

**University Council**  
**August 11, 2025**  
**East Tennessee Room**

**1. Call to Order**

Provost Dr. Kimberly D. McCorkle called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Melissa Nipper led the roll call. Members present were: Ms. Bridget Baird, Dr. Ginni Blackhart, Dr. Joe Bidwell, Dr. Cheri Clavier, Dr. Dena Evans, Dr. Joel Faidley, Mr. David Finney, Ms. Joy Fulkerson, Dr. Mark Fulks, Dr. Adam Green, Dr. Nick Hagemeyer, Dr. Mike Hoff, Dr. Keith Johnson, Dr. Chris Keller, Mr. John King, Dr. Karen King, Ms. Tricia Korade, Dr. Dharendra Kumar, Dr. Sam Mayhew, Dr. Kimberly D. McCorkle, Dr. Brian Noland, Dr. Rob Pack, Mr. Jeremy Ross, Dr. Richard Sander, Dr. Joe Sherlin, Dr. Alan Stevens, Dr. Sarah Thomason, and Ms. Jess Vodden.

**3. Standing Items**

*3.1 Approve Minutes of the July 14, 2025, meeting*

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the July 14, 2025, meeting. The motion was seconded; the minutes were approved.

*3.2 Review Agenda*

*3.3 Consent Agenda Items*

There were no consent agenda items this month.

*3.4 Call for Voluntary Reports of UC-Essential Action Items from Governance Organizations*

*Faculty Senate:* Dr. Alan Stevens reported that the Faculty Senate had no business to report.

*Staff Senate:* Mr. David Finney reported that Staff Senate did not meet in July. They will elect new executive officers for Staff Senate today. He introduced Cody Morelock, the soon-to-be Staff Senate President, who attended the meeting.

*Council of Chairs:* Dr. Sarah Thomason reported that the Executive Council of Chairs worked closely with Dr. Rob Pack in the Provost's Office to develop a chair training presented by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). More than 40 chairs, directors, and associate deans attended the training. She also thanked three executive council

members who have concluded their service: Drs. Pam Evanshen, Dawn Tuell, and Tod Emma. She also welcomed new members: Drs. Jason Moore, Amal Khoury, Brian Bennett, and Jamie Price.

*SGA:* The SGA retreat is this week, so there was no update from SGA.

*Athletics:* Dr. Richard Sander reported that it is an exciting time on campus for athletes. Last week, Athletics had an exciting opportunity to promote ETSU at the Braves-Reds game at Bristol Motor Speedway. ETSU was featured on the “TODAY” show, along with the announcement that the university would receive the turf from the game for the baseball field. The ETSU Baseball and Softball crews served as the tarp crew at the game. The first football game is in two weeks versus Murray State.

### *3.5 Sub-Council Reports*

There were no sub-council reports this month.

## **4. Action Items**

### *4.1 Old Business*

There was no old business to come before the council.

### *4.2 New Business*

There was no new business to come before the council.

## **5. Information Items/Presentations**

### *5.1 Enrollment Update*

Dr. Joe Chappell reported positive enrollment trends for Fall 2025. Unlike last year, enrollment momentum has remained steady, with headcount currently up by 384. This includes an increase of 422 undergraduates, offset by a decline of only 38 graduate students — an improvement compared to earlier in the cycle.

Dr. Joe Sherlin added that the first-year student class is projected to be the largest in university history, trending toward 2,200 students.

Housing demand is at capacity, with about 100 students temporarily placed in four nearby hotels, though most are expected to transition to campus housing within the first few weeks. Additional on-campus housing capacity was made possible through support from the College of Arts and Sciences and the Honors College. Stone Hall will open shortly, with facilities and housing staff

commended for their efforts in preparing rooms and securing furniture. Overall, enrollment and housing outlooks are strong heading into the fall semester.

### *5.2 Voyager Update*

Dr. Karen King reported that ETSU will begin ordering Microsoft Copilot licenses for those who are interested. They are \$33 per month. She also noted that Windows 10 support will end in November, and approximately 750 laptops still require upgrades to Windows 11. Efforts are underway to contact users and complete those updates.

Turning to Voyager, Dr. King and Ms. Lori Erickson explained that extended support with Huron will continue through October to stabilize the system, resolve Tier 3 defects, continue knowledge transfer, and assist with Day 2 priorities.

ETSU has assumed leadership of weekly defect resolution meetings in procurement, finance, payroll, and human resources. The most significant challenge at present is integration with the State of Tennessee's Edison system, which has required manual entries in HR and payroll until a resolution is reached. They reported that Day 2 change control items are being prioritized with clear ownership assigned, and organizational change management efforts include a tiered support model, expanded training resources, Oracle Guided Learning, instructor-led sessions, open labs, and quick-reference materials.

Faculty-specific training launched this week. More than 1,100 help desk tickets have been submitted, with the majority already resolved, and Dr. King encouraged the use of Microsoft Teams screen-sharing to expedite troubleshooting. She highlighted leave reporting as one of the most significant adjustments. Because leave and payroll are now fully integrated, non-exempt staff must submit, and supervisors must approve, leave requests before payroll can process. Exempt staff must also record holidays as absences. These procedures are being reviewed for future refinement. Finally, Dr. King noted that email-based approval notifications remain disabled due to technical issues and will be reassessed at a later date. Overall, she emphasized that the Voyager rollout is progressing well, with ongoing attention to system stabilization, training adoption, and Day 2 improvements.

## **6. President's Report**

President Dr. Brian Noland opened by reflecting on the ongoing transition to Voyager. He emphasized that while no system is perfect, Voyager represents a significant upgrade, and he asked for continued patience as faculty and staff adapt.

Dr. Noland reported on governance updates, announcing that Senator Randy McNally recently appointed two members to the ETSU Board of Trustees: returning Trustee Dorothy Grisham, an alumna from Chattanooga serving her final six-year term, and new Trustee Jon Lundberg of

Bristol, a longtime advocate for ETSU. Additional appointments from Speaker of the House Cameron Sexton are still pending ahead of the September meeting.

Turning to enrollment, Dr. Noland celebrated the record-breaking incoming first-year class, projected at over 2,200 students — exceeding the prior high of 2,141. He credited faculty, staff, and leadership across the university for this achievement, noting that residence halls are at full capacity with more than 3,200 students, compared to 2,300 a decade ago.

He also discussed the positive budgetary impact of strong enrollment as the university transitions to its new budget model. Base budgets will be distributed to deans in the coming weeks. While the university faces uncertainties in federal policy — particularly affecting international enrollment and research funding — he emphasized that ETSU is monitoring developments closely.

Dr. Noland concluded by thanking the facilities team for campus improvements ahead of the semester, encouraging participation in student move-in day, and highlighting the importance of welcoming families and students during this milestone. He closed with appreciation for the collective efforts that contributed to strong enrollment outcomes.

## **7. Announcements**

Dr. Sam Mayhew noted that the first drop for non-payment will occur next Tuesday at 6 a.m. Additional volunteers are needed for new student move-in, particularly from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Meal plans will begin the same day, and new student convocation is scheduled for Friday, August 22, at 3:30 p.m. in Brooks Gym.

## **8. Adjournment**

Provost McCorkle adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

*The next meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.*