

University Council
Monday, May 13, 2024
East Tennessee Room

1. Call to Order

Provost Dr. 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: Dr. Ginni Blackhart, Dr. Joe Bidwell, Dr. Bill Block, Dr. Cheri Clavier, Dr. Joel Faidley, Mr. David Finney, Ms. Joy Fulkerson, Dr. Mark Fulks, Ms. Christy Graham, Dr. Adam Green, Dr. Nick Hagemeyer, Mr. Stephen Hendrix, Dr. Mike Hoff, Dr. Keith Johnson, Dr. Chris Keller, Dr. Karen King, Dr. Dharendra Kumar, Dr. Sam Mayhew, Dr. Kimberly D. McCorkle, Dr. Rob Pack, Dr. Tony Pittarese, Dr. Richard Sander, Dr. Joe Sherlin, Dr. Debbi Quesenberry, Dr. Sarah Thomason, Mr. Mehmet Topyurek, and Mr. Hunter Turgeon.

3. Standing Items

3.1 Approve Minutes of the April 8, 2024, Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2024, meeting. The motion was seconded; the minutes were approved.

3.2 Review Agenda

Provost Kimberly McCorkle noted that the agenda was adjusted and only one information item would be presented.

3.3 Consent Agenda Items

There were no items on the Consent Agenda.

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

Faculty Senate: Dr. Ginni Blackhart reported that Faculty Senate held its officer elections at its last meeting, and Dr. Alan Stevens will serve as president as of August 20. Dr. Kate Beatty is vice president, and Ms. Ashley Sergiadis will continue as secretary. They will elect the at-large executive committee members at the fall retreat on August 20. This summer, the executive committee will spend time examining the impacts of the academic restructure

Council of Academic Chairs: Dr. Debbi Quesenberry reported that the Council of Academic Chairs is continuing with plans to facilitate chair training and updates to the Chair Handbook.

Staff Senate: Mr. David Finney reported that Staff Senate recently hosted its annual Staff Celebration with almost 800 staff members in attendance. Staff Senate General Assembly elections will be held in July.

SGA: Dr. McCorkle welcomed the new SGA President Hunter Turgeon to his first University Council meeting. Mr. Turgeon reported on the recent SGA elections, which had more than 2,600 votes this year. He reported that the Riley Green spring concert was a success, with a sold-out crowd. He reported that SGA is also working on an internship initiative in the coming year.

Athletics: Dr. Richard Sander reported that Athletics has had a great spring, with the Men's and Women's Tennis teams and the Men's and Women's Golf teams winning the conference championships and advancing to NCAA competition.

Athletics continues to work diligently on name, image, and likeness (NIL) and are awaiting some clear-cut guidelines in the next month from a court case, *House v. NCAA*.

ITS: Dr. Karen King thanked Sherrod Library for assisting with the Measuring Information Services Outcomes (MISO) survey. They are now categorizing and responding to the survey feedback from students, faculty, and staff. In response to one item on the survey, they will be prioritizing upgrades on technology in classrooms this summer. They will post a list of items that they have done to respond to the survey on their website.

She noted that ITS received an email about the OnTheHub website to purchase software for personal use. Dr. King explained that OnTheHub will be moving to an enterprise level and there will be a cost associated with it now. She is looking at the changes, which must be made by July 1.

The Information Technology Council (ITC) recently met and voted to remove some old active directory accounts starting July 1.

The Ring Central system installation is almost complete. They are now working on analog phones, faxes, emergency phones, and elevator phones.

She noted that they are installing a new printing platform for students. They will replace the cumbersome current system with a new, more convenient system where students can swipe their ID card to print.

On May 21, ITS is implementing the ability for users across campus to change their own password on the Microsoft site so they will no longer have to call the Help Desk.

3.5 Sub-Council Reports

Budget and Strategic Planning: Dr. McCorkle announced that this presentation would be tabled until the June meeting.

4. Action Items

4.1 Old Business

There was no old business to come before the council.

4.2 New Business

The new business action item was presented and considered with the information item presented below.

5. Information Items/Presentations

5.1 Academic Structure Presentation

Dr. McCorkle presented for consideration by the University Council the proposed update to ETSU's academic structure.

She reviewed the process and the timeline of the academic structure proposal, including the role of the Academic Structure Task Force, led by Dr. Virginia Foley and Dr. Nick Hagemeyer. The work of the task force began last spring, and they met with more than 1,000 people and held several town hall meetings to gather input. They presented their final report to President Brian Noland and Provost McCorkle in early January 2024. The report included twelve decision points for consideration. The President and Provost responded to the report, including responses to each decision point and proposed a draft restructure to the campus community in early March 2024. They opened a public comment period, received feedback, and met with additional stakeholders to seek clarity and get input. This process resulted in a revised academic structure that was shared with the campus and presented to Academic Council in April 2024. Academic Council voted to approve the structure. The remaining steps include review and approval by University Council, the ETSU Board of Trustees, and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC).

Dr. McCorkle highlighted some of the goals and reasons behind the restructure, such as creating more clarity for students and stakeholders, building on existing strengths and opportunities for collaboration, strengthening ETSU's role as a premier health sciences university, and strategic use of resources.

After reviewing and preparing a content analysis of the more than 60 comments (some representing groups and departments) and meeting with stakeholder groups, significant changes were made to the initial draft.

Dr. McCorkle reviewed the highlights of the proposed new academic structure, which are included in the meeting packet and also on the [Academic Structure Implementation website](#).

Finally, she noted that an implementation team has been formed and has already begun meeting to plan for implementation of the new structure, pending its approval. She assured the council that the academic structure will continue to be assessed and will be part of the next strategic planning cycle when it begins.

Dr. McCorkle asked for a motion to approve the proposed academic structure. A motion was made to approve the structure, as presented by Dr. McCorkle. The motion was seconded; the plan was approved.

After the vote, Dr. Rob Pack and Dean David Atkins updated the council on the work of the Academic Structure Implementation Task Force. The team has met weekly for the past month to identify what needs to be done to implement the changes, pending final approval by the Board of Trustees and THEC. Dr. Pack noted that the [Academic Structure Implementation website](#) would continue to be updated with frequently asked questions and new information as it becomes available.

Ms. Christy Graham noted that the changes happening with the academic structure will tie in with the budget model redesign that is currently underway, as well.

6. Announcements

There were no announcements.

8. Adjournment

Provost McCorkle adjourned the meeting at 9:24 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.