

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 12, 2025
Johnson City, Tennessee

The East Tennessee State University Board of Trustees' Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee met on Friday, September 12, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the East Tennessee Room of the D.P. Culp Student Center.

I. Call to Order

Trustee Janet Ayers, chair of the committee, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Board Secretary Dr. Adam Green conducted the roll call. The following committee members were physically present:

Trustee Janet Ayers
Trustee Dr. Steph Frye-Clark
Trustee Jon Lundberg
Trustee Melissa Steagall-Jones
Trustee Tony Treadway

Other Trustees present were Steve DeCarlo, Wade Farmer, Dorothy Grisham, Ron Ramsey, Grant Summers, and Aashi Vora.

III. Approval of the Committee Minutes from May 23, 2025

The minutes from the May 23, 2025, meeting of the Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee were approved as submitted with Trustee Tony Treadway making the motion and Trustee Dr. Steph Frye-Clark seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

IV. Promotion and Tenure of Faculty Member

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Kimberly McCorkle recommended to the committee that Dr. Cristina Barroso be granted tenure upon

appointment, at the rank of associate professor. Dr. Barroso is the new Chair of the Department of Community and Behavioral Health in the College of Public Health. She joined ETSU from the University of Texas at San Antonio, where she was Founding Chair of the Department of Health, Behavior, and Society. A scholar in rural health, she has secured over \$6 million in external grant funding.

Trustee Dr. Steph Frye-Clark made a motion to approve the promotion and tenure recommendation, and Trustee Tony Treadway seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

V. Approval of the ETSU Mission Profile

Dr. Michael Hoff, Vice Provost for Decision Support and University Chief Planning Officer, discussed highlights of ETSU's Mission Profile. He indicated that no changes are recommended to the Mission Profile approved by the ETSU Board of Trustees last year.

Trustee Jon Lundberg made a motion to approve the ETSU Mission Profile as submitted, and Trustee Frye-Clark seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

VI. Academic Notification for Period of January 1, 2025, through July 31, 2025

Dr. McCorkle reported that there have been 67 curriculum updates during this period. Seventeen of them required notification to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Most notable, she said, was the Letter of Notification for the proposed Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management, which is scheduled to go before the commission in the spring of 2026, so that the program can begin in the fall of 2026. She then reported on curriculum actions not requiring THEC notification that were approved internally. Some of those involved reductions in the required number of credit hours for graduation, some were new minors that were created, and 16 of those actions were policy-related, including changes in admission standards in certain programs to make them more accessible for students. Dr. McCorkle also informed the committee that ETSU has created a new Cybersecurity Innovation and Outreach Center within the College of Business and Technology, as well as an Institute for Cyber and Homeland Security.

VII. College Spotlight: Quillen College of Medicine

Dr. Bill Block, Vice President for Clinical Affairs and Dean of the Quillen College of Medicine, reviewed the college's mission, which has held steady for over five decades:

“The primary mission of the Quillen College of Medicine is to educate future physicians, especially those with an interest in primary care, to practice in

underserved rural communities. In addition, the College is committed to excellence in biomedical research and is dedicated to the improvement of health care in Northeast Tennessee and the surrounding Appalachian region.”

Dr. Block noted that Quillen is currently home to 326 medical students, 30 Ph.D. candidates in Biomedical Sciences, 236 resident and fellow physicians, and more than 250 faculty members. Since its creation, the College of Medicine has graduated over 2,500 M.D.s, and more than 1,000 of them practice within the Tri-Cities region and Southwest Virginia. Dr. Block discussed recent recognition for the college:

- In the 90th percentile of medical schools with graduates practicing primary care
- In the 96th percentile of medical schools with students who plan to participate in military service
- Number two in the nation for most graduates practicing in health professional shortage areas
- In the top tier of best medical schools for primary care and the only school in Tennessee in that category

Dr. Block said the college, through its practice plan, exceeds 370,000 patient visits a year. Quillen is also an exclusive provider for neonatal and pediatric intensive care in the region and for trauma and surgical intensive care. Quillen provides staffing for the Regional Cancer Center in Johnson City, the regional St. Jude affiliate, and Perinatal Center obstetrical care at Johnson City Medical Center. Further, Quillen’s clinics provide in excess of \$3.2 million per year in uncompensated health care for the people of the region.

Dr. Block pointed out that in 2023, Quillen signed a Master Affiliation Agreement with Ballad Health. That agreement increases educational opportunity across ETSU’s health sciences colleges, enhances clinical partnerships, allows for the development of joint research opportunities, and allows the two organizations to work together strategically to develop the workforce and improve the lives of the region.

Among future initiatives, Dr. Block announced the expansion of the medical school class from 78 entering students a year to 100 beginning in the summer of 2026. At the same time, the anatomy lab and classrooms are being expanded. Dr. Block said the college plans to break ground this year for an Integrated Health Sciences Building, and he noted several new faculty hires.

VIII. ETSU Research Update: Center for Community Outreach

Dr. Nick Hagemeier, Vice Provost for Research, provided an historical view of the work of the Center for Community Outreach, which, since 1997, has brought in over \$175 million to serve Tennesseans. Dr. Hagemeier recognized the founders of the center, retired sociology professors Dr. Judith Hammond and Dr. Jerry Leger. He then

introduced the center's current director, Ms. Amy Edwards, who has been in that role since November of 2023.

Ms. Edwards reviewed the mission of the center: "To utilize university expertise and resources in the provision of workforce services, human services, and clinical outreach to the citizens of East Tennessee." That mission, she added, is now statewide, as the center oversees two contracts and three grants from the Department of Human Services, employing 73 staff members across the state. The largest grant is for Families First Support/Activity, part of the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. The grant's primary purpose is to help remove employment barriers in all 95 of Tennessee's counties, through the work of 44 staff members.

Ms. Edwards then described the work of the Family Focused Solutions Counseling grant, also a part of TANF, which covers 34 counties and provides case management services and linkages to community resources for clients. Furthermore, Healthy Careers Chattanooga is a partnership between ETSU and Blue Care TN. Covering 10 counties in the Chattanooga/Hamilton County area, it provides support to remove barriers to employment.

The Fatherhood Connection Initiative began in February, and its purpose is to foster positive father-child connections in three counties, with plans to expand to six. The Non-Custodial IMPACT Program, Ms. Edwards said, involves a partnership with Judicial Districts 1, 2, and 3 to provide employment services for non-custodial participants and remove barriers to employment in nine counties. The grant has run its five-year course, with 935 individuals served and almost \$534,000 paid in child support through June 30, 2025.

President Noland expressed gratitude to Drs. Hammond and Leger, Ms. Edwards, and the staff members who help run these programs for the safety net they provide for citizens of the state.

IX. Overview of Strategic Enrollment Management Plan

Dr. Joe Sherlin, Senior Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment, and Dr. Heather Levesque, Associate Vice President and Executive Director of Admissions, Student Life, and Enrollment, outlined the key elements of the plan, created by a group charged in 2024 to review challenges and opportunities in the internal and external environments related to enrollment and student success. Highlights of the plan are:

- A goal of 15,500 students by the year 2030, which would equate to a 10.9% increase in total enrollment and an increase in headcount of approximately 300 students a year
- A goal of sustaining the size and academic profile of the first-year cohort: 2,100 students with an average GPA of 3.5

- A goal of expanding the incoming undergraduate transfer population by 2% annually
- A goal of growing undergraduate adult enrollment—that is, those age 25 and over—by 7% annually for a total of 2,000 students
- A goal of increasing graduate enrollment by 1.5% annually
- A goal of increasing the first-year persistence rate to 85% and the undergraduate graduation rate to 60%

Drs. Sherlin and Levesque described specific strategies to achieve each of these goals. Supporting all of them will be a new one-stop shop for student services, which will operate in tandem with the newly opened Jordan Center for Student Success.

GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS

X. Committee Discussions

There was no further discussion.

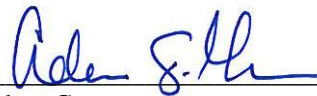
XI. Other Business

There was no other business to come before the committee.

XII. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Adam Green
Secretary of the Board of Trustees

Approved by the Board of Trustees at its November 14, 2025 meeting.