

University Council
Monday, January 13, 2025
East Tennessee Room

1. Call to Order

Provost Dr. Kimberly D. McCorkle called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Melissa Nipper led the roll call. Members present were: Dr. Ginni Blackhart, Dr. Joe Bidwell, Dr. Bill Block, Dr. Cheri Clavier, Dr. Joel Faidley, Mr. David Finney, Ms. Joy Fulkerson, Ms. Christy Graham, Dr. Adam Green, Dr. Nick Hagemeyer, Dr. Mike Hoff, Dr. Chris Keller, Mr. John King, Dr. Karen King, Ms. Tricia Korade, Dr. Dharendra Kumar, Dr. Kimberly D. McCorkle, Dr. Brian Noland, Dr. Rob Pack, Dr. Tony Pittarese, Mr. Jeremy Ross, Dr. Richard Sander, Dr. Joe Sherlin, Dr. Sarah Thomason, and Ms. Jess Vodden.

3. Standing Items

3.1 Approve Minutes of the October 14, 2024, meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2024, meeting. The motion was seconded; the minutes were approved.

3.2 Review Agenda

Dr. Kimberly D. McCorkle welcomed Mr. John King, who attended his first meeting as a member of the University Council. Mr. King replaced Ms. Pam Ritter, who retired in November 2024.

3.3 Consent Agenda Items

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

- 3.3.1 Employee Classification Policy
- 3.3.2 Charitable Organization Campaigns and Contributions Policy
- 3.3.3 Certified Administrative Professional (CAP) Examination Policy
- 3.3.4 Access Control Data Security Policy

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

Faculty Senate: Dr. Ginni Blackhart reported that Faculty Senate has been encouraging faculty to attend the upcoming Emergency Preparedness Training session. In addition, this semester they will elect a Faculty Trustee for the ETSU Board of Trustees.

Staff Senate: Mr. David Finney thanked everyone for participation and donations during the Holiday Drive. Next month, he will share more details about the Staff Celebration.

Council of Academic Chairs: Dr. Sarah Thomason reported that university-wide chair training continues, with the most recent session by Dr. Nick Hagemeyer held last week. Final editing is underway for the Chair Handbook, which should be distributed to chairs over the next month.

Athletics: Dr. Richard Sander reported that he will attend the NCAA Convention in Nashville. He noted the continually changing landscape in college athletics, including a new lawsuit that impacts eligibility for students who have competed in non-NCAA-sponsored sports. and discussions about changing the number of years of eligibility from four to five. He updated the council on the men's and women's basketball teams and encouraged attendance at their upcoming home games.

3.5 Sub-Council Report: University Governance Organizations

There was no report at this meeting.

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 Budget Model Redesign

Ms. Christy Graham and Mr. Jim Harlan provided an update on the budget model refresh. Mr. Harlan began by reviewing the prior budget model, outlining areas that needed improvement. He reviewed the budget refresh goals and reported that the advisory committee of 17 faculty and staff has been working since September 2023 to provide feedback on key decision points and refining the budget model. All final decisions were made by ETSU leadership after a review of feedback. He highlighted the milestones they have achieved so far.

Ms. Graham discussed the new and revised processes, including the Strategic Initiative Fund, new processes for vacancy management and carryforward, the development of a Capital Improvements Fund, and the revision of the IDC formula.

She outlined the four steps of the revised annual budget process, which include determining annual total unrestricted revenues, subtracting market-based salary enhancements, running the model and funding the academic and administrative unit base budgets. She explained the metrics for annual allocation, noting that the research metric is still in development.

Mr. Harlan concluded by providing an overview of the campus engagement efforts of the committee, including regular meetings with campus leadership, University Council presentations, and a website that is regularly updated. He also provided a timeline for next steps and emphasized that the committee will stay intact and continue to learn and adjust throughout the process. The timeline was presented during the meeting and emailed to council members following the meeting.

5.2 Update on Student Life and Enrollment

Dr. Joe Sherlin provided a progress update on several key initiatives. He reported that ETSU has experienced three consecutive first-year classes above 2,000 students and the first back-to-back first-year classes of 2,100. Based on visit data, event data, housing applications, and admits for fall 2025, ETSU is positioned for another class above 2,100. ETSU has the largest residential population in the institution's history. Retention and graduation rates have also made steady progress, and student engagement is at a record high. Dr. Sherlin thanked the council for the collective work its teams have done to contribute to these successes.

Moving forward, strategic areas of focus over the next five years include continuing to build on the collaboration and integration across marketing and communications, undergraduate and graduate recruitment, and the colleges. They will continue to work together in strategic markets and identify achievable operational goals and targets for enrollment growth and priorities for enrollment and success. Dr. Sherlin noted an effort to identify programs across the university that are "front porch" programs, for which significant funding and resources can be used to market. On the student success side, he also mentioned the development of a business "one-stop shop" for students and families, providing them with integrated and holistic service and support related to financial matters. They are also developing a Student Success Center to focus on supporting low-income, first-generation, and underserved students with additional outreach and support. This will serve as a student success "front door" for the institution.

He reviewed some of the student engagement efforts on campus, noting that the offices of Community Engagement and Leadership and Civic Engagement have partnered to invest in a full-time position that Nathan Farnor is assuming in order to expand the ETSU Serves platform, to grow community partnerships, and to continue to build the Alternative Breaks program.

Finally, he reviewed planning and concept development for the Fraternity Sorority Village Life project, adjacent to BucRidge. It includes a large meeting space, individual chapter spaces, and an outdoor lawn for events and activities. SGA has voiced strong support for the concept.

6. President's Report

Dr. Brian Noland updated University Council on several important initiatives, including:

- **Voyager:** The university is currently in Phase CRP2 of the transition from Banner to Oracle, with training currently underway. He anticipates going live in July 2025.
- **Classification and Compensation:** The university is also well underway in restructuring classification and compensation system. HR staff has been meeting with groups across campus, and a verification of job family classifications will be sent to campus.
- **Budget model:** He addressed the work on the new budget model, noting that there is still some work to be done to set the base. This work should be finalized in the next couple of weeks, and then the bases will be set. He encouraged the council to review the timeline that Ms. Graham and Mr. Harlan presented.
- **Buildings:** He highlighted the progress on the Academic Building and also noted that ETSU will break ground on the new Health Sciences Building in this calendar year. Construction on Burleson should be complete in a couple of months.
- **Athletics:** He reported that Dr. Sander is in the final stages of an Athletics Master Plan, which will come before University Council and the Board of Trustees in the coming months.
- **ETSU Foundation:** He thanked Mr. John King for his leadership and said it will be a busy year for the Foundation as the University embarks on a national search for a new vice president to replace Ms. Pam Ritter.
- **Legislative Session:** He mentioned the beginning of the legislative session and his plans to attend a kick-off event at the Capitol. Ms. Bridget Baird will provide legislative updates to leadership throughout the session.

7. Announcements

Dr. McCorkle thanked everyone for their participation in the December commencement ceremonies. She also recognized Dr. Tony Pittarese and the College of Business and Technology for the graduation of the groundbreaking first class of the BlueSky Institute of Tennessee.

8. Adjournment

Provost McCorkle adjourned the meeting at 9:36 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.