

University Council
Monday, December 11, 2023
East Tennessee Room

1. Call to Order

Provost 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: Ms. Bridget Baird, Dr. Ginni Blackhart, Dr. Joe Bidwell, Dr. Cheri Clavier, Dr. Joel Faidley, Mr. David Finney, Ms. Joy Fulkerson, Ms. Christy Graham, Dr. Adam Green, Dr. Nick Hagemeyer, Mr. Steven Hendrix, Dr. Mike Hoff, Dr. Keith Johnson, Dr. Chris Keller, Dr. Karen King, Dr. Dharendra Kumar, Dr. Sam Mayhew, Dr. Kimberly D. McCorkle, Dr. Brian Noland, Dr. Rob Pack, Dr. Tony Pittarese, Mr. Jeremy Ross, Ms. Pam Ritter, Dr. Richard Sander, Dr. Joe Sherlin, Mr. Mehmet Topyurek, Ms. Jess Vodden, Mr. Trent White, and Dr. Lynn Williams.

3. Standing Items

3.1 Approve Minutes of the November 13, 2023, Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes from November 13, 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

A motion was made and seconded to approve the items on the consent agenda (listed below). The motion was approved.

3.3.1 Student Housing and Meal Plan Accommodations Policy

3.2.3 Laboratory Safety Inspection Policy

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

Faculty Senate: Faculty Senate President Dr. Ginni Blackhart reported that the Faculty Senate has wrapped up its meetings for the semester and will review and vote on two to three resolutions in the spring. Ms. Bridget Baird will speak with the Faculty Senate about her role and the upcoming legislative session.

Staff Senate: Staff Senate President Mr. David Finney reported that the Staff Senate Holiday Food Drive provided approximately 55 food drive boxes and thanked everyone for their support.

SGA: SGA President Trent White reported that the last Senate meeting of the year was held on Tuesday, December 5. He added that several resolutions would be coming through the next Senate meeting in the spring.

Athletics: Athletic Director Dr. Richard Sander reported that Athletics has been working through personnel issues over the last month, including hiring a new Football coach. Two additional coaching positions, Volleyball and Men's Soccer, are currently open as well, with searches underway. Men's and Women's Basketball teams are doing well.

3.5 Sub-Council Reports

University Governance Organizations: The Sub-Council report was tabled until the April 2024 meeting.

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 ETSU Website File Management and Accessibility

Chief Marketing and Communications Officer Jess Vodden reported on new procedures for website file management that will begin in July 2024. Currently, there are thousands of old files lingering on the website; many are outdated, inaccessible, and taking up unnecessary storage space. Beginning in July 2024, files that are on the ETSU website that have not been updated within the past five years will be removed. University Marketing and Communications has communicated this new process to all departments and will offer two content accessibility workshops per month starting in January 2024 to provide training to assist with making all material accessible.

6. President's Report

President Brian Noland reminded the council that the implementation of Voyager will be extended to July 1, 2024. This will allow time for staff to implement the new class and compensation structure in the spring.

He reviewed the budget highlights and emphasized the importance of focusing on retention, just as the university has done with recruitment. He reviewed the construction that will be ongoing over the next three to four years and mentioned the upcoming demolition party for the Campus Center Building. He reported that the university will be leasing the former Northeast State building located in downtown Johnson City from the City of Johnson City. This will provide much-needed space, primarily for the College of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Noland anticipates housing to be full again in the spring and mentioned that a new residence hall will be needed. A plan for this need will move through the Facilities Strategic Master Plan, which will be presented in early 2024. Currently, the university is exploring transitioning office spaces in former residence halls back into living spaces for students.

Moving into 2024, the advisory committee will continue examining the university's budget model and make recommendations for changes. Leadership also will receive recommendations from the Academic Structure Task Force and the General Education Task Force.

Finally, he thanked the council for its work and leadership throughout 2023. He reminded members that the campus will close at noon on December 21, and will add an extra administrative closure day on January 2, 2024.

7. Announcements

Mr. Mehmet Topyurek, President of the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA), announced that the GPSA will host a social on Friday, December 15, and he thanked the council for helping bring awareness to GPSA.

8. Adjournment

Provost McCorkle adjourned the meeting at 9:08 a.m.

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