

**University Council**  
**Monday, August 14, 2023**  
**East Tennessee Room**

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Roll Call**

Melissa Nipper led the roll call. Members present were: Bridget Baird, Dr. Ginni Blackhart, Dr. Joe Bidwell, Dr. Cheri Clavier, Dr. Joel Faidley, Ms. Joy Fulkerson, Ms. Christy Graham, Dr. Adam Green, Dr. Lisa Haddad, Dr. Nick Hagemeyer, Mr. Steven Hendrix, Dr. Mike Hoff, Dr. Keith Johnson, Dr. Sam Mayhew, Dr. Kimberly McCorkle, Dr. Brian Noland, Dr. Rob Pack, Dr. Tony Pittarese, Mr. Jeremy Ross, Dr. Richard Sander, Dr. Joe Sherlin, Mr. Trent White, and Dr. Lynn Williams.

**3. Standing Items**

*3.1 Approve Minutes of the July 10, 2023, Meeting*

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the July 10, 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*

There were no consent agenda items.

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

*Faculty Senate:* Dr. Ginni Blackhart reported that the all-day Faculty Senate retreat will be Tuesday, August 22.

*Council of Chairs:* Dr. Lisa Haddad reported that the Council of Chairs membership is in place and updated on the website. She reported that the first chair training of the academic year was held last week, with more than 50 chairs in attendance. Dr. Rob Pack noted that there are plans in place to offer at least five chair training sessions during the academic year.

*Staff Senate:* Ms. Joy Fulkerson thanked President Dr. Brian Noland and university leadership for moving forward with an emergency policy on paid parental leave. She reported that the Staff Senate is nearly full at approximately 35 individuals. Staff Senate is also electing new officers, with David Finney, Director of Fiscal Affairs, as the incoming president beginning in September. This week, the other officers will be elected.

*SGA:* SGA President Trent White announced that the SGA retreat would be held in Pigeon Forge this week, where members would spend time hearing from Joy Fulkerson, Carter Warden, and Dr. Susan McCracken on a variety of topics. SGA leadership would also be working with the new senators, teaching them to write legislation and more about committee involvement.

*Athletics:* Dr. Richard Sander reported that four teams are currently on campus and practicing. Three teams begin competitions this week.

### *3.5 Sub-Council Reports*

*Budget and Strategic Planning Committee:* Ms. Christy Graham reported that the committee has a new name: the Strategic Resource Alignment Committee. Invitations have been sent out to individuals being asked to serve on this committee, which was formed to review the budget model. The first meeting will be September 22.

## **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 Fall 2023 Enrollment Update*

Dr. Heather Levesque presented enrollment projections for new students, noting that they are anticipating enrollment to be up for first-time students, down on the transfer side, and flat for dual enrollment. ETSU is at full occupancy for the residence halls and will have a record number of meal plans.

Dr. Joe Chappell presented statistics showing how the enrollment numbers are tracking to previous years. He noted that they are seeing an overall trend of activity later and later in the enrollment cycle, which makes earlier predictions much more difficult than in prior years.

Dr. Levesque reminded the council that move-in day for new students is August 23, and there are many volunteer opportunities to help students. More than 90 Quest for Success students will move in earlier in the week, and a new matriculation ceremony will be held for the Quest students, hosted by the Multicultural Center. Preview will be August 23-26. For the first time, families are invited to take part in the Preview welcome. New student convocation will take place Friday, August 25.

## **6. President's Report**

President Noland updated the council on the current state of the university, noting that enrollment of first-time students is up, the budget is balanced, housing is full, and capital construction projects are moving forward thanks to state funding. Over the course of the summer, Gilbreath Hall has undergone a top-to-bottom renovation and steam lines have been replaced. The university is also planning a ribbon cutting at Lamb Hall. Next, the campus is looking forward to final plans for the academic building and taking down the Campus Center Building to make way for the new facility. Work also will begin on Brown Hall.

In addition to construction projects, Dr. Noland noted the continuous work taking place on the Voyager/Oracle system, budget restructuring efforts, the Academic Structure Task Force, and the General Education Task Force. He thanked those involved in these efforts.

He updated the council on the emergency parental leave policy, thanking the Faculty and Staff senates for their work on that effort and the ETSU Board of Trustees for their support.

Salary recommendations will be presented to the Board of Trustees in November. Efficiencies across campus will be invested in salary enhancements.

He mentioned that the university is tracking a legislative special session scheduled for next week as it relates to potential investments in campus safety for the institution.

## **7. Announcements**

Dr. Keith Johnson announced that a divisive concepts town hall will be held on August 21, a Moon Shot convening will be on September 19, and the Equity and Inclusion Conference will be September 28-30.

Dr. Karin Keith encouraged the council to vote for the Campus Read and said the choice would be announced at Faculty Convocation on August 25.

Dr. Joe Sherlin announced that student worker pay would be raised this fall from \$8.25/hour to \$10/hour. He thanked SGA President Trent White for his work on this initiative and President Noland for his support.

## **8. Adjournment**

Provost McCorkle adjourned the meeting at 9:19 a.m.