

**From:** [Office of the President](#)  
**To:** [faculty@etsu.edu](mailto:faculty@etsu.edu); [staff@etsu.edu](mailto:staff@etsu.edu)  
**Subject:** Budget work underway to set the course for fall  
**Date:** Monday, July 6, 2020 8:21:00 PM  
**Importance:** High

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**East Tennessee State University  
Office of the President**

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From the time ETSU made the transition to remote delivery of instruction and campus services in March, we have requested the campus community to be extremely judicious in the use of university funds as it was anticipated that these unprecedented and challenging economic times would result in a reduction of state appropriations. Together, we have persevered during these extraordinary circumstances by keeping a continued focus on our mission to educate students and to improve the quality of life for the people of this region.

As we anticipate the start of the fall 2020 semester, we realize that our work is not done. Ten days ago I shared with you news from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission that ETSU and other public higher education institutions would not experience the projected state budget reductions that were originally expected to occur when the 2020-21 fiscal year began on July 1. Though this was promising news, challenging issues remain on the horizon. These include fluctuating enrollment numbers for the fall semester as well as the ongoing uncertainties that surround the further impact of the COVID pandemic. Already, the institution has made restrictions on travel, purchases, and the hiring of faculty and staff, and we have been fortunate to avoid significant furloughs or layoffs that unfortunately have occurred across higher education and the private sector since the pandemic hit the United States in March.

In the upcoming days, I anticipate receiving a final report from the Strategic Options Workgroup that will provide recommendations to inform and guide budget decisions that preserve our teaching, research, and service missions. Once I have this report, I will participate in discussions with senior administration, college deans, department chairs, and our faculty and staff.

We realize these temporary challenges create extreme apprehension for all of us. The decisions before us are not ones that I,

nor the members of the workgroup, take lightly. There are a lot of rumors about what might happen, but I want every member of the ETSU community to be part of the conversation as we determine the best path forward for our University. Next week I will provide an overview of the budget to the campus and will host a Town Hall to address your questions. On Friday, July 17, I will provide a budget update to our Board of Trustees.

I ask for your continued patience, and I will share more details about ways you can be involved as we set the course for the fall semester.

Sincerely,

Brian Noland  
President