

Interim University Council

Date: February 8, 2016

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Location: D.P. Culp University Center, East Tennessee Room

Attendees: Dr. Brian Noland (chair), Dr. Gordon Anderson, Dr. Bert Bach, Dr. Wilsie Bishop, Dr. Larry Calhoun, Alex Cassell, Dr. Ranjan Chakraborty, Dr. Wallace Dixon, Dr. William Duncan, Dr. Susan Epps, Dr. Virginia Foley, Dr. Jane Jones, Mary Jordan, Ed Kelly, Dr. Karen King, Dr. Cecilia McIntosh, Stefanie Murphy, Dr. Wendy Nehring, Pam Ritter, Dr. David Roane, Jeremy Ross, Dr. Richard Sander, Dr. Janna Scarborough, Joe Smith, Patricia Wheeler, Josh Whitlock, Mary Cradic (staff support), Jennifer Hill (recording secretary)

Guests: Dr. Mike Hoff, Mark Tipton, Elsa Severijn, Paula Hotz, Janelle Monday, Dr. Randy Wykoff, Dr. David Linville

MINUTES

Dr. Brian Noland opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the January 11, 2016, meeting were approved.

President's Report

- **Governance Update**

President Noland updated the IUC on the Focus on College and University Success (FOCUS) Act introduced in the state legislature in January calling for adjustments to the higher education governance structure in Tennessee, with a centralized governing board for the community colleges and six institutional boards for the universities. He said processes for feedback are in place to facilitate shared governance, and he and Dr. Jane Jones will work to find ways to communicate with the ETSU campus regarding this legislation. Amendments to the legislation are expected. Hearings on FOCUS will be held in the House in February and in the Senate in March. He encouraged IUC members to hold detailed questions until after the amendment process.

- **Governor's Budget**

Dr. Noland reported that the budget news from Gov. Bill Haslam's State of the State address on Feb. 1 was positive for higher education, although funding for ETSU's Lamb Hall renovations was deferred. The state's Drive to 55 Fund is slated to get \$20 million, and Dr. Noland stated this could provide funding for Building 60 renovations. ETSU will receive a \$2.8 million

increase to its bottom line, which will go toward operations and salary funding; he noted that traditionally, operations and salary funding have been separate but are combined into one pool this year, and \$920,000 of this will go toward salaries. Dr. Noland anticipates legislative movement to cap tuition and fees at state institutions until 2018.

Questions dealt with possible increases to graduate assistant stipends and the timing involved. Dr. Noland stated that he plans to submit his budget to the IUC in April after receiving the budgets currently being formulated by the vice presidents, with salaries being his highest priority, and graduate stipends will be included in that issue.

- **Additional Legislative Issues**

- Dr. Noland said that recent controversies at the University of Tennessee are clouding the landscape for all of higher education this year.
- He reiterated the possibility of a tuition and fee cap, which would place ETSU in a very difficult position, with 75 percent of operating revenue coming from tuition and fees and the Gatton College of Pharmacy operating with no state appropriations.
- Dr. Noland said the university will continue, as in years past, to push back against the psychology bill, which is again on the docket.
- He anticipates legislation to reduce or cap investments in diversity.
- There will be legislation regarding free speech.
- Dr. Noland said the position of both the Tennessee Board of Regents and ETSU is to change the conversation regarding guns on campus from a Second Amendment issue to a campus safety issue.
- The legislative session should wrap up around the beginning of April.

- **Acting Chancellor of TBR**

Dr. Noland reported that David Gregory has been named acting chancellor of the TBR for a period to be determined. He remarked that Mr. Gregory is a friend of ETSU and will do a nice job of guiding the system through the changes that would result from the passage of the FOCUS Act.

- **Food Service**

Dr. Noland reported that ETSU has issued a request for proposals for the next food service vendor contract. ARAMARK has been ETSU's food service vendor for the past eight years. Dr. Noland said it is important for the right vendor to be in place and involved throughout the design process for the coming renovation of the D.P. Culp University Center.

Dr. Noland also stated that as part of that work, ETSU is changing the conceptualization of food service on campus and moving toward implementing a requirement for freshmen living in residence halls to purchase a meal plan beginning with the 2016-17 academic year. He said this will contribute toward the building of community across campus and toward student success.

- **Privatization of Facilities Management**

In response to a question regarding Gov. Haslam's proposal to privatize the management of state facilities, Dr. Noland reported that members of the governor's staff will soon present outcomes of due diligence work on this issue. He said there could be some cost savings in outsourcing certain aspects of facilities management, but noted that such outsourcing has not gone as well as

reported at one institution that is being held up as a model. Dr. Noland stated that ETSU is more efficient than the outsourcing numbers indicate, and he does not intend to outsource anything.

State of Veterans Affairs

Mark Tipton, Elsa Severijn and Paula Hotz provided an update on the past, present and future of Veterans Affairs at ETSU (*see attached document*). They discussed the history of the department, the services it provides, and the steps being taken in an effort to increase enrollment at ETSU by military veterans, including scholarships, marketing, and staffing changes. They also discussed the Veteran Reconnect program, which provides services through grant funding from the “Drive to 55” initiative; this funding will end Dec. 31, 2016. They noted that ETSU has been named a Military Friendly school for seven consecutive years, and the university provides a positive environment for veterans, with such amenities as a Veterans Lounge, standing committees that address veterans’ issues, and the nearby Veterans Affairs Medical Center at Mountain Home. Needs that have been identified for ETSU Veterans Affairs include additional staffing, space for a Veterans Center, and retention funds, since the state Veteran Reconnect funding ends in December.

Summer School Update

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. This year’s proposal did not include the controversial alternative salary rate that faculty were permitted to elect in 2015. Dr. Bach noted that the model worked successfully in 2015, with the colleges receiving back nearly \$1.3 million at the end of the summer. He stated that highlights of summer 2015 included increased course offerings, growth in enrollment and credit hour production, a modest increase in salary attributed to additional course instructional costs, and gross revenue growth.

Following discussion, the motion to approve the recommendation was made by Dr. Cecilia McIntosh and seconded. The measure passed.

Strategic Planning Update

Dr. Mike Hoff presented a timeline for developing the university’s strategic plan (*see attached document*). He said the committee took the 2010-15 plan and altered it slightly to reflect new priorities as required by the TBR. He noted that they are trying to create a systematic annual approach to planning with a plan similar to 2010-15 for 2015-25, with version 1.0 to be completed by the end of this year, 1.1 by the end of next year, and continuing in like manner over the next 10 years until it is time to adjust it again.

Dr. Hoff reported that the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Challenges) exercise will have been completed with the deans, faculty, chairs, students (both undergraduate and graduate) and staff by the end of February. This is to be followed by a week-long opportunity for all of these constituencies to respond to a survey based on the information gleaned. A basic plan should also be in place by the end of the month and subcommittees will begin to be assigned.

Dr. Hoff will provide the IUC with its first look at results from the SWOT exercises during the March meeting.

College of Public Health “Incentive Program” Proposal

Dr. Randy Wykoff gave a presentation on a proposed pilot of an Incentive Plan for the College of Public Health (*see attached documents*). This plan would enhance the current recognition efforts, which include four cash awards (three for faculty excellence in teaching, research and service and one for outstanding staff) and Dean’s Special Recognition Awards.

This plan would require \$4,500 in additional funds, which would come from the college’s foundation account and not from the university or the ETSU Foundation. The research incentive plan should produce revenue for the college.

Discussion following the presentation centered on how award recipients are selected, how such award programs and selection processes sometimes lead to hard feelings, and whether the award plan could be aligned with institutional goals, such as student retention.

Future Agenda Items

Dr. Wilsie Bishop encouraged IUC members to submit future agenda items via the form on the IUC website.

In response to Dr. Bishop’s question regarding whether the IUC was meeting members’ expectations, Dr. Cecilia McIntosh said that she thought that the council, as a governing body, would be doing more voting than it is. She noted that the IUC hears a variety of presentations, but is rarely called upon to make decisions. Other members concurred.

Dr. Bishop stated that the IUC would be voting on the university budget in April. She said it may be that the governance flow has not yet been fully set up, with items coming from such bodies as the Academic Council or the Information Technology Governance Council. She said she would share that concern with President Noland.

The meeting was adjourned.