

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

April 22, 2022
Johnson City, Tennessee

The East Tennessee State University Board of Trustees' Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee met on Friday, April 22, 2022, at 8 a.m. in the East Tennessee Room of the D.P. Culp Student Center.

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Janet Ayers called the meeting to order at 8 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Board Secretary Dr. Adam Green led the roll call. Since Committee Chair Janet Ayers participated remotely, in accordance with Tennessee Code § 8-44-108 section (c) (3), Dr. Green asked Committee Chair Ayers for the record if she could clearly hear so that she could participate in the meeting and if she would identify any persons present in the room with her from which she was participating in the meeting. She reported that she could hear and was alone. Those in attendance stated that they could hear Committee Chair Ayers.

Additionally, Dr. Green stated that because a trustee is participating remotely, any votes must be taken by roll call. Committee members present were:

Trustee Charles Allen
Trustee Virginia Foley
Board Chair Dr. Linda Latimer
Trustee Melissa Steagall-Jones
Committee Chair Janet Ayers (participated remotely)
Absent: Student Trustee Kara Gilliam

Dr. Green reported to the committee chair that a quorum was present. In addition to the committee members, Trustees Steven DeCarlo and Dorothy Grisham participated in the meeting.

III. Approval of the Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee Minutes from February 18, 2022

The minutes from February 18, 2022, were approved as submitted, with Trustee Steagall-Jones making the motion and Trustee Foley seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously after a roll call vote.

IV. Promotion and Tenure of Faculty Members

Provost Kimberly McCorkle presented the recommendation for faculty candidates for tenure and promotion. In total, 65 faculty were presented for consideration. This included 33 faculty members who were recommended for tenure; 37 who were recommended for promotion to Associate Professor; and 20 who were presented for promotion to Professor. The committee voted to approve the staff recommendation to award tenure and promotion to the faculty members presented for consideration, with Trustee Foley making the motion and Trustee Steagall-Jones seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously after a roll call vote.

V. Academic Action Notification for Period of August 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021

Provost McCorkle provided an overview of academic activities from August to December 2021. During this time, the curriculum review processes at the university assessed and approved 31 curriculum actions. All notifications within this period have been sent to THEC.

VI. ETSU Ballard Health Strong BRAIN Institute – Project Status Report

Dr. Wallace Dixon, Founding Director of the Strong BRAIN Institute (SBI), provided an overview of the activities of the Strong BRAIN Institute at Ballard Health. Dr. Dixon's presentation provided a detailed look at adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), which include abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction. He also discussed the effects of adverse childhood experiences on opportunities, behaviors, and physical and mental health. The SBI aims to promote awareness and support for the research of ACEs, as well as the development and dissemination of evidence-based practices that prevent, reduce, or mitigate the harmful effects of ACEs.

Funded through a 5-year gift from Ballard Health, the SBI is currently engaged with several statewide and regional projects and partnerships, including:

- The State Department of Health Office of Injury Prevention has contracted with the SBI to develop a state template for recognizing trauma-informed workplaces.
- The institute offers free level one micro-credential training for the public.
- The SBI is developing a 30-hour professional certificate program.
- The Gatton College Culture of Resilience Project provides training to the College of Pharmacy's administration, faculty, and staff in building a resilient culture to increase understanding of ACEs adversity.
- The Clemmer College Culture of Resilience Project strengthens participants' understanding of ACEs and trauma-informed behaviors for faculty, staff, and students. K-12 mentors receive free training in compassionate teaching.
- The SBI is the lead institution for a national affiliation group known as the CURE, Colleges and Universities for Resilience working group.

Committee topics of discussion included:

- Dr. Latimer inquired about the distribution and education efforts for of K-12 professionals already working in the field, such as principals or guidance counselors, as well as those able to identify adverse childhood experiences in younger children. Dr. Dixon mentioned that the State of Tennessee has its own trauma-informed schools initiative, Project AWARE. Project AWARE is working directly with Tennessee school systems and is collaborating with the SBI as a stakeholder in developing best practices for workplaces.
- Trustee Virginia Foley praised the Strong Brain Institute for providing the region with free micro-credential training. She noted that the Superintendent's network had been informed of the trauma-informed training, and many schools are taking advantage of the program.
- Committee Chair Ayers requested that Dr. Dixon share the Level 1 Micro-Credential Training link with the Board members. She wants to ascertain how this training can be disseminated to pediatricians' offices, daycare centers, scout troops, and other local organizations.
- President Noland provided background on the conceptualization of the Strong BRAIN Institute, noting that Dr. Dixon and a group of campus scholars formed an interdisciplinary workgroup to look into the idea of resilience in the context of increasing retention and persistence rates. When this information was presented to ETSU's senior management and college deans, they gained insight and appreciation of what ETSU's students were experiencing. The dissemination of these concepts to Ballad Health resulted in a \$1 million grant and the formation of the institute's foundation.

VII. Alternative Spring Break

Dr. Joe Sherlin and Ms. Joy Fulkerson provided an overview of Alternative Breaks, a student success initiative at the university. The presentation included highlights of the program, which allows students to travel to remote locations during university breaks to explore social justice issues and participate in service projects. These opportunities help students build meaningful connections with faculty, staff, and peers while enhancing their personal growth. This past spring, students traveled to Memphis, looking at food security and sustainability; New Orleans, looking at education and youth development; Nashville, looking at health care access; and Danville, Kentucky looking at alcohol and substance abuse.

Trustee Steagall-Jones believes this initiative can significantly alter the lives of ETSU's students and has high hopes for its expansion. She prompted the committee to consider how these students could impact this region, the nation, and the world.

VIII. Committee Discussions

Committee Chair Ayers requested periodic updates on the implementation of ideas and initiatives discussed during committee sessions, noting the committee's interest in regional economic growth.

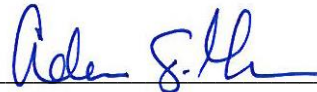
IX. Other Business

No other business was brought before the committee.

X. Adjournment

The committee was adjourned with Trustee Virginia Foley making the motion and Trustee Melissa Steagall-Jones making the second.

Respectfully submitted,



Adam Green
Secretary of the Board of Trustees

Approved by the Board of Trustees at its September 16, 2022 meeting.