

**University Council
October 13, 2025
East Tennessee Room**

1. Call to Order

Dr. Rob Pack called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Melissa Nipper led the roll call. Members present were: Dr. Ginni Blackhart, Dr. Bill Block, Dr. Debbie Byrd, Dr. Cheri Clavier, Dr. Joel Faidley, Mr. David Finney, Dr. Nick Hagemeyer, Dr. Keith Johnson, Dr. Chris Keller, Mr. John King, Dr. Karen King, Ms. Tricia Korade, Dr. Dharendra Kumar, Dr. Sam Mayhew, Mr. Cody Morelock, Dr. Rob Pack, Dr. Tony Pittarese, Dr. Richard Sander, and Dr. Sarah Thomason.

3. Standing Items

3.1 Approve Minutes of the September 8, 2025, meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2025, meeting. The motion was seconded; the minutes were approved.

3.2 Review Agenda

3.3 Consent Agenda Items

A motion was made to approve the policies on the consent agenda (noted below). The motion was seconded and approved.

3.3.1 Bloodborne Pathogens Policy

3.3.1 Periodic Review of Senior Administrative and Academic Officers Policy

3.3.1 Digital Course Content Accessibility Policy

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

Faculty Senate: On behalf of Dr. Alan Stevens, Dr. Ginni Blackhart reported that she represented ETSU at the Tennessee University Faculty Senate Meeting. They met with a THEC representative and discussed issues facing faculty at Tennessee institutions. They continue work in the shared governance process on tenure and promotion, faculty workload, and are also updating the Faculty Handbook.

Staff Senate: Mr. Cody Morelock reported that Staff Senate is continuing its work on the Holiday Food Drive and is working with Sodexo and Bucky's Food Pantry this year to redesign how the drive looks. They will send flyers later this week to solicit collections for the drive.

Council of Chairs: Dr. Sarah Thomason reported that the Executive Council of Chairs continues to work closely with the Office of the Provost to develop a periodic review of Chairs. They sponsored a two-day chair training at the beginning of the semester and plan to continue more trainings throughout the year. They are also developing a list of chair expertise to assist them in the mentorship of new chairs.

Athletics: Dr. Richard Sander reported that Athletics had a good weekend with a Football victory over VMI. Volleyball continues to play well and is in first place at 6-0 at the conference. They held the Athletic Hall of Fame event with a good turnout. They are looking forward to Homecoming and the October 30 Bucky's Boo Bash, where student athletes dress in costume and hand out candy to the community. Former ETSU Coach Steve Forbes will return to ETSU for an exhibition charity basketball game against Wake Forest University.

ITS: Dr. Karen King reminded the council that Microsoft is ending its support for Windows 10 on Wednesday, October 15. Email messages have gone out to all with a Windows 10 computer. Approximately 100 computers still need to be updated.

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 Update on the Mary V. Jordan Center

Dr. Keith Johnson introduced Ms. Rachel Barnett, the newly appointed Director of the Mary V. Jordan Center, noting that the Center is now fully staffed and operational. Ms. Barnett shared that she and several new staff members began three weeks ago and that the Center is actively engaging with Jordan Scholars—students receiving Pell, Horizon, and Passport scholarships. The Center currently remains open until 6 p.m., with plans to expand the hours, and has already held 150 unique student appointments, with another 120 scheduled. Staff are continuing training and collaborating with campus partners to strengthen student support services.

Ms. Barnett highlighted several new initiatives, including a peer mentor program with 10 trained student mentors, and upcoming programs under the Jordan Center such as Bucs Academy, the Bridge Program, Quest, Preview, and Nichols Academy. The Center's grand opening is scheduled for October 23 at 10:30 a.m. Dr. Johnson added that the Nichols Academy launch will take place on October 24, with Mr. George Nichols — one of the first African American students to integrate ETSU — attending. He also announced the formation of a community advisory council of 10 local members to support student success through mentoring and potential scholarship assistance. Dr. Johnson further noted that a monument honoring the first five African American students to integrate ETSU will be unveiled during Homecoming weekend.

7. Announcements

Dr. Pack encouraged the University Council to watch President Dr. Brian Noland's [State of the University](#) address delivered last week during Founders Week.

8. Adjournment

Dr. Robert Pack adjourned the meeting at 8:53 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.