

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

MINUTES

September 13, 2024
Johnson City, Tennessee

The East Tennessee State University Board of Trustees' Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee met on Friday, September 13, 2024, 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 Charles Allen
Trustee Dr. Steph Frye-Clark
Trustee Dr. Linda Latimer
Trustee Tony Treadway

Other Board of Trustees members in attendance were Dorothy Grisham, Melissa Steagall-Jones, and Trent White.

III. Approval of the Committee Minutes from May 24, 2024

The minutes from the May 24, 2024, meeting of the Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee were approved as submitted with Trustee Charles Allen making the motion and Trustee Tony Treadway seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

IV. Recommendation for Promotion and Tenure of Faculty

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Kimberly McCorkle presented a request to award tenure upon appointment to three faculty members who were hired this summer. Those faculty members are:

- Dr. Kelly Hall from the Department of Management and Supply Chain in the College of Business and Technology;
- Dr. Anthony Vega, Chair of the Department of Geosciences in the College of Arts and Sciences; and
- Dr. Amy Wright, from the Department of Literature and Language in the College of Arts and Sciences.

In addition, Dr. McCorkle presented a request to promote one faculty member, Ms. Angela Shelton, to Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Early Childhood Education in the Clemmer College of Education and Human Development. And Dr. McCorkle noted one correction in the presentation made to the committee in May: Dr. Sivarao Digavalli from the Gatton College of Pharmacy should be listed as an Associate Professor.

Trustee Dr. Steph Frye-Clark made a motion to approve the recommendations as presented, and Trustee Dr. Linda Latimer seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

V. Academic Notification for Period January 1, 2024, through July 31, 2024

Provost McCorkle summarized curriculum actions that happened from January 1, 2024, to July 31, 2024. Notifications that require approval by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission include changing the name of the concentration in Environmental Health to Environmental and Occupational Health, within the Master of Public Health program; changing the name of the academic program concentration to MAT in Teacher Education; establishing a new graduate certificate in Qualitative Research Methods; and converting the Master of Public Health Environmental and Occupational Health Concentration to an online delivery mode.

Provost McCorkle then described curriculum modifications that did not require approval by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. There were 20 such items, 14 of which were related to program policy changes in admission, student progression, and graduation requirements. There were 5 substantive program curricular revisions. Three of them were in Education, to align the programs with teacher licensure requirements in the state of Tennessee. There were revisions to the Master of Science in Chemistry and the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology, and there was a change to an articulation agreement. Provost McCorkle underscored the fact that these changes are intended to ensure continued program quality and student success, while meeting accreditation standards and better preparing students for the workforce.

VI. Provost Update

Dr. McCorkle announced to the committee the hiring of a new Dean for the College of Nursing, Dr. Dena Evans, who currently serves as Vice Dean of Faculty and Academic Affairs at the University of South Florida College of Nursing. She will begin at ETSU in January.

Dr. McCorkle updated the committee on the academic restructuring initiative, which was implemented on July 1. She reported that one college has been renamed—the College of Health Sciences. Two new departments were created, along with seven schools in four different colleges. The Provost reported that directors of those schools would be named by the beginning of October.

Dr. McCorkle reported on a successful year of accreditation activity. Among those accreditations are ones by:

- The Council on Education for Public Health
- The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Accreditation
- The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education
- The Council for Interior Design Accreditation
- The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education

Dr. McCorkle provided an update to the committee on Compass, the new core curriculum at ETSU. Dr. Matthew Palmatier, Associate Professor of Psychology, is now serving as the Compass Faculty Fellow. Over 100 courses have been approved under the new curriculum.

Dr. McCorkle reviewed recent programmatic launches including the M.S. in Orthotics and Prosthetics; the B.S. in Mechatronics; the M.A. in Music; and the B.B.A. concentration in Hospitality and Tourism. Planned program development includes hospitality and tourism as a stand-alone degree, bioengineering, and a possible masters degree program in athletic training.

In the area of research and scholarship, Dr. McCorkle highlighted these recent awards:

- A \$1.25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs to John Wheeler and Pam Mims from the Clemmer College of Education and Human Development
- A \$2.8 million, four-year grant to Michael Meit and the Center for Rural Health and Research to conduct rural health research for HRSA
- A two-year grant totaling \$2 million from the Department of Human Services to Amy Edwards and the Center for Community Outreach
- A total of \$912,000 to Eric Jorgensen and the ETSU Research Corporation from the Department of Defense—Distributed Bioindustrial Manufacturing Program

Dr. McCorkle reported that this semester, 85 new faculty members joined ETSU. She congratulated Dr. Thomas Kwasigroch from the Quillen College of Medicine for winning the Distinguished Faculty Award in Teaching, Dr. Cuihong Jia from the Quillen College of Medicine for winning the Distinguished Faculty Award in Research, and Dr. Andrew Joyner from the College of Arts and Sciences for winning the Distinguished Faculty Award in Service.

Reinforcing the theme “Going Beyond,” Dr. McCorkle announced that the 2024-25 Campus Read is *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr.

Dr. McCorkle told the board that one of this year’s strategic goals is to apply for the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification. An application is now being prepared, with a due date in April.

VII. ETSU Research Update: College of Public Health

Dr. Randy Wykoff, Dean of the College of Public Health, reported to the board that since accreditation in 2009, the college has brought in over \$50 million in externally-funded research, reflecting a 17 percent annual growth rate. Last year saw over \$7 million in research spending. He added that in 2023, over two-thirds of research projects involved students.

Dr. Wykoff highlighted some lessons learned along the way, including focusing on regional challenges, creating centers, and pursuing excellence in all activities. Among those regional challenges are the aging population, environmental changes, lack of access to affordable healthcare, low levels of academic achievement, poor health habits, and poor employment opportunities, especially in rural areas.

Dr. Wykoff emphasized the value of creating research centers in attracting external funding. Among those at ETSU are the Addiction Science Center, the Center for Rural Health and Research, the ETSU/NORC Rural Health Equity Research Center, the Center for Applied Research and Evaluation in Women’s Health, and the Center for Cardiovascular Risk Research. He added that there are three entities in the college that are not technically research centers but show the value of collaboration: the Tennessee Institute of Public Health, the Tennessee Public Health Training Center, and Project EARTH. Dr. Wykoff said the real keys to the success of a center are its national reputation and its regional focus.

Dr. Wykoff noted that the College of Public Health is one of only three schools of public health in the country to have won the national Delta Omega Award for Innovative Curriculum more than once, and college faculty members have won the ETSU Distinguished Faculty Award in Teaching four times in the last thirteen years.

For its community service, the college won the 2024 Harrison C. Spencer Award for Outstanding Community Service, making it one of only two institutions in the country that have won both that award and the Delta Omega Award, the other being Johns Hopkins.

Dr. Wykoff summarized his presentation by saying that to be successful in research, teaching, or community service, colleges must focus on where these functions overlap. A measure of how the ETSU College of Public Health has grown in reputation, he added, is the fact that in the last 10 years, there have been applicants from 75 countries, 49 states, and virtually all of Tennessee's counties.

VIII. ETSU Athletics Update

Dr. Richard Sander, Director of Athletics, began by reviewing the immediate priorities he faced when assuming the role of Interim Athletics Director on August 1, 2022: stabilizing the Athletics Department, evaluating the student-athlete experience, and evaluating Title IX compliance. He indicated that he immediately began to reduce a structural deficit for the department that was over \$3.3 million. By fiscal year 2024, that deficit had been reduced to \$280,951. At the same time, Sander said, changes were taking place in coaching and administrative staffs to align with departmental priorities and values. Eight programs are being led by new coaches. Dr. Sander said the department implemented several sophisticated evaluation processes for personnel and worked on professional development of staff.

To improve the student-athlete experience, Dr. Sander said, the department adopted the mantra "Be GREAT": Be Grateful, Resilient, Excited, All-in, Together. He added that the department now takes a more holistic approach to the development of student-athletes. That approach is yielding results, with a department-wide GPA of 3.358, 46 student-athletes with a GPA of 4.0, 146 on the Dean's List, and 80 on the Honor Roll.

Dr. Sander reported that ETSU now has 388 student-athletes, with 101 of them being incoming freshmen. Of that total number, 251 are from out of state. Dr. Sander then reviewed the amount of tuition, room, and board those student-athletes pay to ETSU.

Dr. Sander shared statistics on ETSU's Title IX-focused initiatives, pointing out the progress that has been made in the last two years. For 2022-23, 59 percent of student-athletes were men. One year later, that number was 51 percent.

Dr. Sander then gave the committee an update on the current state of college athletics, including court cases that have changed the landscape in terms of the transfer portal, Name, Image, and Likeness, roster sizes, scholarship awards, and requirements. He said that in college athletics, change is the only constant.

GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS

IX. Committee Discussions

There was no further discussion.

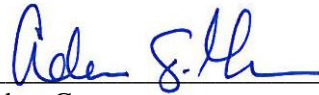
X. Other Business

There was no other business to come before the committee.

XI. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam Green", is written over a horizontal line.

Adam Green
Secretary of the Board of Trustees

Approved by the Board of Trustees at its November 15, 2024 meeting.