

University Council
April 13, 2026

1. Call to Order

Dr. Kimberly D. McCorkle called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and asked President Dr. Brian Noland to share a “mission moment” before the meeting began. President Noland praised Friday evening’s Distinguished President’s Trust event at the Brinkley Center, noting high attendance and commending Howard Reddy and the Advancement staff for their work. He highlighted students’ leadership and participation, with students seated at every table, working late Friday night, and some returning early the next morning to run a successful Admissions open house.

2. Roll Call

Ms. Melissa Nipper led the roll call. Members present were: Dr. Ginni Blackhart, Dr. Bill Block, Dr. Cheri Clavier, Dr. Dena Evans, Mr. David Finney, Ms. Christy Graham, Dr. Adam Green, Dr. Nick Hagemeyer, Dr. Keith Johnson, Dr. Chris Keller, Dr. Karen King, Ms. Shelby Koerten, Ms. Tricia Korade, Dr. Dharendra Kumar, Dr. Sam Mayhew, Provost Dr. Kimberly D. McCorkle, Mr. Cody Morelock, President Dr. Brian Noland, Dr. Rob Pack, Mr. Howard Reddy, Dr. Joe Sherlin, and Dr. Sarah Thomason.

3. Standing Items

3.1 Approve Minutes of the March 9, 2026, meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2026, meeting. The motion was seconded; the minutes were approved.

3.2 Review Agenda

3.3 Consent Agenda Item

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

3.3.1 Termination and Appeal of Student Work Study Employment and APS Service Positions

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

Staff Senate: Mr. Cody Morelock reported that the Staff Senate is finalizing its awards review for the Staff Celebration on May 20. The theme of the Staff Celebration this year is “Red, White, and Buccaneers” to incorporate the 250th birthday of the United States.

Executive Council of Chairs: Dr. Sarah Thomason reported that the Executive Council of Chairs sent a survey to all university chairs to serve as a needs assessment for development and education. They continue to have representatives serving on key university work groups to provide feedback on policies.

SGA: Ms. Shelby Koerten reported that SGA elections have concluded, and she is pleased to have been reelected to serve as President for a second term. Macy Miller will serve as Executive Vice President, and Audie Brown as Vice President for Finance and Administration. SGA recently hosted the Mountain Made Appalachian Folk Festival. President Koerten was pleased with the turnout and reported that SGA hopes to continue the tradition next year. The Senate has continued work to promote safety at Buc Ridge, maximize the impact of the Buc Fund, and support undergraduate research. The first State of the Student Body address will be on Friday, April 17, at 10 a.m.

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 Update on the One-Stop Shop

Drs. Joe Sherlin and Kim Van Wie provided an overview of Buc Central, a one-stop student services center scheduled to open in fall 2026. The center will consolidate financial aid, bursar, and registrar functions into a single location, supported by cross-trained staff, a queuing system (Navigate 360), and both in-person and virtual service options to reduce referrals and improve efficiency. Updates included ongoing planning, staff training, space renovations, and development of a website and communication strategy. The initiative is intended to enhance the student experience by reducing stress and increasing satisfaction, with plans to assess usage, wait times, and service effectiveness after launch and explore future expansion.

5.2 Update on the Leadership Academy

Drs. Rob Pack, Nick Hagemeyer, and Michelle Byrd provided a review of the inaugural ETSU Leadership Academy cohort. The program is designed to develop emerging and established ETSU leaders through monthly sessions, leadership readings, and engagement with university leadership and external partners. The cohort of faculty and staff participated in campus-wide learning experiences, a Nashville visit to better understand the legislative landscape, and team projects aligned with institutional priorities. Facilitators noted key lessons learned, plans for program refinement, and intentions to continue the academy with future cohorts while exploring ways to enhance collaboration, project impact, and alumni engagement.

5.3 Update on Forever ETSU

Mr. Howard Reddy provided a preview of the “Bucs All In” faculty and staff campaign to encourage faculty and staff participation in giving. Mr. Desmond Pierce then provided an overview of the second annual Forever ETSU Week of Giving. The weeklong campaign will feature themed events, including a faculty/staff day, giving day, student engagement activities, donor stewardship efforts, and a community-focused block party at the Model Mill. The campaign aims to increase donor participation and total funds raised, with a goal of surpassing last year’s results of 1,900 donors and \$830,000. He asked University Council members to consider giving and sharing information about the week.

6. President’s Report

President Noland provided updates on the legislative session, which is expected to conclude soon, highlighting ongoing efforts to secure pharmacy funding. He thanked Dr. Debbie Byrd, Dean of Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy, for her work in Nashville to advance this initiative. He also shared that a \$1.5 million supplemental salary pool will be distributed before the end of the fiscal year, with plans to work with faculty and staff leadership on allocation. He noted upcoming budget hearings and strategic funding decisions for the next fiscal year. Additionally, he highlighted a busy schedule of campus events. Dr. Noland concluded by recognizing Dr. Karen King’s retirement, expressing appreciation for her significant contributions and leadership at the university.

7. Announcements

There were no additional announcements.

8. Adjournment

Provost McCorkle adjourned the meeting at 9:24 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.