

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

MINUTES

February 21, 2025
Johnson City, Tennessee

The East Tennessee State University Board of Trustees' Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee met on Friday, February 21, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the East Tennessee Room of the D.P. Culp Student Center.

I. Call to Order

Trustee Janet Ayers, chair of the committee, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Board Secretary Dr. Adam Green conducted the roll call. The following committee members were physically present:

Trustee Janet Ayers
Trustee Charles Allen
Trustee Dr. Steph Frye-Clark
Trustee Dr. Linda Latimer
Trustee Tony Treadway

Other Trustees present were Steve DeCarlo, Dorothy Grisham, Melissa Steagall-Jones, and Trent White.

III. Approval of the Committee Minutes from November 15, 2024

The minutes from the November 15, 2024, meeting of the Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee were approved as submitted with Trustee Charles Allen making the motion and Trustee Tony Treadway seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

IV. Approval of Policy on Use of Artificial Intelligence Technologies for Instructional and Assignment Purposes

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Kimberly McCorkle told the committee that the Board of Trustees is required by state statute to adopt a policy on the use of artificial intelligence technologies for instructional and assignment purposes before July 1, 2025. She indicated that the policy under consideration directs the Office of the Provost to publish written guidance and policy, as needed, related to the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence by faculty and students for instructional and assignment purposes on or before June 1, 2025.

Trustee Tony Treadway made a motion to approve the recommendation as presented, and Trustee Dr. Linda Latimer seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

V. Approval to Provide Notification of Adoption of Institutional Research Security Policy

Provost McCorkle reported that, pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, ETSU adopted an Institutional Research Security Policy on December 17, 2024, and that, in compliance with TCA, the Board of Trustees is required to notify the chairs of the Education committees of the Tennessee Senate and House of Representatives of the adoption of this policy no later than July 1, 2025. The purpose of the policy is to affirm the institution's commitment to safeguarding research and development efforts and to protect university assets against interference by U.S.-designated foreign adversaries. The policy is also necessary to ensure that the university community continues to adhere to state and federal law regarding research integrity.

Trustee Charles Allen made a motion that the Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution. Resolved: The Board of Trustees directs the President to notify the Chairs of the Education Committees of the Tennessee Senate and House of Representatives of the institution's adoption of the Institutional Research Security Policy as presented in the meeting materials no later than July 1, 2025. Trustee Tony Treadway seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

VI. Academic Notification for Period of August 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024

Dr. McCorkle told the committee that during the fall semester, most of the curriculum change efforts were a result of the recent academic restructuring. There were several curriculum actions that required approval by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission including a letter of notification for a bachelor of science degree program in Digital Development, several Department name changes, and the establishment of a new academic unit.

There was also one program termination reported to the commission: the Early Childhood Special Education Teacher Licensure Concentration in the Special Education Masters program. This termination occurred because of changes in licensure standards established by the Tennessee Department of Education.

Actions that did not require THEC notification included program progression policies and admissions policies. The Doctor of Occupational Therapy program is revising pre-requisites to allow students more flexibility. In addition, there were two substantive curriculum revisions, in the Master of Science in Orthotics and Prosthetics program and the Bachelor of Business Administration program.

Provost McCorkle concluded her report by announcing the creation of a new center, the Center for Rural Education, which will provide transformative opportunities across the region to address the unique educational and health challenges associated with Appalachian communities. The center will be housed in the Clemmer College of Education and Human Development.

VII. Annual Institutional Review for Graduate Medical Education

Dr. David Linville, Associate Vice President for Clinical Affairs with the Quillen College of Medicine, reminded the board that the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, the accrediting body for graduate medical education programs, requires that a report be given to the Board of Trustees annually. Dr. Linville provided a summary of the Annual Institutional Review, which includes specific information related to performance indicators, action plans, and monitoring procedures. ETSU continues to meet all accreditation standards. Across our 16 graduate medical education programs, Dr. Linville noted that there were only three citations, and none of our programs have any adverse actions taken against them. Dr. Linville added that we have 250 trainees—residents and fellows—across those 16 programs. He reported that this year, expansion will occur in our gastroenterology fellowship and our general surgery program, thanks to our partnership with Ballad Health, as well as our partnership with the Veterans Administration Medical Center at Mountain Home.

VIII. College of Health Sciences Update

Dr. Jeffrey Snodgrass, Dean of the College of Health Sciences, focused his report on recent developments and priorities within the college. He told the board that the college was a major beneficiary of the recent academic restructuring. Prior to July 2025, the College of Clinical and Rehabilitative Health Sciences included 14 academic programs, whereas the newly established College of Health Sciences includes 21 academic programs. Formerly there were three clinics within the college, and there are four now. The number of students has grown from 1,000 to 1,700, and the new college has 145 full-time faculty and staff. With the restructuring, there are now two schools within the college: the School of Clinical Sciences and the School of Human Performance and Sport Science.

Dr. Snodgrass reported that the first graduating class of 18 doctoral students in Occupational Therapy will cross the stage in May. The master of science in Orthotics and Prosthetics recently launched, with the first cohort entering in January. It is the only program of its kind in

the state. Recently, fully online degrees were initiated for the BSW, MSW, and B.S. in Rehabilitative Sciences programs.

Dr. Snodgrass highlighted the work of the four clinics within the college: BucSports Physical Therapy at ETSU and Milligan University; the Dental Hygiene Clinic; the Community Counseling Clinic; and the Nave Center, all operating under the ETSU Health umbrella. Last year, these clinics served over 14,000 people.

Dr. Snodgrass told the committee that the vision for the college is to build a connected, inclusive, collaborative environment that promotes innovation in health sciences education, research, and practice. Overarching goals are to elevate the college as a nationally-recognized leader in interprofessional education, training, and practice; teaching excellence and exceptional education; outcomes-based, interprofessional research; and impactful community engagement through teaching, research, and service.

Priorities for the college within the next six to twelve months include strategic enrollment management, considering new programs, and offering hybrid and online formats for existing programs. Other key initiatives are faculty mentoring, leadership development, staff development and support, and outcomes-based research.

IX. Enrollment and Student Success Initiatives Update

Dr. Joe Sherlin, Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment, reported to the committee that ETSU has experienced three consecutive freshman classes above 2,000 and the first back-to-back classes of 2,100 students in our history. Dr. Sherlin indicated that we are positioned for a fourth class above 2,000 and a third class above 2,100. We also experienced the largest residential population in our history, with more than 3,300 students, last fall. New applications for housing for fall 2025 are running ahead of last year and double what they were three years ago. At the same time, the academic profile of students has remained consistent. Retention rates have increased from the mid-60s to the mid-70s, and graduation rates have increased more than 10 percent over the last decade.

Dr. Sherlin summarized the work of a committee that he chaired along with Provost McCorkle to look at Strategic Enrollment Management Planning. That committee recommended a collaborative and integrated approach to student recruitment, focusing on growth in strategic markets, including Northeast Tennessee; the Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Nashville Metro areas; Southwest Virginia; Upstate South Carolina; and Western North Carolina. The committee also recommended the establishment of operational goals and targets: 15,500 students by 2030, for a 12.5 percent increase.

Dr. Sherlin reported that a group is currently developing a Student Services One-Stop Shop, to provide students and their families with integrated and holistic service and support related to financial matters, registration, and records. Other initiatives underway include an effort to

increase our military-affiliated enrollment, with an accompanying plan to initiate tuition assistance for active military.

Dr. Sherlin said that ETSU continues to experience some success gaps, particularly for Pell-eligible, low-income students, first-generation students, and underserved students. Therefore, ETSU is creating a Student Success Center, for all students, but particularly for these groups who need it the most. Dr. Sherlin reported that Provost McCorkle, working with our deans, has begun a review of our academic portfolio, assessing where we have capacity to grow.

Connected to the One-Stop Shop effort, Dr. Sherlin indicated that the university is working to enhance financial transparency, so students and families do not experience sticker shock, to leverage more of our aid earlier, and to maximize our approach to need-based aid. Other initiatives include continuing to enhance undergraduate advising and growing transfer enrollment. Dr. Sherlin then described efforts to establish a shared approach to priority enrollment markets, including the creation of a campus enrollment committee. As a follow-up to his earlier comments, Dr. Sherlin provided additional details on the plans for the One-Stop Shop and for the Student Success Center.

Dr. Sherlin praised the work of Dr. Susan McCracken and her colleagues in Community Engagement in producing scholars who are also caring and connected citizens. He reported that the work of the ETSU Serves platform is being expanded, noting that it powered the region during Hurricane Helene. This year, during spring break, students will be carrying out service projects within our region, to help those affected by the hurricane.

Dr. Sherlin concluded his presentation by updating the committee on the Student Life and Fraternity and Sorority Life Village Project, which will include large meeting spaces for fraternities and sororities and other student organizations, individual chapter spaces for meetings and functions, and a lawn for events and activities. The village will be adjacent to Buc Ridge and will be constructed in phases.

GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS

X. Committee Discussions

There was no further discussion.

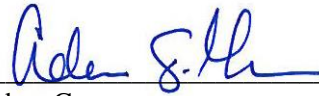
XI. Other Business

There was no other business to come before the committee.

XII. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Adam Green
Secretary of the Board of Trustees

Approved by the Board of Trustees at its May 23, 2025 meeting.