

University Council
Monday, November 13, 2023
East Tennessee Room

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Melissa Nipper led the roll call. Members present were: Ms. Bridget Baird, Dr. Ginni Blackhart, Dr. Joe Bidwell, Dr. Bill Block, Dr. Joel Faidley, Mr. David Finney, Ms. Joy Fulkerson, Ms. Christy Graham, Dr. Adam Green, Dr. Lisa Haddad, Mr. Steven Hendrix, Dr. Mike Hoff, Dr. Chris Keller, Dr. Karen King, Dr. Dhirendra Kumar, Dr. Sam Mayhew, Dr. Kimberly D. McCorkle, Dr. Brian Noland, Dr. Rob Pack, Ms. Pam Ritter, Dr. Joe Sherlin, Mr. Mehmet Topyurek, Ms. Jess Vodden, and Mr. Trent White.

3. Standing Items

3.1 Approve Minutes of the October 9, 2023, Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes from October 9, 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

A motion was made and seconded to approve the item on the consent agenda (listed below). The motion was approved.

3.3.1 Confined Spaces Access Policy

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

Faculty Senate: Dr. Ginni Blackhart reported that the Faculty Senate has met with many key groups, including the General Education Task Force and the Academic Structure Task Force. They are scheduled to hear from Dr. Susan McCracken about the Community Engaged Learning Course Designation.

Council of Academic Chairs: Dr. Lisa Haddad reported that there have been several sessions of chair training this semester, and they have received good feedback. She asked council members to encourage chairs in their areas to attend these training sessions.

Staff Senate: Mr. David Finney reported that the Staff Senate Holiday Food Drive just concluded, but additional monetary donations would be accepted throughout the week.

SGA: SGA President Trent White reported that SGA will soon inform the student body that they will be adding a third concert, which will feature student and local artists.

3.5 Sub-Council Reports

Budget and Strategic Planning Committee: Ms. Christy Graham updated the Council on the work of the committee, which is currently in the data-gathering stage. They are creating sub-committees to examine different aspects of the budget.

4. Action Items

4.1 Old Business

There was no old business to come before the council.

4.2 New Business

There was no new business to come before the council.

5. Information Items/Presentations

5.1 Center for Teaching Excellence Update

Dr. Alison Barton, Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE), shared an overview of the work of the CTE. She mentioned several priorities, including internal and external communication initiatives to raise public awareness about the work of the CTE and the impact of good teaching. Some of the areas they are focusing on include discussion of tenure and promotion and faculty review, celebrations of good teaching, collaboration, and ways to seek external funding to offer focused and targeted faculty development.

5.2 New Phone System Implementation

Mr. Rob Nelson, Assistant Chief Information Officer, reported that ITS will implement a new app-based phone system called RingCentral over the coming months. This new system, which will replace the old Cisco phone system, will be installed incrementally across campus, and

specific communication will go out to each department before the new system is deployed in their area.

6. President's Report

President Noland announced that the ETSU Board of Trustees will meet on Friday, November 17. The board will review October revised budgets, which will finalize the budget for the year. Salary enhancement recommendations also come before the board: a proposed 4.5 percent across-the-board salary increase, with a \$7,500 cap. Starting salary will be raised to \$13.60 per hour, per board approval. Pay tables also will be adjusted. In addition, he announced that the university has followed a Huron recommendation to explore vacant positions at the institution, particularly those that have been vacant more than a year, to recapture the revenues to provide salary enhancements.

President Noland and several others from ETSU will go to Nashville this week for the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) meeting, where ETSU's proposed mechatronics program will go before THEC for approval. THEC will also present to its board budget recommendations for the next legislative sessions. The second phase of Brown Hall is third on the list. Funding for ETSU Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy will also go before the THEC board.

He invited the council to two major campus events today: the Veterans Day Ceremony and Holiday Lights Celebration.

Finally, he provided an update on the Voyager Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. After consultation with ETSU's deployment partner (Highstreet) and much reflection, we have decided to reschedule the system's launch from January 1, 2024, to July 1, 2024. The transition to bi-weekly pay for employees also will take place on July 1, 2024.

7. Announcements

Melissa Nipper announced that Monday, November 13, is World Kindness Day and introduced the ETSU Campaign for Kindness, created to uplift the 2023-2024 Campus Read: *The War for Kindness*. She invited the council to stop by the Kindness Rocks event in the Culp Center in recognition of World Kindness Day.

8. Adjournment

Provost McCorkle adjourned the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 11 at 8:30 a.m.