

From: [Office of the President](#)
To: ["faculty@etsu.edu"](mailto:faculty@etsu.edu); ["staff@etsu.edu"](mailto:staff@etsu.edu)
Subject: Strategic Options Workgroup Report
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Importance: High



East Tennessee State University
Office of the President

Box 70734 • Johnson City, Tennessee 37614-1710 • (423) 439-4211 • Fax: (423) 439-4004

During the past week I had the opportunity to engage in discussions with senior leadership and representatives from our Faculty and Staff senates regarding ETSU's 2020-21 budget, which was also the topic of a Virtual Town Hall that I hosted last Thursday. A **recording** of that Town Hall and the discussion **slides** I presented are available for review. The following day, I presented our budget to members of the ETSU Board of Trustees and outlined the institution's immediate strategies for addressing current and potential fiscal challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and a projected decline in fall 2020 enrollment.

These cost-containment actions are based on recommendations from the Strategic Options Workgroup, which has submitted its final report to my office and can be **viewed here**. As I indicated during the Town Hall, the workgroup has identified the need to implement a 4.3% budget reduction for academic units and a 5.3% budget reduction for administrative units to address shortfalls in revenue, to fund internal and external mandates, and to make technical adjustments to the budget for the College of Arts and Sciences that remedy issues inherent in our decentralized budget model. The workgroup expects these reductions to be achieved without significantly altering the institution's teaching, research, and service mission.

I am grateful to Dr. Michael Hoff and Jeremy Ross for their leadership as co-chairs of the Strategic Options Workgroup as well as the committee members:

- **Lori Erickson**, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources;

Margaret Pate, Senior Associate Vice President of Budget and Financial Planning;

- **Dr. Tony Pittarese**, Senior Associate Dean College of Business and Technology;
- **Candy Massey**, President Staff Senate;
- **Dr. Daryl A. Carter**, Professor, Department of History;
- **Dr. Fred Mackara**, Associate Professor, Department of Economics and Finance;
- **Dr. Jodi Polaha**, Professor Family Medicine, Quillen College of Medicine (2020 Presidential Fellow);
- **Dr. Larry Calhoun**, Special Assistant to the Senior Vice President of Academics; and
- **Dr. Joe Bidwell**, Chair and Professor, Department of Biology

I also want to thank each member of the university community for your feedback, your insights, and especially your patience during these recent weeks as uncertainties about our budget were being addressed. Thank you for all you do for ETSU.

Sincerely,

Brian Noland
President