

East Tennessee State University

Staff Senate

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Date: January 12, 2026

Time: 2:32 p.m. – 3:18 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Facilitator: Cody Morelock, Staff Senate President

Scribe: President Morelock & William Cate, Staff Senate Secretary

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

Agenda Overview

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Previous Minutes
 - a. December Approvals
3. Information Items
 - a. President's Report
 - b. Treasurer's Report
 - c. Committee Updates
4. Old Business & Follow Ups
5. New Business
6. Announcements, *What is on your mind?*
7. Adjourn

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Meeting Notes

1. Call to Order

President Morelock called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m. President Morelock welcomed the senate back from holiday break and congratulated Senator Early on his degree completion.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

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

3. Information Items

President's Report

President Morelock provided updates from the Executive Team's monthly meeting with Dr. Noland -

Dr. Noland expressed confidence in current enrollment numbers for spring 2026 and projections for upcoming fall 2026

The governor's budget will release in early February, Dr. Noland is confident the budgets will be flat across Tennessee higher education units.

Vice Presidents will present their budgets in spring, and Deans will present their budgets to the Provost in early February

- Senators Cate and Finney noted that budget hearings are focused on KPI review and implementation of strategic initiatives.

President Noland tasked the Executive Committee to provide hopes, aspirations, and concerns for the institution during their February monthly meeting. President Morelock will send out a Google Form to solicit feedback senate-wide.

President Morelock provided several campus updates from University Council – The College of Nursing, in collaboration with StoryCollab, premiered “Nurse: Empathy Heals” at the Martin Center for the Arts with a focus on humanizing nursing to promote empathy. Stories from the documentary will be incorporated into curricula.

Faculty Senate President, Dr. Alan Stevens, announced a faculty climate survey is underway across campus and that the Faculty Senate continues to work on faculty policies with the Office of the Provost.

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Dr. Michelle Byrd announced that the Appalachian Folk Festival is scheduled for the first week of April 2026.

Dr. Sanders provided an update from Athletics:

- The transfer portal opened on January 2, 2026.
- Athletics is working to replace approximately 50 student-athletes who graduated or transferred.
- Dr. Sanders explained that common reasons for transferring are limited playing opportunities and financial gain.

Drs. Levesque and Mayhew provided an enrollment update:

- Approx 2,000 students remain at risk of drop non-enrollment issues.
- Fall 2026 admissions currently sits at 8,461 of 9,631 accepted applications, approx. 900 direct-admit applications with Admissions working to clarify next steps to aid students completing the admission process.
- Dr. Kim Van Wie is named the Director of Buc Central
- Of the 13,760 FAFSA applications received, 212 require verification

Dr. Mayhew provided an update on international enrollment, stating

hesitancy for many international students to enroll, with travel restrictions impacting recruitment and student mobility. ETSU is preparing for a 2–3-year downturn in international enrollment.

New housing software is being onboarded and launched, with applications for fall 2026 opening in February.

Christy Graham and David Smith provided a Voyager update:

- Dr. Tony Norman is leading the Voyager Post-Go-Live Taskforce.
- David Smith and Drew Howell are attending taskforce meetings to address ITS concerns.
- Key focus areas of the taskforce are payroll, recruitment, and time/absence reporting.
- Voyager training continues to be provided, and system enhancements are frequently occurring – new check request workflows, new forms/configurations for Cost Center Managers, newly released Labor Encumbrance dashboard.

President Noland addressed University Council with a reflection on the past year, offering gratitude for everyone's efforts. He noted Voyager continues to function but requires ongoing fixes.

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University Council discussed the inaccurate annual leave balances. There is no specified timeline on a solution.

Treasurer's Report

Senator Canter provided updated account balances –

- Staff Senate Main Account: \$9,760.58
- Staff Senate Awards Account: \$18,000.00
- Staff Senate Holiday: \$632.44
- CBC Account: \$681.25

President Morelock and Senator Bishop expressed concerns about the CBC fund's limited resources and suggested repurposing it for the Employee Assistance Fund, which has more financial capacity. Both President Morelock and Senator Bishop noted staff senate should maintain representation on the EAF committee.

Committee Updates

President Morelock provided updates from the Executive Committee's meeting with Dr. Tony Norman regarding the work of the Voyager Post-Go-Live Taskforce.

President Morelock requests Senator's review Voyager's December email titled Voyager Implementation Progress for accuracy of resolved issues. Report any inaccuracies to President Morelock.

President Morelock presented 2 dates for the spring picnic for consideration: May 20 and May 21.

Senator Hutchinson provided an update from the Awards Committee, with the group reviewing past processes for the Distinguished Staff and Career Staff Awards. The committee is developing updated nomination guidance, including a rubric and page-length requirements to ensure fairness across nominations. The nomination period will begin February 15 and conclude March 23.

4. Old Business & Follow Ups

Senator Hutchinson asked about the status of the next phase of salary enhancements related to the 2024 compensation project. President Morelock noted that this is an ongoing topic during the Executive Team's monthly meeting with Dr. Noland, and Dr. Noland plans to provide more information in the spring.

5. New Business

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None.

6. Announcements, *What is on your mind?*

Senator Fulkerson shared information about Martin Luther King Jr. Day activities starting on January 15. Senators will be emailed additional information about these events.

Senator Sells raised concerns about campus security after a break-in incident over the holiday closure. Senator Sells asked for input on a suitable time to lock academic buildings and requested any faulty doors be reported for repair. Senator Sells explained that mobile ID cards will begin testing in the spring, and special access arrangements for afterhours labs/classes are available through Katy Beall, Director of Data Analytics for Emergency Management.

7. Adjourn

Senator Sells made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Senator Murphy. The meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

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Action Items Summary

<u>Task</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Review December Voyager email for accuracy	All Senators	ASAP

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Supporting Documents & Reminders