

Amendment to Academic, Research, and Student Success April 26, 2019 Committee Minutes

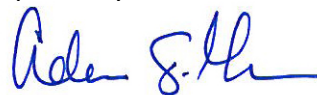
In referencing the annual research report produced by ETSU, Chairman Latimer raised concerns regarding how actual research activity is reflected. The report includes dollar amounts ETSU received for sponsored activity services, such as TennCare reimbursements. Even though these are services carried out by faculty, this work is not research. A more clear distinction between grant activity and research activity is needed in order for the board to understand how the university is progressing with research.

Dr. Latimer noted that while well-prepared white papers and other reports have been presented to inform the committee on the institution's research activity, she still does not feel that the group has the information it needs. This information is necessary in order to determine next steps in terms of research, and it is also important for the board to have a discussion on how members would like to see research at ETSU move forward.

With identified research priorities, the administration can align efforts, such as grant applications and the recruitment of new faculty in those areas, in order to achieve these goals. The university might also establish partnerships with other major research universities with access to funding vehicles who would be interested in working with ETSU and Ballad Health's patient populations. Dr. Latimer added that an alignment of research and grant applications is needed in order to determine if a shortcoming in achieving grants exists and, if so, is this something ETSU needs to address or if it is the result of a competitive environment for obtaining grants. These answers would allow ETSU to establish a plan to close these gaps.

Dr. Latimer stated that ETSU needs strategic research priorities and a five-year plan with annual goals and metrics. This would drive faculty recruitment and enhance faculty collaboration. The university should report on these key performance metrics every year. In addition, sufficient time needs to be allotted for the board to identify goals and to create a strategic plan for accomplishing these goals.

Respectfully submitted,



Adam Green
Secretary of the Board of Trustees

Approved by the Board of Trustees at its September 20, 2019 meeting.