



## BLUE & GOLD DIGEST

March 2016

*A monthly summary of major activities from ETSU governing bodies*

### FACULTY SENATE

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*Meeting highlights/activities summary:*

- A subgroup of the Faculty Senate executive committee worked with President Noland to craft amendments to the FOCUS Bill.
- The senate participated in a SWOT analysis for the Strategic Planning Committee.
- A request was made to Dr. Bach to create a task force to look at a digital faculty evaluation reporting system.
- A review began of Chicago Principles, comparing to our current statement on Academic Freedom and Free Speech.
- Discussion continued of opportunities presented by a new governance model if FOCUS passes.

*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:*

- The Council approved establishment of two concentrations in the M.Ed. in Special Education, which were created by separating the

## Special Education concentration into High Incidence and Low Incidence.

- Dr. Carla Warner introduced Ms. Crusie Lucero, who is serving as interim director of Financial Aid. Ms. Lucero is a graduate of ETSU and brings over 35 years of experience in higher education administration to her work here. She has been the director of financial aid at private and public institutions, including Walters State Community College and Northeast State Community College. Dr. Bach welcomed Ms. Lucero and expressed appreciation for her service in this important position.
- Dr. Judy Slagle, dean of the Honors College, introduced Dr. Richard Ignace, director of Undergraduate Student Research and Creative Activities, who presented a report on the scope of undergraduate research and creative activity at ETSU. Inquiries to deans and chairs indicated that more than 700 undergraduate students participated in at least one such activity in 2014-15. However, the number might be as high as 1,000. The report shows that undergraduate research is a widespread and distinctive facet of the undergraduate experience at ETSU. The council also noted that the university needs a system to track participation in undergraduate research and creative activity. The office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness is working on this task.
- Dr. Cheri Clavier announced that our first-year and senior students will receive an email from President Noland asking them to participate in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). Dr. Clavier asked council members to assist in any way they can to help promote participation in the survey.
- Dr. Dennis Depew, dean of the College of Business and Technology, submitted a report from an ad hoc committee on ETSU's lecturer policies regarding a career ladder for lecturers. After some discussion Dr. Bach asked the committee to meet again to discuss questions that

emerged during the meeting. Dean Depew will then bring the recommendation regarding the career ladder back to the council for action.

- Dr. Ramona Williams, vice provost for Enrollment Services, introduced Dr. Ronnie Gross, director of TRIO programs, who presented a report on ETSU's wide array of federally funded programs promoting student success in middle school through college in our region. ETSU offers nine such programs, making us one of only 15 institutions nationwide that does so. We are also one of only five institutions offering all seven different TRIO programs. Dr. Gross presented data showing the measurable benefits of these programs for students and the university.

## STAFF SENATE

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*Meeting highlights/activities summary:*

- Staff Senate discussed the FOCUS Act and changes to the budgeting process. Members of the budget committee will speak to Staff Senate in March.
- Voting on the changes to the Staff Senate Constitution has concluded, and those changes have been approved.

*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:*

- Jasmine Parks came to speak on emergency preparedness on campus.
- President Cassell announced new appointments to the Senate. Those appointments were passed.

- Senators were reassigned to various committees such as Buc Fund, Parking, Rules and Conduct, Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Sustainability, Public Relations, Internal Affairs, and Food Services. Committee chairs and vice chairs were sworn in to the committees.
- A piece of legislation titled SSR-16-001 “A resolution to end frivolous emails that are sent to the entire student body,” was passed by the Senate.
- Scott Carter came to speak at open forum and updated the Senate on athletics.
- Secretary of Interior Brad Fisher announced his nominations for the election commission. They were passed by the Senate and sworn in.
- The Senate funded multiple organizations through the BUC Fund.
- Dr. Noland came to speak about the FOCUS Act, campus safety, dining services, parking, and academic programming during open forum.
- Ben Schaller came to speak about the organization HEROES and its space in the Culp center.

*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. Noland gave an update on the FOCUS Act, which continues to move through the state legislature. He also discussed other legislative issues, including the possibility of a tuition and fee cap; a psychology bill; possible legislation to reduce or cap investments in diversity; legislation regarding free speech; and guns on campus.
- President Noland reviewed items from Governor Haslam’s State of the State Address, which was positive for higher education.

- President Noland noted that David Gregory has been named acting chancellor of the TBR for a period to be determined.
- Also as part of his report, President Noland reported that ETSU has issued a request for proposals for the next food service vendor contract.
- In response to a question regarding Gov. Haslam's proposal to privatize the management of state facilities, President Noland reported that members of the governor's staff will soon present outcomes of due diligence work on this issue.
- Mark Tipton, Elsa Severijn and Paula Hotz provided an update on the past, present and future of Veterans Affairs.
- Dr. Bert Bach recommended approval of the Administrative Services Review Committee's proposal for the summer session of 2016, which, after input and recommendations by the Faculty Senate, was to follow the same procedure as 2015 – a 13-week session (pre-session, pre-session plus summer, session one, full session, dual session and session two), with the university's general fund receiving \$3.5 million in revenue; summer school operating costs will remain at the same level of \$270,000, and any revenue generated above and beyond will be returned to the colleges at the end of summer school. A motion was made and approved.
- Dr. Mike Hoff presented a timeline for developing the university's strategic plan and reported that the SWOT exercise is continuing with faculty, deans, chairs, students and staff.
- Dr. Randy Wykoff gave a presentation on a proposed pilot plan for the College of Public Health that would enhance the current recognition efforts of faculty and staff.

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