



EAST TENNESSEE STATE  
UNIVERSITY



## From My Notepads

January 22, 2020

### The Journey Begins...

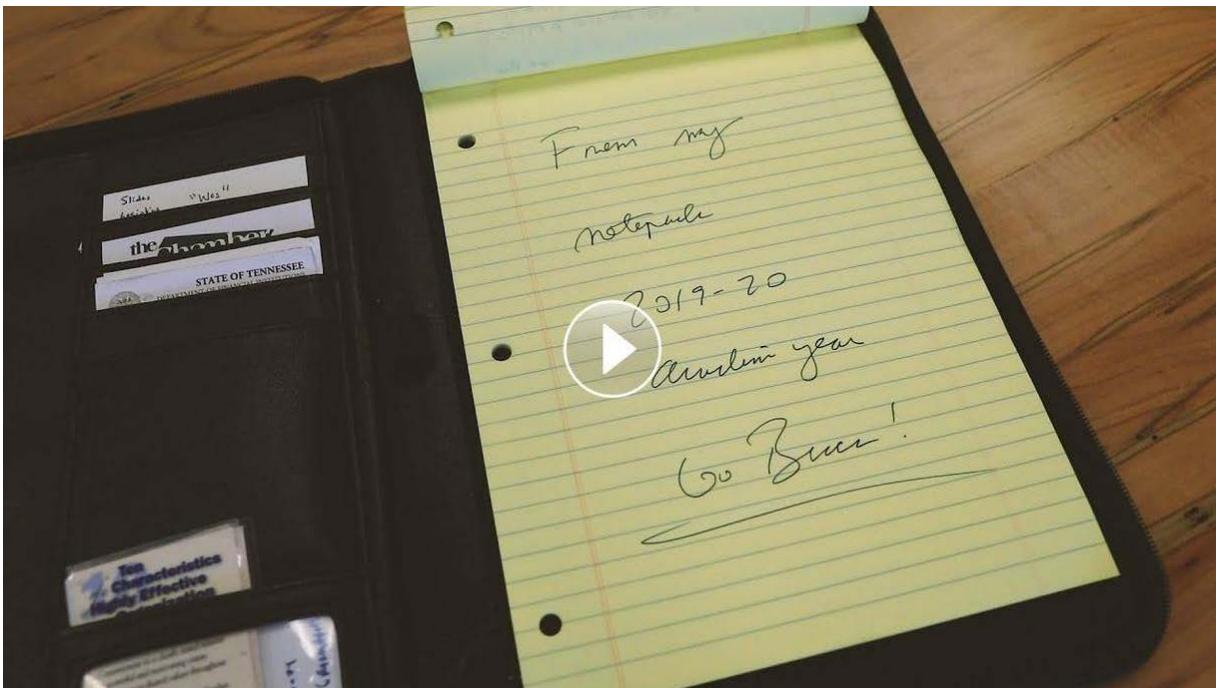
It is my great honor to welcome our students, faculty and staff to the start of the 2020 spring term. In the blink of an eye, it will be May 9, the day hundreds of students who are part of the Class of 2020 will cross the stage and celebrate the greatest dream of all as they receive their degree. And if you are counting, that is just over 100 days away.

The spring 2020 semester will be the chapter in our history when two long-awaited projects – the construction of the Martin Center for the Arts and the renovation of the D.P. Culp Center – reach completion. Thank you for being part of the ETSU community, and best wishes for a wonderful semester and an amazing 2020 year.

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### From My Notepads: Internal Communications

In my latest Notepads video, I discuss new platforms for internal communication, led by the Office of University Relations.



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## Announcing ETSU Promise Plus

During a news conference this past Friday, I had the honor of announcing the launch of ETSU Promise Plus, a new program that provides last-dollar assistance covering tuition and program service fees as well as extensive support for incoming freshmen.

ETSU Promise Plus begins in fall 2020 and will be open to first-time, full-time freshmen eligible for the Tennessee Education Lottery (HOPE) Scholarship and the maximum Pell Grant. The program will cover a student's last-dollar amount of tuition and program service fees after other financial aid, such as Pell Grant, HOPE Scholarship, and institutional scholarships, are applied.

In addition to financial assistance, Promise Plus offers free support to help students be successful in their pursuit of a degree. These support services include participation in pre-college programs including new student orientation, Preview ETSU and early move-in to the residence halls. Program benefits include access to faculty and peer mentors, academic tutoring services, career support, a first-year experience course, and membership in the Buccaneer Family Association. Students living on campus can receive up to \$6,000 in on-campus housing scholarships (\$1,500 annually).

The program is open to incoming, first-time freshmen beginning in fall 2020. To be considered for ETSU Promise Plus, students must apply for admission to ETSU and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the verification process, if applicable. More information about ETSU Promise Plus is available at [www.etsu.edu/scholarships/promise-plus](http://www.etsu.edu/scholarships/promise-plus) or by emailing [PromisePlus@etsu.edu](mailto:PromisePlus@etsu.edu).

I want to thank the staff with the Division of Student Life and Enrollment for their leadership in developing this initiative. I also encourage you to learn more about ETSU Promise Plus and to share the news with others about this exciting new opportunity.

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## Important Dates Regarding Reopening of the Culp Center

**"Dr. Noland, when is the Culp Center opening?"**

That is a question that I receive daily, sometimes on multiple occasions, from students, alumni, faculty, staff and people in the community. As work draws to a close, here are three tentative dates that we have been given:

**Week of February 17** – Offices begin moving into Culp Center

**Monday, February 24** – Culp Center scheduled to open

**March 1-6** – Grand opening events planned

Look for more updates in my Notepads email and the Weekly Update email.

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## Budget Hearings for FY 20-21

As I noted in last week's Notepads email, our conversations with elected state officials have begun in regards to our legislative priorities for the upcoming year. Concurrent with those efforts is the work being done to develop and ultimately seek approval for ETSU's 2020-21 budget. The following items have been identified as major priorities for the 2020-21 budget:

- Providing salary enhancements for faculty and staff
- Funding and supporting equity and inclusion efforts at ETSU
- Ensuring adequate staffing of current facilities
- Aligning operations to support the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan
- Identifying and executing strategies that support and enhance the implementation of the decentralized budget and planning model

The expectation is that there will be limited new funding available in 2020-21 for new initiatives. The bulk of all new resources will be designated for salary and benefits enhancements. No new dollars should be requested during the budget process other than the anticipated 2% salary increase. Sources may be identified through college/unit reallocation of funds, carryforward funds, or net fee revenue to support new positions and/or new initiatives that are mission critical and aligned with the Strategic Plan.

Below is a brief timeline outlining next steps in our budget process:

**February 21:** Presentation of proposed salary and fee increases to Board of Trustees Finance and Administration Committee.

**February 24-28:** The Budget and Strategic Planning Committee (BASPC) will review the cumulative materials presented through the budget process and submit a prioritized budget recommendation to the President and the President's Senior Leadership Team.

**Early March:** The President will meet with the Senior Leadership Team to review BASPC recommendations and develop the final budget presentation.

**April 13:** Budget review and update will be provided to the University Council.

**April 24:** The ETSU Board of Trustees will vote on the budget, recognizing that final legislative action could impact the budget.



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