

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

MINUTES

February 21, 2020
Johnson City, Tennessee

The East Tennessee State University Board of Trustees' Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee met at 10:15 a.m. on Friday, February 21, 2020, in the Millennium Center on ETSU's main campus in Johnson City, Tennessee.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Linda Latimer, Chair of the Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee, called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Board Secretary Adam Green stated that he must ask a series of questions before calling the roll and that all votes must be taken by roll call because Trustee Janet Ayers was participating by phone. In accordance with Tennessee Code 8-44-108 Section (c) (3), he asked Trustee Ayers the following questions:

- i. First, are you able to clearly hear us so that you can participate in this meeting? (Trustee Ayers answered yes.)
 1. Members of the committee present in the room, are you able to hear Trustee Ayers? (All committee members present answered yes.)
- ii. Trustee Ayers, for the record, can you please identify any persons present in the room with you from which you are participating in this meeting? (Trustee Ayers stated that no one else was in the room.)

Dr. Green led the roll call. Committee members present were:

Chair Latimer
Trustee Janet Ayers
Trustee Dr. Virginia Foley
Trustee David Golden

Other Board of Trustee members present were:

Trustee Scott Niswonger, Chair, Board of Trustees

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 15, 2019 ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE

The minutes for the November 15 Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee meeting were reviewed. Trustee Golden made a motion for approval, and Trustee Foley seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

IV. STUDENT IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS RULE

Dr. Jeff Howard, Associate Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment, presented for approval the university's rules governing student immunization requirements (*material included in packet*). He noted that the rules codify the standards, and that exemptions are noted. Trustee Golden moved to approve the rule; the motion was seconded by Trustee Foley. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

V. ACADEMIC ACTION NOTIFICATION FOR PERIOD OF AUGUST 1, 2019, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2019

Dr. Wilsie Bishop, Senior Vice President for Academics and Interim Provost, presented the Academic Action Notification for Aug. 1-Dec. 31, 2019 (*material included in packet*). She noted that these notifications are presented twice each year and include actions that are submitted as notifications to both the Board of Trustees and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. The items presented include updates in program names that are more reflective of students' needs, revisions in progression criteria, establishment of minors, elimination of the GRE and GMAT requirements in some programs, and termination of programs with low enrollment.

VI. TITLE IX ATHLETIC UPDATE

Athletic Director Scott Carter gave a follow-up to his presentation on Nov. 15, 2019, in which he reported that ETSU sought to establish a new Acrobatics and Tumbling program for women in the university's ongoing efforts to remain in compliance with Title IX; during that meeting, committee members questioned why acrobatics and tumbling was selected instead of other sports like stunt, gymnastics, or rugby.

In presenting the university's due diligence in arriving at this recommendation, Mr. Carter stated that acrobatics and tumbling is highest on the list of emerging sports nearing qualification as NCAA-sanctioned sports, and noted that triathlon, in which ETSU already participates, is also among those. He shared the university's research in examining the sports of acrobatics and tumbling, beach volleyball, bowling, field hockey, gymnastics, lacrosse, rowing, stunt, and swimming (*material included in packet*). Out of the sports examined, acrobatics and tumbling scored the highest in a review of 13

different criteria, which included cost of implementation and operation, student recruitment, availability of facilities, and more.

In response to a question from Trustee Golden regarding emerging sports that were not on ETSU's list, Dr. Joe Sherlin, Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment, said that some of the other NCAA and emerging sports are present on campus but do not compete at the NCAA level; ETSU has 12 student-led sports clubs with 220 participants that compete regionally and nationally. He noted that there is currently no acrobatics and tumbling club.

VII. GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION'S ANNUAL INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW, EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dr. William Block, Vice President for Clinical Affairs and Dean of Medicine, delivered the Graduate Medical Education Annual Institutional Review Executive Summary, 2018-2019 (*material included in packet*). He stated that the report must be made to the Board of Trustees once each year per the American College of Graduate Medical Education. He said that noteworthy items within the report are accreditation of Addiction Medicine and Orthopedic Surgery programs.

VIII. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON BALLAD AND THE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Dr. David Linville, Executive Vice Provost for Academics and Health, provided an update on the Coordinating Council for ETSU and Ballad Health. He said the Coordinating Council is to meet quarterly and has three sub-councils that focus on education, research, and clinical operations. At the Council's meeting in January, the charter, expectations, and mission of the Council were discussed, and significant time was spent discussing contracts. Other points of discussion dealt with how the university could help meet Ballad's work force needs and the concept of moving from a transactional to a strategic relationship. Dr. Linville said one challenge is helping Ballad develop a vision to become an academic medical center. University officials have been looking at colleague schools established under the Teague-Cranston Act, such as Texas A&M, which have effective partnerships with hospitals, as models.

In discussion, committee members expressed strong support of the academic medical center vision and the need to have cost-effective contracts between ETSU and Ballad for certain specialties. President Brian Noland said it is important for ETSU to have first access and rights of first refusal for clinical placements and rotations throughout the Ballad system as the university looks to grow opportunities for students in health sciences programs. Dr. Block noted that Ballad officials have expressed concern that this would result in pushback from Lincoln Memorial University. Trustees pointed out that LMU was not present during the COPA discussions prior to the Ballad merger and that ETSU, which was instrumental in the merger, is the regional institution to partner with Ballad.

Dr. Linville said having ETSU Board of Trustees members present at the Coordinating Council meetings is helpful, and asked for trustees' help in selling the vision of the academic medical center. The next meeting of the Coordinating Council is in April, with sub-councils to meet beforehand.

IX. DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH SCIENTIST DATABASE/EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY DIGITAL COMMONS

Dr. Mike Hoff, Associate Vice President/Chief Planning Officer, discussed methods of tracking faculty research activity. He said that various reporting mechanisms exist within the university but none are comprehensive. He said that the main issue with Digital Commons, an institutional repository which aims to bring all of the university's research together in one accessible place, is that it is self-reported. This is difficult for faculty as they are asked to report in several different places while remaining productive in their work.

Dr. Hoff said he is working with the deans to report their faculty members' research interests, educational credentials, disciplines and research products (such as funding requests, awards and sources, presentations, publications, etc). His office will then match that information with the faculty members' teaching activity and other details that will give a more complete picture of faculty activity. He introduced Dr. David Atkins, Dean of Libraries, and Ashley Sergiadis, Digital Scholarship Librarian, with whom he will work to input this information into Digital Commons. Dr. Hoff said the aim would be to provide a quarterly report. He will work to provide tools to make it easier for faculty to report activity more frequently. He will give an updated presentation at the next Board of Trustees meeting.

In discussion, committee members said that it would be useful to have a method to find all the faculty who are working on a given topic. This could assist researchers at other universities, as well as private companies, who are seeking collaborators. Additionally, this will help students identify research faculty as they are choosing their majors or working on research projects. Digital Commons also allows faculty to see who is accessing their articles.

X. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Chair Latimer opened the discussion by advocating envisioning ways the Eastman Valleybrook Campus could be used to set the university apart, particularly the possibility of implementing synthetic biology programming, a field which she said is in its infancy and is seeing significant money spent on start-ups. She noted such programming could be beneficial to economic development and could help keep university graduates in the region.

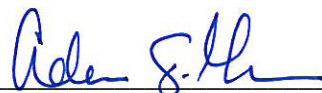
Dr. Noland shared a draft of the position description for the new Vice President for Research and Innovation and requested the Board of Trustees' endorsement before moving forward. He said the university is looking to bring someone to create a culture of research on the ETSU campus, lead research objectives across the disciplines, and oversee a variety of centers. He noted that this position, the need for which is supported by faculty, would give the successful applicant the opportunity to lead the conversation regarding the Eastman Valleybrook Campus, spur research, and foster regional business and industry partnerships. Dr. Noland noted he had hoped this could be a joint position between ETSU and Ballad, but said the university cannot afford to wait. He cited the need to post the job in March or April to take advantage of the academic hiring cycle, which would allow the university to have the new administrator in place in the fall. He said the Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee would take part in the interview process.

In discussion, Chair Latimer noted that the time taken to create the new vice president position allows the university to determine what is best for ETSU, and develop a well-crafted story of what the institution wants to accomplish. The University must know the scope and strategy of what specific types of research they want to accomplish in order to find the appropriate candidates. For instance, ETSU may determine new areas in which the institution aspires to excel, such as synthetic biology. Trustee Golden agreed and noted that he has been in discussions with an MIT molecular biologist who is willing to help the university, as well as regional K-12 school districts, implement programming in synthetic biology. Trustee Foley said that the Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee's participation in the interview process would help members to see the scope of the position better, and concurred with the sense of urgency in posting the position. Additional discussion centered on the possibility of bringing in a search firm to broaden the pool of applicants; reaching out to top institutions with similar positions to learn of their experiences and gain their advice; and determining new areas in which the institution aspires to excel, such as synthetic biology. President Noland said the university would review the job description to refine the focus and would look to post the position later in the spring.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The committee meeting concluded at 11:40 a.m. and was adjourned by Chair Latimer.

Respectfully submitted,



Adam Green
Secretary of the Board of Trustees

Approved by the Board of Trustees at its April 24, 2020 meeting.