

**University Council**  
**Monday, July 10, 2023**  
**East Tennessee Room**

**1. Call to Order**

Provost Kimberly McCorkle called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Melissa Nipper led the roll call. Members present were: Bridget Baird, Dr. Ginni Blackhart, Dr. Joe Bidwell, Dr. Bill Block, Dr. Cheri Clavier, Dr. Joel Faidley, Ms. Joy Fulkerson, Dr. Mark Fulks, Dr. Lisa Haddad, Dr. Nick Hagemeyer, Mr. Steven Hendrix, Dr. Mike Hoff, Dr. Keith Johnson, Dr. Karen King, Ms. Candy Massey, Dr. Sam Mayhew, Dr. Kimberly McCorkle, Dr. Arpita Nandi, Dr. Brian Noland, Dr. Rob Pack, Dr. Tony Pittarese, Dr. Richard Sander, Dr. Joe Sherlin, Mr. Mehmet Topyurek, and Ms. Jess Vodden.

**3. Standing Items**

*3.1 Approve minutes of the June 12, 2023, meeting*

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2023, meeting. The motion was seconded; the minutes were approved.

*3.2 Review agenda*

There were no changes to the agenda.

*3.3 Consent agenda items*

There were no consent agenda items.

*3.4 Call for Voluntary Reports of UC-Essential Action Items from Governance Organizations*

*Faculty Senate:* Dr. Ginni Blackhart reported that the Faculty Senate is continuing to work on revisions to the Faculty Handbook, focusing on addressing outdated references to “TBR (Tennessee Board of Regents) Policies.”

*Council of Chairs:* Dr. Lisa Haddad reported that the Council of Chairs continues to work on membership updates and updating their webpage.

*Staff Senate:* Ms. Joy Fulkerson reported no new updates since the last meeting.

*Information Technology Council:* Dr. Karen King reported that work continues on Voyager, with everything on track for testing in August. In addition, Information Technology Services is starting a new project to change out the phone system for the university, as well as a new project on network segmentation. Finally, a work group for a student system has been put in place.

*Athletics:* Dr. Richard Sander reported that ETSU hired a new volleyball coach, Dr. Bruce Atkinson. He also noted that many student athletes are returning to campus today for the second semester of summer classes.

### *3.5 Sub-Council Reports*

*Quality and Effectiveness Sub-Council (QESC):* Dr. Cheri Clavier reported that the QESC met late in the spring term to get feedback on the QEP assessment rubric. She noted that the university is working to ensure that ETSU maintains momentum for continually remaining in compliance, and she will report on that to the QESC in the fall.

## **4. Action Items**

### *4.1 Old Business*

There was no old business to come before the council.

### *4.2 New Business*

Dr. Kimberly McCorkle reported updates to the University Council membership for 2023-24. The two-year terms of Dr. Joe Bidwell and Dr. Janna Scarborough were expiring this year, so the deans selected Dr. Bidwell and Dr. Chris Keller to serve. Dr. Leann Horsley's departure from the university also created a vacancy on the Council, and Dr. Lynn Williams was selected to fill the remainder of her one-year term. A new student member, Mehmet Topyurek, was selected to represent the Graduate and Professional Student Association. Finally, SGA President Trent White will begin serving as SGA representative. All new terms begin in August. Approval for a new representative for the Council of Academic Chairs will be forthcoming, with a new representative coming on board to fill Dr. Arpita Nandi's term, which is expiring. Ms. Joy Fulkerson also reported that Staff Senate would have elections in August.

## **5. Information Items/Presentations**

### *5.1 New Student Enrollment and Opening/Preview Update*

Dr. Sam Mayhew, Associate Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment, introduced the Council to Timothy Lewis, Director of New Student and Family Programs. Mr. Lewis reported on the new and coordinated messaging that has been implemented to engage and retain new students and their families. He shared orientation and course registration data. ETSU has seen an

increase in family attendance at orientation, and Mr. Lewis noted that ETSU is leveraging this in positive ways so that families can be part of the students' success.

Dr. Mayhew reported that housing is full, and he noted that Powell Hall, which was originally slated to be taken offline for housing this year for renovations, will remain open in the fall to be used for temporary housing.

Finally, Mr. Lewis reported on plans for Move-In Day for first-year students (Wednesday, August 23), expanded programming for Preview Week, and Welcome Week.

## **6. President's Report**

President Brian Noland reported that the university is positioned to have an outstanding year, with a goal of 2,100 first-time freshmen. He encouraged faculty and staff to assist with move-in on August 23, and reported that retention will be a key focus so that the university ensures that students have an impactful experience inside and outside the classroom.

He thanked Dr. Bonnie Burchette and her staff for their work in Housing, and reiterated that Powell Hall would be open for the fall, but would then undergo infrastructure and HVAC renovations in December.

He provided an update on campus infrastructure improvements, including extensive work on steam traps and roof work. Although faculty have moved back into Lamb Hall and summer classes are taking place in the newly renovated building, a formal ribbon cutting for Lamb Hall will be September 14, 2023. The design work for the academic/humanities building is now in the final phase, and offices have and will continue to transition out of Campus Center Building to make way for the groundbreaking of the new facility in late fall/early spring. Brown Hall renovations are in early design phases, and ETSU will resubmit a request for funding for Phase II of Brown Hall renovations to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission this summer.

He encouraged Council members to keep up with current events in higher education across the country and emphasized the work that ETSU is doing to engage with the community. From a budget perspective, Dr. Noland reported that ETSU is, in many ways, in the best financial shape that it has been in since he has served at the university.

## **7. Announcements**

No announcements were brought before the Council.

## **8. Adjournment**

Provost McCorkle adjourned the meeting at 9:26 a.m.