

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

August 1, 2017
Johnson City, Tennessee

The East Tennessee State University Board of Trustees Executive Committee held a meeting at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, August 1, 2017, in the President's Conference Room in Burgin Dossett Hall on ETSU's main campus in Johnson City, Tennessee.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Scott Niswonger, chair of the Executive Committee, called the meeting to order at 4:19 p.m. A traffic issue on Interstate 26 caused a couple of meeting attendees to arrive late.

II. Roll Call

Secretary Dr. David Linville called the roll. All members were present for the meeting. They are Chair Niswonger, David Golden and Dr. Linda Lattimer.

Melanie Murry, counsel from the University of Memphis, was on the phone for the meeting. Other guests in attendance included ETSU President Brian Noland, Secretary Linville, Deputy Secretary Nathan Dugger, Joe Smith (University Relations), Nate Morabito and Phillip Murrell (WJHL-TV), Jessica Fuller (Johnson City Press) and Kristen Swing (University Relations, taking minutes).

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 25, 2017, Executive Committee meeting were unanimously approved, with Trustee Golden making a motion to approve and Trustee Lattimer seconding the motion.

IV. Report from the President

Dr. Noland reported on two key areas – enrollment and construction progress.

In terms of enrollment, Dr. Noland said the budget for the year has been built upon a decline in enrollment of 250 students. However, he reported that, at a minimum, enrollment for the fall semester is expected to be flat. He said he is hopeful it will be positive, which would result in revenues that can be invested into reserves. Also in terms of enrollment, Dr. Noland said he believed the Board of Trustees would be pleased with the diversity and academic profile of the class.

In terms of construction, Dr. Noland said the football stadium is moving along and right where it needs to be in order to be ready for the season opener on Sept. 2. He also reported that the university will break ground on the performing arts center on Sept. 8, the same day as the quarterly Board of Trustees meeting. Dr. Noland also

addressed the impending displacement of individuals working within the Culp Center as that renovation project gears up. He reported that, in December, employees and offices will begin moving to temporary locations, which include a residence hall that will be taken offline, spaces in the library and spaces in the Center for Physical Activity.

Also in his report, Dr. Noland reminded the trustees of a meeting in Nashville on August 18 called by Gov. Bill Haslam for all of the six universities' new Board of Trustees members.

He also reported on THEC's meeting the previous week, noting that staff at the university is currently preparing all capital projects to bring before the Board of Trustees prior to submitting them to THEC. He pointed out that it remains a goal to submit tuition recommendations to the Board in April instead of mid-summer so that students will know the cost of attending before leaving for the summer. Similarly, tenure and promotion would be brought before the Board of Trustees earlier so faculty members know their standing before departing for the summer.

In closing, Dr. Noland mentioned the numerous celebratory events coming up as the new semester gets underway, including faculty convocation and student convocation. He invited the trustees to attend those events.

Trustee Golden congratulated Dr. Noland, noting that it is fantastic where he and the university as a whole sit. Dr. Noland thanked Trustee Golden, noting that a lot of work has been and continues to be conducted by staff to put the university in this position.

V. Review Termination Appeal from Former Faculty Member

Prior to the meeting start, Chair Niswonger informed media and other guests in the room that this agenda item would not be discussed in the open meeting but instead needed to be taken up by the committee in an executive session.

VI. Other business

There was no other business.

VII. Adjournment

Chair Niswonger adjourned the public portion of the meeting and the committee went into executive session at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David Linville
Secretary of the Board of Trustees

Approved by the Executive Committee at its February 21, 2018 meeting.