer 2022 initiatives, and the unit strategy for the 2022-23 academic year including: Certification; Recruiting; Retention; Post-Graduation Employment; and Engagement

Col. Bishop reported that since he became Director of Military and Veteran Services six months ago, the following outcomes have been achieved:

- A successful compliance inspection at Gatton College of Pharmacy.
- Approval of an in-state tuition rate for the majority of ETSU students affiliated with the military has been authorized.
- ETSU has proactively engaged with the Virginia National Guard, requesting that Guardsmen be allowed to use their DoD federal tuition assistance match at ETSU.

Topics of discussion among Trustees included:

- Tennessee Strong (Support, Training, and Renewing Opportunity for National Guardsmen). This is the tuition assistance program for the state.
- The opportunity for ETSU to have a physical presence at off-base military education centers and ETSU online opportunities would allow service members to be directly integrated on campus after they are discharged.

- The challenges for veterans who are balancing part-time or full-time work, families, and education (Ninety percent or higher work full-time).

## **IX. ETSU Research Corporation Update**

David Golden, CEO of the ETSU Research Corporation, updated the committee on the organization's efforts to fulfill its mission of expanding ETSU's impact in research and innovation across disciplines. According to Mr. Golden, an imperative of the Research Corporation is reimagining research; it is not just the typical approach of entering a lab or field with a hypothesis in mind, observing, gathering evidence, and approving one or the other. This effort requires using data to anticipate what the world will do in the future. It also assumes the university can forecast the future and does so faster and better than its competitors. ETSU would benefit from a competitive advantage. This type of forward focused analysis is an example of the work that the Research Corporation hopes to explore in the near future.

Dr. Stephen Marshall, CMO of ETSU Research Corporation, discussed the activities occurring within the Rugged Buc Labs Content Studio (RBL), an experiential media marketing venue accessible to all students on campus. The following are included under the umbrella of Rugged Buc Labs:

- Dr. Marshall's association with the Brand Storytelling Network, a digital network connecting filmmakers and brands, resulted in a brand film certification for professionals.
- RBL's partnerships with NETNHub and Create Appalachia encourage workforce development and regional branding. With these collaborators, a weekly TV program featuring the Appalachian area is in development, providing an opportunity to tell the region's story while involving students from across the institution.
- "Trailblazer" is an apprenticeship/masterclass program with world-class instructors. In this program, students create brand storytelling, cinematic, and cinema graphic content where they tell the story of the research occurring at ETSU.

Dr. Marshall also spoke about the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the opportunity they have provided to work on a character-driven brand film that shows their unique multidisciplinary innovation and research.

Mr. Golden continued the presentation by discussing plans related to partnerships focused on the bio-engineering curriculum. Advances in biological science, computing, automation, and artificial intelligence are fueling a new wave of innovation. Four arenas of biological innovation include biomolecules, biosystems, biomachine interfaces, and biocomputing.

Mr. Golden also noted that on October 27, 2022, at 9:00 a.m., the ETSU Research Corporation is hosting “Growing the Future: Symposium on Innovation and Education for the Bioeconomy” in ETSU’s Mary B. Martin Center for the Arts. This event will bring together industry leaders to highlight global bioeconomy opportunities and initiatives in the Appalachian Highlands.

Lastly, a report on the Appalachian Highlands Rural Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for healthcare, science, and business development was presented. Ballad Health has seeded the new center with a one-million-dollar grant.

**X. Committee Discussions**

There were no further committee discussions.

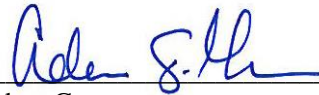
**XI. Other Business**

No other business was brought before the committee.

**XII. Adjournment**

The committee was adjourned, with Trustee Allen making the motion and Trustee Foley making the second.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam Green", is written over a horizontal line.

Adam Green  
Secretary of the Board of Trustees

Approved by the Board of Trustees at its November 18, 2022 meeting.