

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 12, 2025  
Johnson City, Tennessee

The East Tennessee State University Board of Trustees' Finance and Administration Committee met on Friday, September 12, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. in the East Tennessee Room of the D.P. Culp Student Center.

**I. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Steve DeCarlo called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and welcomed new committee members Trustee Grant Summers and Trustee Aashi Vora.

**II. Roll Call**

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

Chair Steve DeCarlo  
Trustee Melissa Steagall-Jones  
Trustee Grant Summers  
Trustee Aashi Vora

Other Trustees present were Janet Ayers, Wade Farmer, Dr. Steph Frye-Clark, Dorothy Grisham, Jon Lundberg, Ron Ramsey, and Tony Treadway.

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

The minutes from the May 23, 2025, meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee were approved as submitted. Trustee Grant Summers made the motion to approve, and Trustee Melissa Steagall-Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Voyager Update**

Dr. Karen King, Chief Information Officer, presented a report on ETSU's July 1, 2025, transition to Oracle's Fusion Cloud, a system that streamlines all human resources, finance, procurement, and payroll functions. Generally, the transition has gone very smoothly, Dr. King reported. The university is utilizing extended support from

deployment partner Huron through the end of October. Dr. King told the committee that work is taking place on defect resolution, although there are no critical defects. Knowledge transfer to ETSU's technical team is now taking place, with the ultimate goal of running the system on our own. Dr. King added that the university has entered into a contract with Huron for some managed services for next year to get us through the system's quarterly updates.

Dr. King then reviewed ETSU's support model, training metrics, and training resources and shared information on the number of visits to the university's Voyager website. Since June, she said, there have been 40,000 sessions on the website. Help Desk statistics show some 1,700 tickets submitted. Ms. Christy Graham, Chief Financial Officer, recognized members of the Voyager Implementation Team from Human Resources, Finance, and Information Technology, commending them for their work, personal sacrifice, and commitment of more than three years to the project.

Trustee Frye-Clark added support for the staff commitment involved in the transition while conveying concerns from faculty on the system's rollout. Ms. Graham emphasized the stressful nature of the conversion and indicated that concerns will be addressed. She said a list of improvements and additional enhancements is already being compiled.

Committee Chair DeCarlo and Board Chair Steagall-Jones both had high praise for the Voyager Implementation Team, and President Noland echoed that appreciation, noting the long hours worked by staff over a long period of time to make the transition successful. Dr. Noland announced the creation of a post-implementation task force, chaired by Dr. Tony Norman, to allow the campus to provide suggestions or adjustments to enhance the Voyager platform

## **V. Quarterly Financial Update**

Ms. Graham began her presentation by describing in detail key accounting changes, which she described as "substantial," affecting how financial information is reported. She said the change with the largest impact involves Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 101, compensated absences, which include vacation time, sick time, and other forms of paid time off. Ms. Graham explained the impact of this change on how the university reports its financial position. Under the old rules, she said, obligation for unused leave was not fully recognized until that leave was taken or paid out. GASB 101 now requires the university to record the liability as soon as leave is earned and accumulated, rather than waiting until it is used. Ms. Graham pointed out that this is occurring nationwide.

The second change involves guidelines from the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) on how institutions account for scholarship allowances. Ms. Graham indicated that the impact of this change is also significant. The revised guidance changed how we report institutional aid, aligning us with peer institutions and adding a measure of comparability across institutions. Now, all forms of

institutional aid and grant-based aid, including Pell Grants, that directly reduce the student's tuition bill must be recorded as a reduction in revenue, not as an expense. Ms. Graham told the committee that this does not change the actual level of aid we provide to students, nor does it affect cashflow, but it does shift the way our financial statements look. Although the numbers are skewed from FY24 to FY25, she underscored the fact that our bottom line and net position have not changed.

Ms. Graham reported that ETSU ended the fiscal year in a solid financial position. There was a slight increase in state appropriations, an increase in tuition revenues prior to the scholarship allowance calculation, and growth in grants and contracts. While expenses did increase, she said, they reflect intentional investments in people, programs, and facilities. The university's assets increased by \$53 million, primarily because of a \$39 million increase in construction. Liabilities increased by nearly \$38 million, mainly because of the implementation of GASB 101. Capital assets, Ms. Graham said, show that the university continues to invest strategically in facilities and technology.

Examining the university's debt profile, Ms. Graham noted that we have outstanding debt that decreased from \$154 million to \$148 million, with the largest portion being bonds, totaling \$126 million. Ms. Graham concluded this part of her presentation by emphasizing that the university is in a strong financial position.

## **VI. Quarterly Report of Agreements \$250,000 or Greater**

Ms. Graham shared the following information on contracts and purchase orders with the committee:

- A five-year contract with Daktronics/Huntington National Bank in the total amount of \$1,577,400 for LED video scoreboard and ribbons for Freedom Hall
- A five-year contract with Tri-Cities Regional Emergency Physicians to teach adult and pediatric medicine to medical students and residents in the total amount of \$1,300,000
- A three-year contract with Johnson City Transit-Bucshot for student transportation, in the total amount of \$677,038
- A \$409,869 contract with Huron Consulting Services for extended hypercare support, through October 31, 2025
- A \$283,454 contract with Dell Computer Corporation for the 2025 summer PC Lab rollout
- A \$737,111 contract with NextGen Security for the access control upgrade
- A \$433,068 contract with Echosens North America for two Fibroscan units for Internal Medicine

Ms. Graham added that there is one RFQ in process for Nursing SIM equipment, in the estimated amount of \$2,000,000 for a one-time purchase.

President Noland noted that the NextGen Security contract represents the next investment in locks and systems that increase the level of campus security. And, he explained, the Daktronics contract is important in the university's continuing discussions with the City of Johnson City regarding the lease for Freedom Hall, as investments are needed for new scoreboards, new video boards, and new sound.

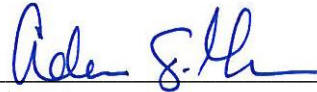
**VII. Other Business**

There was no other business to come before the committee.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Adam Green  
Secretary of the Board of Trustees

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