



BLUE & GOLD DIGEST

February 2016

A monthly summary of major activities from ETSU governing bodies

FACULTY SENATE

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Meeting highlights/activities summary:

- Faculty Senate sponsored an Open Forum with President Noland on January 27. Slides from that presentation will be available on the Senate's website.
- The January 25 Senate meeting was spent discussing the FOCUS Bill and identifying concerns with the bill as well as opportunities created by local board governance.
- The Faculty Senate has a subcommittee meeting with President Noland each week regarding this legislation.

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:

- THEC approved the joint TTU-ETSU B.S.E in Engineering degree program, which will be implemented fall 2016.
- The Council heard a report from the ETSU Academic Integrity Working Group that was charged to review the current Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures. After discussion, it was

determined that the matter would be tabled and that the Working Group would further consider concerns presented during the Academic Council meeting. It will bring a revised report back to the Council at a later meeting.

- The Council heard a report by Dr. Sarah Harkness regarding the ETSU Winter Term. The report depicted increased enrollments, increased numbers of sections offered, an increase in gross revenue for 2015-16 that exceeded \$1 million, and increased return of earning to colleges that participated in Winter Term course offerings.
- The Council heard a report by Drs. Rick Osborn regarding the *Tennessee Reconnect + Complete Program*. This program is designed for students who have accumulated significant previous course work but have received no degree. This program is a state initiative that is receiving considerable publicity and marketing support, and institutional success in awarding degrees to students in this population is recognized in the Outcomes Based Funding Formula. In addition, President Noland has agreed to provide some limited scholarship funds for fall 2016 in order to jumpstart the program.
- Dr. Ramona Williams presented a report regarding spring 2016 enrollment and a status report regarding the fall 2016 undergraduate applications.
- Kathy Feagins presented a report regarding domestic out-of-state enrollment and fall 2015 use of scholarships.
- Dr. Rick Osborn reported that the State Higher Education Council of Virginia approved ETSU's application to offer the Bachelors of Social Work (BSW) at the Higher Education Center in Abingdon.

STAFF SENATE

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Meeting highlights/activities summary:

- The Staff Senate voted to approve changes to its By Laws.
- In the near future, all staff employees will be asked to approve the proposed changes to the Staff Senate Constitution.

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:

- During the Senate's Jan. 26 meeting, Nathan Farnor was elected as the new Parliamentarian.

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

INTERIM UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

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Meeting highlights/activities summary:

- Dr. Patti Vanhook discussed the results of the American College Health Association's National College Health Assessment from April 2012 and Sept. 2015. The survey profiles health trends within the campus community.
- Mary Jordan and Tracy Barry updated the council on the new HAVEN Training for students and employees on sexual violence and harassment prevention. The training is in two parts; the first must be completed by Feb. 25 and the second by April 25.
- Dr. Mike Hoff led the IUC in a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) exercise as part of the overall strategic planning process for the university.
- President Noland reported on the changing governance taking place within the TBR system following Chancellor Morgan's resignation.
- Dr. Noland also reviewed several policy items on the agenda for the upcoming legislative session. These include guns on campus; diversity, inclusion and social awareness; budgets; and change in governance structure.

- Dr. Noland commented on a recent article in the media regarding the Mill Property. This property is a critical anchor in the redevelopment of Downtown Johnson City, and while ETSU has been involved in discussions regarding the property, specific information regarding cost has not been made available.
- In light of the proposed changes taking place regarding higher education governance, Dr. Noland noted that ETSU has requested an extension from the City of Johnson City in the memorandum of understanding through which the city would provide an additional \$8 million toward the new ETSU Fine Arts Center.
- Dr. Noland discussed a memo being distributed to vice presidents with budget instructions for the 2016-17 year; budget hearings will be held soon.
- Dr. Noland reported that ETSU will see changes in its parking policy once the Parking Committee reviews several options currently under consideration.

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