



BLUE & GOLD DIGEST

October 2017

A monthly summary of major activities from ETSU governing bodies

FACULTY SENATE

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Meeting highlights/activities summary:

- The Senate confirmed appointments for the Committee on Committees.
- The election of the third at-large member of the Executive Committee took place.
- Dr. Randy Byington (President of Tennessee University Faculty Senates - TUFS) and Dr. Susan Epps attended the TUFS meeting hosted by the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.
- Senators are coordinating with their colleges to staff the Tenure and Promotion Appeals Committee.
- A presentation was made regarding a draft of policy on start-up funds for faculty.

Note: For complete minutes and other information regarding Faculty Senate meetings, visit <http://www.etsu.edu/senate/>.

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

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Meeting highlights/activities summary:

- In a presentation to Academic Council, Dr. Mike Hoff presented a report that depicted *Fall 2017 Headcount, Credit Hour, and FTE Trends by College, Department, and Program*. He noted that the university community will be using these data and analyses and referring to them as part of the strategic planning process.
- Dr. Richard Ignace gave a report addressing undergraduate research, including information about a new advisory board, crowdfunding, the Undergraduate Research Club, Sherrod Library database efforts, and various sources of funding. In addition, Dr. Ignace said that undergraduate students made presentations at

the Annual Boland Undergraduate Symposium, the Annual Appalachian Research Forum, the SoCon Undergraduate Research Forum, and the Tennessee Experiential Learning Symposium. Finally, he noted funding support, including an external grant, has been identified to support undergraduate student research initiatives.

- Colonel Tony Banchs presented a proposal for establishing a web-based platform for prospective military students that will evaluate their military training and provide a list of ETSU 1000-level courses for which course-equivalent credit would be granted toward an undergraduate degree. He will be working with academic units (e.g., departments) to identify other military courses that could be identified as meeting general education requirements or other requirement toward graduation exclusive of elective credit.
- Dr. Stacy Cummings-Onks and Adrianna Guram provided information regarding the grant, “Building Campus Capacity for Learning Communities.” The purpose of the grant is to develop an intentional approach for educating ETSU about learning communities by targeting first-year students, coordinating the First-Year Experience courses and general education classes, and funding training opportunities. The goal of the associated workgroup is to develop 15 learning communities for fall 2018 and to identify the support structure that will be needed to sustain the learning communities at ETSU after the grant expires. In addition, Dr. Cummings-Onks identified other grants that have been used to address additional features of the university’s student success agenda.
- Dr. Amy Johnson, Nathan Farnor, Joy Fulkerson and Dr. Carla Warner provided a summary presentation and related data from the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE). In the summary, the group highlighted the university’s designation as a “Voter Friendly Campus” by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), and provided information pertaining to the team’s multi-faceted plan for increasing voting engagement among ETSU students. One significant result of the group’s efforts is that, from 2012-2016, the voting rate among ETSU students increased by almost 10 percent.

STAFF SENATE

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Meeting highlights/activities summary:

- Appointed the ETSU Staff Senate CARES Committee to assist in the aftermath of devastating events.

Note: For complete minutes and other information regarding Staff Senate meetings, visit <http://www.etsu.edu/staffsenate/meetings/default.aspx>.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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Meeting highlights/activities summary:

- Senate heard from Matthew Baptist who came for an open forum to discuss the Spartan race taking place on Aug. 4, 2018.
- Elena Lawitzke was elected as the new Parliamentarian
- A resolution (SSR-17-001) was given to the Student Affairs committee to discuss after first read.
- The Secretary of State presented the Homecoming theme and activities to the Senate.
- The first Buc Fund meeting of the semester was held on Sept. 12. The Senate awarded a total of \$41,670 to organizations that met the requirements for BUC Fund.

Note: For complete minutes and other information regarding SGA meetings, visit <http://www.etsu.edu/sga/minutes.aspx>.

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

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Meeting highlights/activities summary:

- Dr. David Linville reported on the Sept. 8 meeting of the ETSU Board of Trustees.
- Dr. Mike Hoff presented the latest enrollment data. For the fall 2017 semester there are 2,050 freshmen, an increase of 164 over the previous year. Transfer enrollment, at 1,046 students, is up over last year. The fall semester also welcomed another record-year for graduate enrollment.
- Dr. Wilsie Bishop introduced Dr. Antony Norma, an ACE Fellow who is spending the fall semester at ETSU as part of his fellowship.
- Committee/council reports were made by Dr. Bert Bach (Academic Council); Dr. Janna Scarborough (Council of Chairs); Dr. Karen King (Information Technology Council); Research Council (Dr. Bill Duncan); Facilities/Construction (Jeremy Ross); Staff Senate (Stefanie Murphy); Student Government Association (Keyana Miller); and Graduate and Professional Student Association (Michael Luchtan).
- Dr. Joe Sherlin and Dr. Jeff Howard presented a policy related to minors and their participation in university programs. The policy had been discussed at a prior council meeting and was submitted for the 30-day public comment period.

Following questions and discussion, the council approved the policy. It will now go to President Noland.

- Dr. Bishop reminded the council that the alcohol policy is currently out for review.
- Mary Cradic provided an update on the University Council website.

Note: For complete minutes and other information regarding the Interim University Council, visit <http://www.etsu.edu/president/interim-council/minutes.php>.

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Meeting highlights/activities summary:

- Reviewed and approved revisions to the ETSU Policy on Scholarship and Research Misconduct.
- Agreed to convene a working group to meet with the Research Development Committee (RDC) to review the current guidelines and policies governing the use of RDC funds.
- Approved a minor revision of the Data Storage and Backup policy related to Export Control.
- Reviewed the current plans for establishing a mechanism to support Crowdfunding for Scholarly Projects in the Sciences and Humanities at ETSU.
- Reviewed the plans for developing an agreement with the University of Tennessee to provide advanced computing resources for ETSU faculty.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

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Meeting highlights/activities summary:

- Items discussed at the recent meeting included the 75 percent increase in Internet bandwidth since 2016; a new initiative to improve to 10 gbps; and concurrent wireless connections on the ETSU network are up to 8500 per day.
- The ETSU App has been reconstructed to improve performance. It contains a parking app for students which allows them to see live data on the number of parking spaces available in student parking areas.
- Student printers have been installed in Buc Ridge and the parking garage for student convenience.
- Windows XP and Vista Operating System are no longer supported by Microsoft and no longer permitted on the ETSU network due to security vulnerabilities.