

# East Tennessee State University

## Staff Senate

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### Meeting Minutes

Date: April 13, 2026

Time: 2:30 p.m. – 3:32 p.m.

Location: Culp Center 311

Facilitator: Cody Morelock, Staff Senate President

Scribe: William Cate, Staff Senate Secretary

Senators Present: Kari Albarado, Vanessa Canter, William Cate, Jennifer Crigger, OJ Early, David Finney, Archie Fortney, Joy Fulkerson, Brooke Garland, Wendy Guinn, Suzy Hooven, Rachel Kellogg, James Lively, Jenny Lockmiller, Cody Morelock, Debbie Roach, Amy Slaughter, Jessimine Strauss, Liz Thomas-Joseph
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Guests: Dr. Brian Noland, Dr. Adam Green
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Absent: Sharon Barger, Joe Bidwell, Dan Bishop, Alycia Birchfield, Rachel Colwell, Kim Ferrell, Ethan Hutchinson, Crytal Maupin, Eli Montana, Skylar Moore, Stefanie Murphy, Donna Nelson-Barnes, Gina Osborne, Melanie Peters, Rusty Sells, Brayton Siddell, Aneida Skeens, Benjamin Smith, Jeremy Watson
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### Agenda Overview

1. Call to Order
2. Introduction of Guest Speakers
  - a. Dr. Brian Noland, President East Tennessee State University
3. Approval of Previous Minutes
  - a. March Approvals
4. Information Items
  - a. President's Report
  - b. Treasurer's Report
  - c. Committee Updates
5. Old Business & Follow Ups
6. New Business
7. Announcements, *What is on your mind?*
8. Adjourn

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### Meeting Notes

#### 1. Call to Order

President Morelock called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

#### 2. Introduction of Guest Speakers

President Morelock introduced Dr. Brian Noland, President of East Tennessee State University.

President Noland presented information about a wide range of topics relevant to East Tennessee State University and thanked the Senate for the opportunity to provide updates.

President Noland provided a legislative update, noting that the state legislative session was wrapping up. Key higher education bills, including a tenure related bill, are not proceeding. President Noland highlighted a \$3.2 million recurring annual investment in the Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy, which ensures competitive tuition rates for incoming students.

President Noland noted optimism regarding the incoming freshman class, with a goal of 2100 in the entering class for Fall 2026. He noted that with 2100 students “budgets begin to take care of themselves”. President Noland reiterated the institution’s goals of 60% graduate rate and 85% retention rate.

President Noland provided an update on the ongoing compensation project. Staff Senate Executive members will engage in discussion with President Noland regarding options for ATBIs with accompanied market adjustments.

President Noland stated that FY27 budgets would likely be flat with budget considerations presented to the Board of Trustees during a special called Finance and Administration Committee meeting on March 31 to be voted on during the May 21 meeting.

President Noland highlighted several capital projects currently underway and slated to begin soon.

- The new academic classroom building will open during the summer, with details for a ribbon cutting TBA.

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- Brown Hall construction and rolling renovation projects continue with approx. 3 more years remaining until project completion.
- A \$19 million state investment for critical utility infrastructure, and an additional \$7 million to address deferred maintenance across campus.
- Planning for the new Integrated Health Sciences Building continues.

President Noland highlighted 4 upcoming vacancies in leadership positions across campus.

- Dr. Randy Wykoff, Dean of the College of Public Health, is retiring at the end of June, and the search for a new CoPH dean is currently underway.
- Dean David Atkins, Dean of University Libraries, is retiring at the end of May, and the provost will announce an Interim in the coming weeks.
- Parker Executive Search is retained to coordinate the search for the new University Counsel. Kay Lennon-McGrew currently serves as Interim University Counsel.
- Dr. Karen King, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, is retiring at the end of June, with additional information regarding the transition to be released later.

President Noland closed his update with a reflection on the leadership of Dr. Paul Stanton, President Emeritus, highlighting his work expanding the health sciences and creating many student programs.

### 3. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

President Morelock presented the March minutes for consideration. No corrections were needed. Senator Strauss made a motion to approve the March minutes, and the motion was seconded by Senator Fortney. The motion carried, and the March minutes were approved.

### 4. **Information Items**

#### **President's Report**

Due to time constraints, President Morelock did not provide a President's Report.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Senator Canter provided an update on the Staff Senate account balances.

- Main Account: \$9,693.64
- Awards Account: \$18,000.00

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- Holiday Fund: \$632.44
- CBC: \$681.25

### **Committee Updates**

None.

### **5. Old Business & Follow Ups**

None.

### **6. New Business**

None.

### **7. Announcements, *What is on your mind?***

President Morelock reminded folks to participate in soliciting donations for the staff celebrations. He will email the spreadsheet for review later this week.

### **8. Adjourn**

Senator Strauss made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Vice President Albarado. The meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

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## Action Items Summary

Task

Responsible Party

Due Date

# East Tennessee State University Staff Senate

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## Supporting Documents & Reminders